

# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

**President**  
Major General R.S.N. Mans, CBE  
**Chairman**  
Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE  
**Secretary**  
Major P.G.E. Hill



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

## News Letter No. 14

November, 1973

### Editorial

As announced in the last issue of the News Letter, Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, has succeeded Lieutenant General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, as Colonel of The Queen's Regiment. General Ling has been President of the Regimental Association for four and a half years and we are truly grateful for his wise and far sighted direction of our affairs and for his energetic support of all Regimental Association functions. His warm friendliness and pleasure in meeting old soldiers of the Regiment have made him a most popular figure at our Reunions. We are delighted that General Fergus has been appointed Colonel of the Regiment and the good wishes of all members of the Regimental Association go with him.

At the same time we welcome another distinguished officer of the Regiment to the post of President of the Regimental Association. Major General R. S. N. Mans, CBE, is well known to many of our members and we assure him of a warm welcome at all Regimental Association activities.

### Honours and Awards

HQ The Queen's Division have notified the following awards to 1 Queen's for gallant service in Northern Ireland.

**MC** Major S. T. W. Anderson  
**BEM** WOII M. D. Maloney

**MM** Sgt P. P. Ryan  
**Mentioned in Despatches**

Major P. Mallalieu  
C/Sgt J. H. W. Pearson

We also congratulate the following on their awards:

Lt Col J. B. Ray, MBE  
Northern Frontier  
Regiment Sultan of  
Oman's Armed Forces  
Capt. B. M. Sidwell  
6th (Volunteer) Bn The  
Queen's Regiment

The Sultan of Oman's  
Award of the  
Distinguished  
Service Medal  
Territorial Decoration

### Appointments—Officers

HM The Queen has approved the appointment of Major General R. S. N. Mans, CBE as Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment vice-Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL with effect from 15 October 1973.

Brigadier G. B. Curtis, OBE, MC at present DAG HQ BAOR is to be DWS (A) MOD in November 1974.

Colonel D. R. Bishop, MBE is to be Colonel GS D12 MOD in September 1973.

Lt Colonel G. G. Strong, at present GSOI (Liaison Instructor) at the Ecole Supérieure de Guerre in Paris, is to be a Defence Attaché in October 1974.

### Selections for Command

The following selections for command were announced on 9 October 1973:

1 Queen's	Lt Col J. G. W. Davidson	Jan. 1975
3 Queen's	Maj J. W. Francis	Dec. 1974
7 Queen's	Maj F. B. Herd, TD	Sept. 1974

*Personal Message from Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL*

Brigadier Roupell writes to say that after some weeks in hospital he is still convalescent and consequently will not be sending out his usual number of Christmas cards.

He hopes that non-recipients will realize he has not forgotten them.

### Regimental Association

**The Association's Thanks to Major General Fergus Ling**  
From:

Major General R. S. N. Mans  
Deputy Colonel (Surrey)  
The Queen's Regiment

To: Major General F. A. H. Ling 17 October 1973  
Dear Fergus,

I am writing to you on behalf of all members of the Queen's Royal Surreys Regimental Association. I know that everyone would wish me to convey to you our gratitude for all that you have done for the Association during your time as President. I know that you will understand it when I say that you have been a veritable father figure to us during your term of office, holding the reins firmly but seldom if ever having to use the whip.

Coupled with all that you have done yourself may I

also express our heartfelt thanks to Shelagh for all the support that she has given you.

Finally, we all want to wish you a very happy and rewarding tenure of office as Colonel of The Queen's Regiment.

Yours as ever,  
Rowley.

### Annual Service in Guildford Cathedral

The annual service took place this year on Sunday 17th June and over 800 people attended, including large contingents from all the Surrey Cadet Battalions of The Queen's Regiment and the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps.

The Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend A. C. Bridge, conducted the service and the sermon was preached by the Chaplain-General, the Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens CB, OBE, MC, Chaplain to The Queen. In his address, the Chaplain-General paid tribute to the courage and fortitude of the late Major General John Whitfield during his long illness and the infirmity which he had endured over many years.

General Ling, before reading the lesson, announced that this occasion was his last appearance at the Annual Service as President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, and he thanked the Dean for the help given to him personally and to the Regimental Association as a whole in the arrangements made each year for the service. He also drew the congregation's attention to a memorial chair which had been given by Lady Mullens on 26th March 1973 to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Chapel in the Cathedral, and which now stood near the Altar in that Chapel. The chair had originally been placed in Cranleigh Church by Mr and Mrs Berdoe-Wilkinson in memory of their son, Captain M. A. Berdoe-Wilkinson and members of the Cranleigh Company of the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment who had been killed during the 1939/45 War. Lady Mullens had felt it appropriate that the chair in memory of her brother and his comrades, should be in the Chapel of the Regiment, and with the full approval of the Dean, General Ling had gratefully accepted the gift.

The Surrey Army Cadet Force provided the ushers for the service, and organized and staffed the bar in the Regimental Tent erected in the precincts of the Cathedral where members of the Association, their families and friends, gathered after the service.

In the afternoon, a memorial plaque to the late Major General John Whitfield which had been installed in the Chapel of The Queen's Royal Regiment in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, earlier in the year, was dedicated by the Chaplain-General at a short service attended by Mrs Whitfield and a large number of regimental and personal friends.

### Regimental Association Reunion

For the first time the Annual Reunion at Kingston was held on the night after the Officers Club Dinner, so a larger number of officers was able to attend. In fact, a quarter of those at the Reunion on Saturday, 6th October, were officers.

We expect to see a large number of soldiers from the 1939-45 War, but what was surprising this time was the

increased number of 1914-18 War veterans. One such was Mr Leonard Baldwin, MM, 84 years old and as bright as a button. He met Mr C. H. Mason with whom he had served in the 8th Surreys in 1916. There were many septuagenarians, and the octogenarians included Messrs Harry Adcock, G. R. Aldridge and 'Pony' Quilter from the Royal Hospital who enlisted 70 years ago. Brigadier Roupell, who was indisposed, was much missed, and we all look forward to having him with us next year.

Joe Dennis, as usual, mustered a good gathering of old warriors from the 4th Queen's OCA, including no less than three Shonfelds. The fact that the Far East Prisoners of War Reunion was held in London on the same night did not deter Paddy Coughlan. He attended both parties, with every appearance of enjoyment. 'Chick' Evans succeeded in raising £16 by his raffle this year which will go a long way to balancing our books.

It was a very pleasant evening and as usual Mr and Mrs Bryce, who are well known to many of our members, provided cheerful willing service at the bar.

### News Letter

The fact that the News Letter is running at a loss was mentioned in our last issue, and the following alternatives put forward:

1. Reduce to a brief recital of events already over and notification of those to come.
2. Continue as at present and increase the price.
3. Maintain the present style and publish one a year.

We thank all our readers who took the trouble to send us their views. The choice for course No. 2 was unanimous.

The cost of the 1974 News Letter will be 50p, and we will keep at that for as long as possible. Those of our readers who may find difficulty in maintaining their subscription are invited to let the Editor know. The reason for this is that a number of our subscribers are kind enough to send us extra money for that very purpose, and we generally have enough in hand to help those who want it.

### Christmas Cards

The Regimental Association Christmas card is the same as in past years except that the printing of the greetings page is now in blue.

The price a dozen, including postage and packing is 60p. Cards may be ordered on the enclosed order form.

### The Queen's Regiment

#### News of the Regular Battalions

The 1st Battalion after a spell of training at Bulford, is back again in Belfast. The operational awards gained by officers and men of the Battalion during their last tour of duty in Northern Ireland are shown on page 1.

The 2nd Battalion is in BAOR, training hard in its NATO role, and finding time for a full programme of sport.

The 3rd Battalion, its six months UNFICYP role completed, is now in Gibraltar.

### Forecast of Principal Regimental and other Service Functions in 1974

Date	Place	Function	
Sat. 9 Feb.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	Sobraon Dance
Fri. 26 Apr.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Spring Meeting and AGM
Fri. 24 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match v Royal Marines
Sat. 11 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	AGM and Annual Dinner
Sat. 11 May	Guildford	5th Queen's Old Members Association	Annual Reunion
Fri. 14 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club	Cocktail Party
Sun 16 June	Guildford	Regimental Association	Annual Cathedral Service
Fri. 4 Oct.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club	Annual Dinner
Sat. 5 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association	Annual Reunion
Thu. 10 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Autumn Meeting
Fri. 11 Oct.	Richmond	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	Ladies Dinner and Dance
Sat. 12 Oct.	Kingston		
Sun. 10 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades	

### Freedom of the Borough of Guildford

It was on 26th September 1944 that the Borough of Guildford conferred upon The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) 'the title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough of Guildford on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and Bands playing'. This honour was extended to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1960 and subsequently to The Queen's Regiment on 29th July 1969.

For the first time since the Freedom of the Borough was transferred to The Queen's Regiment, the privilege was exercised on 30th May 1973. The Regiment was represented by a Company Group from the 1st Battalion, consisting of the Band and Drums, Colour Party, B Company and elements of the Support Company.

The salute was taken at the Guildhall by the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Bill Bellerby, who himself served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He was accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Deputy Colonel (Surrey). Also present at the saluting base was Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, the last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment and the Captain of HMS *Excellent*.

The troops received a great welcome from the crowd among which were many old soldiers wearing their Regimental ties. After the march all those participating were entertained to lunch by the Mayor and Corporation in the Civic Hall.

### Presentation of Colours

There is still no news on the presentation of new Colours to our three Regular battalions which was to have been made by His late Majesty King Frederik of Denmark last year. It is hoped the presentation will be made in 1974, possibly by one of our Allied Colonels-in-Chief.

The Colours now carried by the 1st Bn The Queen's

Regiment are those presented to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by the Duke of Edinburgh at Bury St Edmunds on 22 April 1960.

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

Probably the most significant event of the past year has been the badging of the Battalion under the Queen's Regiment Badge. Readers of our last notes will remember that the Battalion formed from 'mixed parentage', started life with three cap badges, namely:

The Queen's Regiment Worn by Bn HQ and A Coy at Edgware

Royal Artillery Worn by B and C Btys at Hackney and Camberwell Green

Surrey Yeomanry Worn by D Bty at Sutton

Last November General Sir Richard Craddock presented Queen's Regiment badges to the three batteries at a parade at the Duke of York's HQ and we all came under one cap badge. Previous identities of the three batteries are now represented by collar dogs.

Recruiting has gone hand in hand with training for the year. Strength is only just 200 and recruiting is very difficult in the London area at the moment throughout all TAVR battalions. Some blamed on full employment, some on the other attractions that London has to offer. It is significant however, that a poll carried out in the London area has showed that in the eligible age group of 18-35, 82% are not aware that there is a TAVR to join!! This extraordinary state of affairs is blamed on the coverage TV gives when 'Dad's army gets the chop', but lack of, when there is an increase in the Volunteer Reserve.

The Queen's Surrey element of 6 Queen's, namely Bn HQ, go from strength to strength and has just won the Inter-Company Shooting Competition, beating the batteries, and 'A' Coy (Middlesex) without much fuss.

RQMS Shearing who was in 4 Queen's Surreys and 6 Queen's (T) and was a member of 6 Queen's cadre, carried off the prize of Battalion Champion Shot.

General Fergus Ling, who will by the time these notes are read be Colonel of the Regiment, visited the Battalion at Warcop in Westmorland during annual Camp and saw the Battalion training in a most beautiful part of the Pennines, even though in areas they resembled the Alps. Unfortunately the Colonel has a passion for heights, so everyone had to go 'up on top' to chase away the terrorists, but did reluctantly admit that the view was nearly worth the three hour climb.

## News of the Associations

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The Association held its 22nd Annual General Meeting and Dinner on 19th May 1973 when sixty-five members attended. We were pleased to have with us again Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL as our guest. It was a pleasure to see such members as Bill Wernham from Torquay, Charles Dexter from Bristol, Ron Deitz from Aylesbury and Paddy Coughlan from Canterbury who made quite long journeys to be with us.

Our Ladies' Dinner and Dance was held on 13th October and as usual this function was a great success, 178 members and their friends sat down to an excellent meal, and then danced until midnight to the dance band of The Surrey Yeomanry. Our Chairman regretted that he could not be with us owing to the illness in hospital of Mrs McCoy. A telegram was sent from the Ladies wishing her a very speedy recovery.

We welcome to the Association the following new members: Messrs C. R. Cronk, MM, A. E. C. Holmes, R. Branch, J. Bedford, C. F. Hearnden and C/Sgt N. Jamieson of 1 Queen's. In spite of our losses since 1950 our Association still continues to thrive and our number of 200 members today is very gratifying.

### 2/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

The 44th Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Mitcham Road Barracks on Saturday 28 April 1973, and was attended by a good gathering of Old Comrades. The President Capt P. C. Duncan, MC, QC, was unfortunately unable to be present, and the chair was taken by Maj Gen F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL. The speakers included Mr. Tommy Davison, MM, the Chairman, and Mr Harry Mann, MBE, the Hon Secretary of the Association.

### 5th Queen's Old Members Association

The following report is taken from the Surrey Advertiser and County Times of 18 May 1973.

#### Mayor attends Regimental Reunion

One hundred and fifty members of the 1/5 and 2/5 Battalions Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association attended their annual reunion dinner at the Drill Hall, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford, on Saturday.

Major H. B. Watson, chairman, welcomed everyone, including The Mayor of Guildford, Mr. Bill Bellerby,

himself an ex-Queensman, and Major-General F. A. H. Ling, Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment and president of the Regimental Association.

In his speech, Major Watson said how nice it was to see such a large gathering again. The attendance was a record which was very gratifying to the organisers. He continued his speech with a résumé of events of the year; he thanked Lt Col R. Pound for his assistance and Jimmy Patterson (secretary), Ron May (treasurer) and Jack Homersham, who had done so much work behind the scenes to make the function possible.

Gen Ling made a brief speech about the Queen's battalions. He said that it was fitting for the mayor to be present, as on May 30th the 1st Battalion, after a tour of duty in Northern Ireland were being given the rights of the Freedom of the Borough, marching through Guildford with bayonets fixed when the salute would be taken by the mayor at the Guildhall. He also said the regimental church parade would take place at Guildford Cathedral on June 17th, at 11 a.m. when all would be welcome.

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

In October 1973 the Association organized a battlefield tour in France and Belgium. The following account of their visit to Vimy Ridge is contributed by Mr W. G. Edwards, the Hon Secretary.

Our original destination was to have been High Wood situated midway between Arras and Albert, the scene of fierce fighting by the 47th (London) Division in the autumn of 1916. However because of the distance involved it was decided to change our venue to Vimy Ridge, about two miles to the west of the main Lens-Arras road.

We left Blankenberge on the Belgian coast early on 1st October. The morning was bright and sunny, the party of thirty-four in high spirits; and the route promised to be interesting and varied. The road taken was due south via Bruges-Torhout-Roeselaere-Menin-Lille where a stop was made for refreshments. After a series of minor incidents in this town the general conclusion was that the Common Market isn't all it's cracked up to be. The currency isn't common, some cafés would accept Belgian francs while others wouldn't. The choice was yours and not every one was lucky. From Lille on to Lens and then the last few miles to our objective: soon this could be seen dominating the crest of the ridge away to our right.

One has to climb the Ridge to understand it, for from the west it looks like another gently sloping hill, promising a better view of the lush green countryside of northern France. But from its summit, through the light haze that always hovers over it, one can see to the east. What seems like a mere gradient when viewed from the village of Neuville St Vaast becomes a height of land, dropping off sharply to form a wooded curtain, overlooking and protecting a major natural asset—the coalfields of the Douai plain. In war, when observation means control, the army that occupies the Ridge controls the Douai plain. In 1917 the Germans were in occupation and the coalfields, together with the steel mills that fed upon them, were being used to further German aims.

Even today the visitor cannot easily see from the Arras road the two tall shafts that mark the highest point of the Ridge, for the smoke from the factories of Lens drifts lazily across the height, obscuring vision. In 1917 the Ridge was always dark—hiding behind a canopy of enveloping dust kicked up by a steady rain of high explosives.

Today the Ridge is a memorial; the sandbags have been carefully preserved by filling them with concrete, the props and revetments in the trenches and tunnels are regularly inspected and replaced when worn, the eager growth of grass and weed that would encroach and conceal is checked. Higher up, where the wooded area ends and a bare crest comes into view, wide lawns appear.

Coming from Arras by way of Neuville St Vaast you have to follow the straight tree-lined road until it climbs the crest of the Ridge before you catch sight of the memorial: for although it occupies Hill 145, it is still nearly two miles from the Arras road. The visitor sees the two shafts of white stone as a mirage on the skyline until the road brings him up the gentle slope to the broad steps of the base, then a walk of a hundred yards to the crest. The memorial dominates the skyline—indeed it dominates the Douai plain for miles beyond. It took ten years and two million dollars to build. Its creator searched Europe for a suitable stone with which to build, and it was found far down on the Adriatic coast and laboriously transported across the continent.

There is very little evidence today of that fierce battle of a half century ago; Neuville St Vaast is once again a tidy red brick farming village, as are Souchez and the others. The fields are green again and cattle graze in Zouave valley. There are cemeteries of course, dotted here and there throughout the area. They even made two of the craters into cemeteries, Zivy and Lichfield. The dead were piled here in such numbers that it seemed best to leave them, and erect a small monument to their memory. But the cemeteries, beautifully kept as they are, do not have the impact of the Ridge. In the great painting in the Parliament Building in Ottawa the night wind has swept the clouds and the moon illuminates the memorial. Below it the western slopes are crowded with ghostly figures—memories really of men who could not themselves remember after the day was done.

Vimy—the achievement—is for the living; and always will be. The memorial is for the dead. Like all things of human effort the memorial will crumble, even if it takes a thousand years. The veterans will die, their ranks are thinning. But the Ridge will remain, for this is destiny.

I have not attempted to chronicle our activities that day but merely to express the feelings aroused by our visit to that place. While Vimy and the Canadians are synonymous, one must not forget that the French incurred 150,000 casualties in their vain assaults in 1915 when carrying out their policy of "toujours l'attaque". In the following year fresh battles took further toll of the British. Our own 1/22nd (Bermondsey) Bn were involved in the costly battles in the Souchez area and left their dead as proof of involvement. Notwithstanding, one can only stand and pay silent tribute to those four Canadian Divisions, who in line abreast, attacked, overwhelmed and held this seemingly impregnable posi-

tion a half century ago.

During the course of our tour we saw many of those other memorials which were raised to commemorate the sacrifices of a former generation. They are countless, like the cemeteries which abound in France and Flanders, ranging from a simple cross to the Great Arch of the Menin gate at Ypres. But surely none can rival the breathtaking magnificence of that on the crest of Vimy Ridge.

### 2nd/6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

The annual "Salerno Day" re-union was held aboard HMS *President* on 22nd September, 1973. The setting on the Embankment is unique and the atmosphere of the ship conducive to a gathering of old friends. Thirty years after the Salerno landing, some eighty old comrades met, headed by two Commanding Officers, Colonel J. B. H. Kealy and Lieutenant Colonel E. F. Bolton.

A few old faces disappear each year and we were saddened to learn of the death of Bunty Webster from the Orderly Room—a chap who could put a regimental number to the name of anyone in the battalion: also of Ted Blomely, who was one of the great characters. His cartoons enlivened many a difficult moment, and there are many of his original drawings still treasured in people's scrap-books. On the other hand, a few old faces reappear and we were pleased to see Major Ross Mangles and Sgt Amor and others.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a silver salver to Frank Peart, who has organised the re-unions since 1961. He has been the secretary, treasurer and committee rolled into one, and it has been his labour of love for thirteen years. The presentation was a reflection of the affection in which all old 2nd/6th men hold Frank, and it was good to welcome on this special occasion, his wife and family. The evening, as always, was passed in eating, drinking and yarning, and a very good time was enjoyed by all.

### Royal Marines Association

We have always had the friendliest relations with the Royal Marines Association and have been honoured to take part in their Annual Church Parades. Since 1965 these have been organised by Captain G. P. Sanford, their General Secretary, who never failed to welcome our detachment.

The Secretary of our Regimental Association met Captain Sanford on 13 June when the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines Beat Retreat on Horse Guards in honour of the birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was a great shock to learn that Captain Sanford had died suddenly a fortnight later. A letter of sympathy was sent to the Royal Marines Association, and the following reply has been received from the Assistant Secretary.

"I am writing on behalf of my President and Council to thank you for your kind letter of condolence on the untimely death of Peter Sanford.

"Captain Sanford's death is a very great loss to us all, and he will be sadly missed, not only as the General Secretary of our Association, but also as a very real friend."

## Golf Society

### Annual Match v Royal Marines Golf Society

The annual match against the RMGS took place at Sudbrook Park on 18th May. As always we had a most enjoyable and friendly day, but unfortunately just failed to win, despite leading by one point after the singles. John Sutton is to be congratulated on his two comprehensive wins, on his own in the morning and with Major General Tony White in the afternoon. Both teams were delighted that Brigadier George Roupell, our President, was able to join us for lunch and give us his support. A summary of the results is:

#### AM—SINGLES

H. P. Mason halved with J. H. Ridyard	—
T. L. Trotman beat P. R. Kay	2 & 1
W. J. F. Sutton beat D. C. Alexander	7 & 6
G. A. White lost to R. R. G. Hoare	2 & 1
P. G. Wreford Brown beat J. D. G. MacRae	4 & 3
S. J. Petzing beat R. W. Peters	3 & 2
J. W. Sewell lost to S. D. Smith	2 Holes
B. A. Crutchfield lost to D. G. R. Hunt	4 & 3
Result: Queen's Surreys 4½ RM 3½.	

#### PM—FOURSOMES

Trotman and Wreford Brown lost to Ridyard and Hoare	1 Hole
Sutton and White beat Kay and Smith	7 & 5
Sewell and Petzing lost to Alexander and Hunt	1 Hole
Crutchfield and J. A. Lasbrey lost to MacRae and Peters	6 & 5
Result: Queen's Surreys 1 RM 3.	

## From Here and There

### Donations

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks a donation from Mr H. C. P. Mayhew of Sutton, Surrey. Mr. Mayhew served in the 2nd Queen's in the 1914-18 War and was wounded at Ypres in 1917. In 1966 he presented his British War Medal, Victory Medal and Silver War Badge to the Regimental Museum.

Our thanks are also due to Mrs A. Sloan for yet another donation in memory of her son, Captain Geoffrey Sloan, who was killed in action with the 1/6th Surreys at Cassino in 1944.

### Addresses wanted

Mr Jack Hendy (6087292) who joined The Queen's Royal Regiment from the Supplementary Reserve in March 1938. It is believed he was attached to the 11th Hampshires in June 1944, since when we have had no news of him.

### Still Working at 98

Mrs Tufnell, the widow of Lt Colonel Arthur Tufnell, CMG, The Queen's is still working for the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion at Odiham at the age of 98. Mrs Tufnell was their President for nearly 20 years and only resigned last year.

Her husband, who was commissioned in 1891, first saw service on the North West Frontier of India six years later. He was with the 2nd Queen's in the South African War and was severely wounded at Colenso.

### Historical Expedition

P. R. E. Willey, MA, TD, FRGS who served in The Queen's from 1941 to 1945 and who is now a master at Wellington, led an expedition of 37 boys, OWs and RE officers to the Valley of the Assassins in the mountainous area of Northern Iran in 1972. The object of the expedition was to complete Peter Willey's research, carried out over the last 13 years, into the castles, history, agriculture and way of life of the Nizari Ismailis or Assassins.

The expedition succeeded in discovering nine new castles, several mediaeval pottery kilns and some Bronze Age graves. The end product will be a new book to be published by Chatto & Windus in 1974.

### Visit to Queen's Surreys Office

During the summer we had a visit from Mr A. E. Middleton, son of RSM A. C. Middleton, MC, whose medals are in the Regimental Museum. Born in Stoughton Barracks in 1897, young Albert Middleton enlisted in the 1/10th London Regiment in 1914 and saw service in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia. He was discharged as unfit but succeeded in re-enlisting in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1917 and was posted to the 4th Queen's in India. He was finally discharged at the end of 1919 on the disbandment of the Battalion.

A surveyor and valuer by profession, Mr Middleton served in the Royal Engineers in the 1939-45 War. He was at Dunkirk and later in Iraq, North Africa and Italy. After the War, he served in India, retiring at the time of Partition with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

### Old Sweat

The September issue of the Regimental Journal contains an article and photo of Pte Tom Lawless (6095545), who joined the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Palestine in 1940. After 33 years service he is now serving as Quartermaster's storeman in the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment. Pte Lawless, whom many of our readers will remember, is spending, perhaps the last year of his service at Bulford, and hopes to retire to a storeman's appointment at the Staff College, Camberley.

### Retirement

CSM W. G. J. Warren has retired after 28 years service in The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment and has been appointed steward of the Farnham Golf Club. Now that he has a settled address, Bill Warren hopes to renew contact with many of his old friends.

### Medical Connections at Kingston

One of our members, recently a patient in the New Victoria Hospital at Kingston, found a number of East Surrey connections amongst the staff.

Mr B. W. Wells, the surgeon, is the brother of the late Lt Colonel P. J. W. Wells, a pre-War Territorial in the 5th Surreys. Peter Wells commanded the 57th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment, RA, after the war, and his brother, Ben, was the Regimental Medical Officer.

Dr Norman Trapps, the anaesthetist, was Medical Officer of the 10th Surreys during the war and remembers many of the officers and men of those days.

Mr George Frederick Stephenson (6137406) the Hospital Porter, was a Regular soldier. Joining the 2nd Battalion in 1926 he served until the outbreak of war with the 2nd Battalion. He will be remembered as the Battalion sign-writer, and particularly for his paintings of the Battle Honours.

### Crown Imperial

Charles Cowie, who served in The East Surrey Regiment, has informed us that a new military historical society has been formed. Called "Crown Imperial", it is for collectors and students of military history. Information on the aims of the Society and membership may be obtained from Charles Cowie, 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

### Home in Pasadena

Mr H. A. Baile (6081190) who served in the Signal Section of the 1st Queen's in China, has sent us some photographs of the Battalion at Sham Shiu Po in 1927 and the Paschal Lamb carved on the hillside above Sun Wai Camp.

He would very much like to hear from any old friends who remember him. His address is 814½ Fair Oaks Avenue, South Pasadena, California, USA 91030. He writes,

"When I left the Service I became a cab driver. I drove a cab for 22 years except the War years when I was 'shanghaied' into the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, where I had a two year hitch driving an Army type ambulance all through the Blitz. During that time the call came for Home Guards and I organised and trained our Transport Section, and the Queen's way stood me in very good stead. We were about 150 strong and had access to everything—tanks, guns, etc. Guess we would have put up a good show if it had come down to it.

I left England in 1954, one of my daughters having married a nice young chap in the United States Air Force. We went to Canada first. During the time I was there I saw the late Bandmaster Buckle, and visited the Armoury in Toronto where I paid my respects to the Queen's York Rangers. Did quite a lot of elbow bending, I can tell you. Had all kinds of jobs in Toronto until the winters started to get us down, so we emigrated to the States.

Came to California via Mexico where my daughter's husband was stationed. The Mexican people are very nice and friendly, although they are depicted as a lot

of bandits on the films. We stayed in Beverly Hills for a while when we first came to California. I had a job managing an apartment complex and made a pretty good job of it, so I was asked to take over another here at South Pasadena until I retired at an age of 65 in 1968.

California has practically everything—sun, sea, desert, mountains—and smog! We live about a mile from the Tournament of Roses parade route and just behind us are the San Gabriel mountains, while 75 miles away is the desert and Death Valley."

### Declining membership

The long established band of retired bachelor officers has been shaken to its roots recently by the defection of some of its staunchest members. The few remaining stalwarts have decided to close their ranks and to survive as long as possible.

## News from Down Under

### New Zealand

Mr G. W. Hinde (14730514), who served in 1/6th Queen's in the 1939-45 War, emigrated to New Zealand in 1953. He went into the meat trade and in the course of business has travelled to Australia, Japan and Korea. Mr. Hinde is really sold on New Zealand, and the following are extracts from his long and cheerful letter.

"There is plenty of good fishing here. Trout are plentiful in the rivers and I do quite a bit at the weekends. Hunting is also good—plenty of wild pig and deer, and duck in season. We take our .303 rifles and go into the bush—keeps you pretty fit. Now and again some hunter gets mistaken for a deer and gets a .303 bullet in him!"

On 25th April, Anzac Day, we invite each other to Returned Service Clubs where a lot of beer is consumed. They say the Kiwi can't fly, but he sure can drink. I have been out here for twenty-odd years and I have not caught up with them yet!"

Mr Hinde's address is 14 Hamill Road, East Tamaki, South Auckland, New Zealand.

### The Glorious First in New Zealand

Mr Leo Duncan writes, "We had a little Regimental dinner at my home on 1st June, and needless to say we toasted the Regiment.

I saw a friend of mine in the New Zealand Broadcasting, and asked if they could broadcast a record I had of the Queen's band playing *Braganza*. The result was that it was played on 1st June in the National programme all over New Zealand 'for all Mutton Lancers'. It made our day, I can tell you".

Mr Duncan is in touch with Drum Major Bennett and Sgt Bruce Keogh of the 1st Queen's and with Sgt Harry Reeve and Cpl Gillett of the 6th Battalion. He would be very pleased to hear from any old friends at home. His address is:— Mr L. S. Duncan, 5 Cumberland Grove, Porirua, New Zealand.

## Australia

An unexpected visitor from Western Australia was Mr Frederick Cowper (6139668) who joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in India in 1932. When the Battalion left India for the Sudan in 1937, Cpl Cowper transferred to the Indian Army Corps of Clerks. He served at Army Headquarters in India throughout the war, finishing with the rank of Major.

When Partition came to India, Mr. Cowper decided to emigrate to Australia. He is now sales and marketing manager of the refrigerator firm with which he has been for the last 23 years.

Mr Cowper would be glad to hear from any old friends. His address is 90 Elizabeth Street, East Cannington 6107, Western Australia.

## Correspondence

From: Major J. C. Drane,  
Woodcroft,  
Portsmouth Road,  
Esher, Surrey.  
31st May 1973

### Regimental flash in 1914-18 War

Dear Mr Editor,

I was interested to read Mr Winder's letter about the red flash, and its possible relevance to the Regiment's Marine origin.

1. It had nothing to do with the Marines: the distinction that marked that connection is the official permission to wear the blue lanyard of R.M. pattern—but this did not occur until years after the end of the War.

2. It must have happened before Col Irwin took over command of the 8th Bn on 1 June 1916. I was with the Bn until shortly before that date, when I was hoicked off by Division to a rather dull minor staff job. I remember that I was not at all pleased (at the time) but I also seem to remember that I had my red flashes on my tunic when I went.

3. The colour must have been determined by the fact that buff would not show up on khaki, that the Welch Regiment had appropriated the black, so that all that was left of the Regimental colours was red. The connection with the Regimental colours is indelibly printed on my mind by a funny little incident at the Grand Shaft Barracks, Dover. The Reserve Bn at Dover was then commanded by one, Colonel Shipley, who had a certain reputation for the welcome he handed out to rejoining junior officers. Peter Ackerley turned up one day from hospital and walked into the usual barrage in the Orderly Room, ending with, "And what's that dirty bit of cloth on the shoulder of that filthy tunic?" to which Ackerley quickly replied, "Oh, don't you know, Sir, that's your Regimental colour!" The proceedings came to a sudden end!

Yours sincerely,  
J. C. Drane.

The following letter has been received from RSM W. J. Blaymires of The Queen's York Rangers. See "Our Allied Regiments" in this issue.

From: RSM W. J. Blaymires,  
Fort York Armoury,  
Fleet Street West,  
Toronto,  
Ontario,  
Canada.  
To: RHQ The Queen's Regiment  
Queen's Surreys Office 9th September 1973

Dear Major Hill,

This is to thank you and all those concerned for the presentation of a sword to me during my visit in August of this year. Also to let you know that the sword arrived here in Canada with me safely, needless to say I am both proud and honoured to own a sword with all the background history that this one has. I will treasure and use it until I retire at which time I will pass it on to my son Lt Blaymires for continued use in The Queen's York Rangers.

There really are no adequate words to express the fulness of my gratitude to all concerned for this honour bestowed on me, also for the kindness shown to my wife and myself, during our visits to both the Queen's Surreys Regimental Museum in Surrey and also with the Regiment in Canterbury.

Sincerely Yours,  
W. J. Blaymires.

From: Lieut Colonel L. S. Sheldon,  
The Estate House,  
East Coker,  
Yeovil,  
Somerset.

To: Editor 1 June 1973  
Regimental Association News Letter

Dear Editor,

This day next year will be the 180th Anniversary of the battle of the Glorious First of June.

It may interest your readers to know that the original of Mather Brown's picture of the battle, showing the death of Captain Neville of the Queen's, hangs in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

They have a really excellent postcard reproduction of the picture (card No 170) which, before decimalisation, they sold for 6d.

Yours sincerely,  
L. S. Sheldon.

### Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

#### 1st Queen's in the Battle of the Lys in April 1918

This article concludes Mr V. E. Fagence's account of the Battle of the Lys which appeared in the last issue of the News Letter.

"With the coming of dawn on 13th April, 1918, the

enemy resumed operations. He commenced with a number of range-finding shells registering on our positions, followed by a terrific barrage of whiz-bangs, five-point-nines and (by the noise and size of some of the individual explosions), even some eight-inch shells, interspersed by the dull 'plop' of gas-shells. It was one of the most intense bombardments I can ever remember, made worse by the fact that there was not a single field gun at the back of us to reply. Apparently our Divisional artillery, being forced to take a long and circuitous route, had been unable to arrive in time to support us.

The houses close to our position on the sunken road, received hits from shells, and were set on fire, the thatched roofs blazing furiously. Then people came running out, seeking escape from the inferno. There was very little we could do for them, as we were under orders to 'stand to' and to be prepared to repel an enemy infantry attack, which was momentarily expected. One old invalid lady was carried out in a chair by two of her friends who asked for help.

At that very moment a runner arrived from the 5/6th Scottish Rifles on our left, with a message to the effect that they were being driven in by sheer weight of enemy numbers, and that unless they received reinforcements, they would not be able to hold their line. Captain Cooke replied by sending No. 12 Platoon to assist them. As we ran out towards the Scottish Rifles, we had to cross a patch of ground which was almost devoid of cover, and in addition to encountering machine gun and rifle fire, we were subjected to a barrage of minenwerfer missiles, but we were able to reach the Scottish Rifles position, and strengthen them sufficiently to hold their line, at least for the time being. A sergeant of the 33rd Machine Gun Battalion came up from behind with his gun, and also rendered assistance. One bright spot during the battle was, that whilst we of No 12 Platoon were reinforcing the Scottish Rifles on the morning of the 13th, one of our men discovered about a dozen cases of champagne in the cellar of a farmhouse that had been evacuated by the owners. As there was no point in leaving it there to be either destroyed by shellfire, or perhaps captured later by the enemy, we all helped ourselves to it.

Whilst all this was happening to us, the remainder of the Battalion were experiencing a tough and strenuous time. From 5.30 am onwards very many attacks had been made against the Battalion front and at about 8.45 am certain posts of 'B' Company were overwhelmed, when the enemy pressed on down the road towards Belle Croix Farm in rear of 'D' Company, and both these companies had to be withdrawn, and the Germans occupied the farm. Two very gallant attempts, led by Second-Lieutenants Dickinson and Corry, were made to recapture the farm, but were unsuccessful in restoring the situation, these counter attacks not having sufficient weight behind them. In the early afternoon of the 13th the situation was most critical. 'C' Coy on the left flank of the Battalion front had also had to give ground, and we of No 12 Platoon were ordered to retire a short distance of about 400 yards, and take up position in a hopfield just beyond the crossroads we had passed, on our way up the previous morning. We remained in our

new positions, improving them by making breastworks and revetments.

The night of the 13th/14th was for the Battalion as a whole fairly quiet and uneventful, except for intermittent shelling and machine gun fire, and it was possible to bring up ammunition and to reorganize. We could see the sky illuminated by a number of fires behind the enemy lines, and now and again we could see figures momentarily silhouetted against the skyline. At dawn on the 14th the enemy launched very heavy attacks against our positions from the south-east and south of Meteren. A gap was made in the centre of the Queen's line covering the Meteren Becque; a second gap was made on the left of the 5/6th Scottish Rifles covering the approach to Meteren from the east. Another gap was made between the right of the Queen's and the 1st Cameronians north-east of Merris. The enemy exploited these gains to full advantage, pushing forward light machine guns with great rapidity.

For us in No 12 Platoon several peculiar happenings took place. First at about ten o'clock in the morning a French civilian came riding up on a bicycle from behind our lines. One of our officers went over and stopped and interrogated him. He said that he was on his way to one of the houses further up the road. After a certain amount of argument he was allowed to proceed, although it was pointed out to him that the Germans might by then be occupying the houses. Some of our men conjectured that he might be a German spy, although I presume that our officer must have been satisfied with his bona fides.

Later on a German Red Cross ambulance came along the road from the direction of Bailleul. When it reached the crossroads it turned to the right and came a short distance down the road towards us, then stopped and two men in German uniform jumped out from the side farthest from us, and ran off back towards the cross roads through a gap between some houses and disappeared. We did not fire at them and no-one went out to investigate, as we suspected that it might be a trick to cause us to reveal our positions.

Some time during the afternoon we heard the report of a gun firing from somewhere behind us, and a small shell came whizzing over our trench and exploded only a few yards in front. Then several more at intervals of a few seconds, none of them going very far ahead. We reported the fact of the shells dropping short to Company HQ, and they managed to get a message through to the people in rear and have the gun stopped firing. We were very glad. That was the only occasion during the whole three days that we had been in the line, that we had had any evidence of any artillery support on our side, beside the two anti-aircraft guns previously mentioned.

Between 6 and 7 pm another determined attack was made by the enemy on the whole of the front held by the 19th Infantry Brigade. The Queen's fell back and the retirement of our troops became fairly general. But without conceding too much ground the line was established before dark. Night came again and was fairly quiet as regards any enemy activity, so that whilst

keeping a sharp lookout, we managed to get a little rest and sleep between turns of sentry-go. In the early hours of the morning of the 15th April, we were relieved by a battalion of the 4th King's Liverpool Regiment, 98th Brigade. We marched away in single file as quietly as we could (no talking or smoking), and the relief was carried out without the enemy apparently being aware. After an hour or so marching across country, we arrived at a village a few miles behind the line, where we were able to have a few hours sleep, a wash and clean-up, and some much needed food and drink.

A day or two later the Battalion was paraded and inspected by the Divisional Commander, Major General Pinney, who told us we had done very well, that the Queen's were the first Battalion of the Division to go into action, and that we had held up the enemy, enabling the remainder of the Division to deploy. He also told us that on our first day there (12th April), we had fought with a gap of four miles on our right flank, and that had the enemy known he would have been through, but fortunately he did not.

The 1st Queen's casualties in this action were as follows:

4 officers and 80 NCO's and men killed or died of wounds.  
8 officers and 161 other ranks wounded.  
1 officer and 116 men missing. A total of 370.

#### Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment

Mr H. A. Baile, mentioned elsewhere in this News Letter, recalls the presentation by Mrs Baird, the great-granddaughter of the Earl of Dalhousie, of a stand of old Colours to the 1st Queen's at Aldershot in 1924. He writes, "The Regimental Colour was in a sorry plight, and, to make it worse, the Ensign caught the Colour in a low branch of an overhanging tree. After that Lt Col R. G. Clarke said he was going to send the Colours to the Royal School of Needlework for repair." He wonders if others remember the incident.

The Regimental History records that Lieut Colonel Clarke, commanding the 1st Battalion, and Major Hull, collected the ancient Colours from Mrs Baird at Edinburgh on 30th November 1924. They were brought to Aldershot and trooped by the 1st Battalion. The History states, 'Every effort has been made to establish the identity of these Colours, but without definite result except that they date from the end of the eighteenth century or beginning of the nineteenth century. They have been carefully mounted and may now be seen in the Regimental Museum.'

The Colours are very well preserved under glass in the Regimental Museum. The Regimental Colour is of particular interest as it is perhaps the only example of the sea-green which was the colour of the original facings of the Regiment.

#### Jail Hill, Kohima

The following are extracts from letters published in

the Daily Telegraph in May 1973.

#### Milestone of war

From: Mr I. C. Berry  
10 May 1973

Those who were there in Kohima must surely place the battle of Jail Hill as the actual 'turning-point'. Fighting around the District Commissioner's bungalow had died down weeks previously, and the enemy's final stand in strength was on this forward hill. The battle for it ended on May 13, 1944, and the honour for turning the Japs right about for their long journey back to Tokyo must surely belong to the 1st Queen's (West Surreys).

'Kohima' was this fine regiment's last recorded Battle Honour.

#### Turning point of Burma Campaign

From: Brig the Rt Hon Sir John Smyth, VC  
16 May 1973

Mr I. C. Berry (May 10) rightly gives high praise to the 1st Bn, Queen's Royal Regiment, for the distinguished part they played in the critical and hard-fought battle at Jail Hill, Kohima, in May, 1944. The Queen's had also much distinguished themselves in the Arakan a month earlier.

It was of this battle that Field-Marshal Bill Slim wrote: 'This Arakan battle, judged by the size of the forces engaged, was not of great magnitude, but it was, nevertheless, one of the historic successes of British arms and was the turning point of the Burma campaign.

'For the first time a British Force had met, held, and decisively defeated a major Japanese attack and driven them out of positions they had been preparing for months and were determined to hold at all costs. The legend of Japanese invincibility in the jungle was smashed'.

Lt Col H. G. Duncombe, who commanded the Queen's in both these actions, described them to me, as did Maj-Gen John Grover, the 2nd Divisional Commander, and I recorded them in detail in my book 'The Valiant', which was published in 1970.

Col Duncombe was full of admiration, as was Bill Slim, for the gallantry of the Japanese who, on Jail Hill and on many other occasions, fought to the death.

Bill Slim also cabled to me that my son had been killed in the Jail Hill action, rallying his company of the Queen's with his hunting horn, which he always kept tucked into his battle-dress.

The inscription on the 2nd Division war memorial at Kohima has, of course, been adopted and made famous by the Burma Star Association.

*When you go home  
Tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today*

## Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

#### The First Day of the Somme

Some years ago a book called "The First Day of the Somme" by Martin Middlebrook was published. It prompted the following reminiscence by an officer of the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment who desires to remain anonymous. The writer describes himself as "a pretty indifferent officer" but the Regimental History has a different story to tell. Among several references in the story of the 8th Battalion, he is recorded as behaving with great courage and coolness. The action in which he was knocked out was the 8th Battalion's football attack at Montauban on 1 July 1916.

"I have been reading 'The First Day on the Somme' with passionate interest, and it has revived for me many long buried memories. How incredibly lucky I was to get my 'blighty-one' so early on that day!

I went over the top armed only with my customary ash-plant, my revolver having been 'wounded' the previous evening. I had left it hanging with my equipment for a few minutes outside my dugout and a piece of shrapnel had slightly bent the barrel, leaving the rest of my equipment untouched. The damaged revolver somehow followed me home, and I have still got it.

After being wounded, I remember lying out in a shell-hole in no-man's-land for some time and then stumbling back to our front line trench. Nevill (1) was lying there dead, having presumably been shot as he climbed over the parapet at zero hour—I doubt whether he ever got a kick at one of those footballs. Our Battalion MO, Gimson (2), was in the trench attending to the wounded, and as he dressed my wound he asked me to take Nevill's ring back to his family in England. I did.

I have very vague memories of walking down a communication-trench to the Field Dressing Station, but none of how I got from there to the famous Duchess of Westminster's Base Hospital at Le Touquet. I was probably there the same evening but cannot remember how long I stayed. In the morning the Duchess used to progress round the wards with a retinue of MOs, sisters, nurses and orderlies, and in the afternoon people came and sang to us in the wards. I was much too uncomfortable to appreciate the singing and, indeed, every note produced an agonising throb like toothache in the fingers of my right hand, although the wound itself was in the upper arm.

My other piece of good fortune was in being in the Division next to the Division which was on the right of our line where it joined up with the French. Our two Divisions were the only two to reach their objectives on the first day, and our losses were less than those of many other Divisions who never got across no-man's-land. My battalion lost less than half its officers on the first day, but lost very heavily in further fighting later on. My friend, Rupert Rhodes (3), who eventually became a hundred per cent disability, stuck it out for several more desperate months. I lost touch completely with all the

other men of my battalion and I imagine that very few of those who went out with the 18th Division in 1915 survived. (Our Division was one of the earliest to have a Divisional sign, 'ATN')."

#### Notes:

1. Captain W. P. Nevill, OC B Company, whose idea it was to provide footballs for his leading platoons.
2. Captain E. C. Gimson, RAMC, who was awarded the DSO for his bravery in this action.
3. Captain R. H. Rhodes, OC A Company, was wounded in the attack on the Schwaben Redoubt three months later.

Another reminiscence of the football attack of 1 July 1916 was provided by ex-Sgt C. H. Mason who visited the Queen's Surreys Office recently. At the time he was Captain Nevill's orderly and has a vivid recollection of the battle. Mason, at that time a lance corporal, survived this action but was severely wounded in the Third Battle of the Somme in November 1916.

#### The 1st Battalion in the 1939-45 War

Mr Charles Manning, who was Intelligence Sergeant of the 1st Battalion from 1943 to 1945, has completed Part III of our series of eye witness accounts of the Operations of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War. The period covered is from May 1944 to the end of the War. The narrative has an Introduction by Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, and a Foreword by Brigadier H. M. A. Hunter, CVO, DSO, MBE, who commanded the 1st Battalion throughout the last year of the War.

Part III consists of a printed cover and 20 duplicated pages. The index contains 35 1st Battalion names. Part III is available from the Queen's Surreys Office for 25p, post free. Parts I and II are now sold out.

#### Chapels and Memorials

##### Return to Cassino

The writer of this article is Mr C. A. Smith who after service in the 4th Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (TA) joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1921. He served in the 2nd Battalion until 1937 when he was posted to the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA). Charles Smith served with the 1/6th Surreys throughout the 1939-45 War and rose to the rank of RSM. In 1944 he was commissioned as Lt (Quartermaster) and remained with the Battalion until the end of hostilities.

"I had always intended to return to the scene of Cassino to visit the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery, and for many years had promised my wife that we would make the trip. When Colonel Nash organised a trip for members of the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, I was unable to take advantage of the offer. Holiday dates for that year had been decided for the season and the usual pressure of the daily grind, plus the unsympathetic view of my Lords and Masters, pre-

vented us from taking advantage of an excellent tour.

Not being in the millionaire class, and endeavouring to exist on a very tight shoestring, we had to settle for a package holiday, of which the choice was either Rome or Sorrento. We chose Sorrento as that seemed the most likely place from which to make our pilgrimage to Cassino. We found that a travel firm ran a weekly trip to Cassino and booked seats for Sunday, the 13th May, this being as near to the anniversary date as we could get. On the coach we met an ex-major of the Royal Artillery, who was also making the pilgrimage to Cassino and the Cemetery. We found that we had a lot in common, exchanging our reminiscences of the days of 1944 and the Cassino area.

The Commonwealth Cemetery, we found, is situated in an ideal position in view of the Monastery and being in May, the flowers growing on the graves were in full bloom and we were struck by the orderly tidiness and cleanliness of the whole area. The grass was cut short, and the gardens well kept and weeded and the whole Cemetery kept in a way that one would wish. We walked up and down the rows of graves and all was very quiet and peaceful.

Arriving back at the Memorial, situated at the entrance to the Cemetery, we stood on top of steps where one has an excellent view of the whole area. I turned and looked towards Monte Ornito where the 1/6th Battalion had spent some very cold and uncomfortable days and nights. I remembered two characters of the Regimental Police, who, after the morning "stand down" used to sing, often persuading the chaps to join in the chorus. I encouraged this as in my opinion if a man is singing, his morale is boosted. One song which was sung with gusto was "The Holy City", and as I stood there I remembered the words "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, lift up your hearts and sing". Some of the men who sang that chorus were buried in the Cemetery behind me.

*"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."*

## Our Allied Regiments

### Canada

We were pleased to welcome RSM W. Blaymires of The Queen's York Rangers who called at the Queen's Surreys Office on 1st August. In addition to the connection with the former Queen's Royal Regiment, it transpired there were other links. Mr Blaymires, who came from a service family, had originally enlisted in the Buffs and had transferred to the Royal Marines in which he served during the 1939-45 War. He emigrated to Canada fifteen years ago.

Mr Blaymires was very anxious to obtain a sword before he returned to Canada, and we were able to offer him a sword, formerly the property of Major R. G. D. Bruce, The East Surrey Regiment, its original owner having been killed at Ladysmith in 1900. A letter from Mr Blaymires appears under "Correspondence".

## Hard of Hearing?

With advancing years many of us find we do not hear so well, particularly if we have been subjected to loud and unpleasant noises during our Army service. Those so affected may be interested to know of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 105 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6AH. The Institute offers a free advisory service and is able to demonstrate and recommend the most suitable appliances to improve hearing.

All that is necessary is to make an appointment either in writing or by telephone—01-387 8033. The appointment may be made direct with the Institute.

## Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families

Lady Grover's Hospital Fund was founded to assist serving and retired officers to meet nursing and convalescent expenses incurred through the illness of their wives and dependant children. It does not provide benefit for officers themselves.

The Fund is also open to

1. Widows of deceased officers who have not remarried (for their own benefit and that of their children), provided they are under the age of 61.

2. Unmarried daughters of deceased officers (for their own benefit), provided they are over 18 and under 61 years of age.

The Fund is not meant to be a complete insurance scheme, but it can be of great help to those who fall sick and are unable to, or do not wish to make use of the services provided by the National Health Service.

Subscription rates and any further information required may be obtained from The Secretary, Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

## Deaths

We regret to announce the passing of the following former members of our Regiments:

**Smith**—On 23rd October, 1972, Sgt Frederick A. Smith (L/10144), aged 80. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1910 to 1931 and in the RASC from 1940 to 1949.

**Edwards**—On 13th November, 1972, Major J. E. Edwards, TD, The East Surrey Regiment. Served in the 2/6th Battalion in France in 1940.

**Swanwick**—On 30th November, 1972, Captain Sidney Swanwick, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1941 after War service in The East Surrey Regiment. See obituary.

**Vince**—On 3rd April, 1973, Pte Peter Charles Sidney Vince. Served in 8th and 13th Bns The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War in which he was severely wounded and lost a leg.

**Boshell**—On 25th April, 1973, Private William Patrick Boshell (6103825), aged 58. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1941 to 1946.

**Bailey**—On 2nd May, 1973, Pte Harry Robert Bailey (4115673), aged 72. Served in The Cheshire Regiment in the 1914-18 War, then for seven years in The Royal Sussex Regiment and in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1933 to 1942.

**Wallace**—On 3rd May, 1973, Private Charles Frank Wallace (26507), aged 74. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1917 to 1918 when he was invalided out on account of wounds.

**Elbourne**—On 3rd May, 1973, in Malta, Pte Frederick George Elbourne (6722491), aged 69. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924 to 1932.

**Garrard**—On 8th May, 1973, Sgt Harold Ephraim Garrard (3095), aged 77. Served in the 1st Bn 24th London Regiment from 1914 to 1919. He was severely wounded in France in 1917, and in the following year he was awarded the Serbian Medal for valour.

**Mackleworth**—On 9th May, 1973, Cpl Henry John Mackleworth (401571), aged 65. After serving as a cavalryman for two years, transferred to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in India in 1929 and served for a further five years. Mr Mackleworth was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1967 after 32 years service in the engineering division of the Post Office.

**Block**—On 22nd May, 1973, Brigadier A. P. Block, CB, CBE, DSO, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1918 to 1947. See obituary.

**Greenfield**—On 24th May, 1973, in the Star and Garter Home, Sgt Charles Henry Greenfield (9827), aged 74. Served in 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

**Nichols**—On 1st June, 1973, Sgt Edward Nichols (L.8976), aged 91. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the South African War and in the 1914-18 War.

**Wood**—On 7th June, 1973, in the Star and Garter Home, L/Cpl Leonard James Victor Wood (21346), aged 76. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War in which he was severely wounded.

**Abel**—On 12th June, 1973, Cpl Frank Elliott Edward Abel (6077368), aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 to 1922. Represented the 1st Battalion as a welter weight in the Aldershot Command Boxing Championship in 1920.

**Morris**—On 7th July, 1973, Sgt Arthur George Morris (720100), aged 84. Served in the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) from 1914 to 1919 and was seriously wounded on the Somme. In the 1939-45 War he served as lieutenant in the Kent Home Guard, attached to The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Mr Morris bequeathed his medals to the Regimental Museum.

**Fricker**—On 11th July, 1973, Lt Col E. G. Fricker, aged 75. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1935. See obituary.

**Rooney**—On 2nd August, 1973, Pte Horatio Herbert Rooney (6141436), aged 57. Served in the 2nd and 1st Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1936 to 1946 and was taken prisoner at Dunkirk.

**Butler**—On 9th August, 1973, Pte Arthur Butler (6133277), aged 74. After service in the KRRC in the 1914-18 War, served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1922.

**Quaintance**—On 13th August, 1973, Pte Charles Stanley Quaintance (70064), aged 81. Served in the 23rd London Regiment from 1912 to 1919 and in the 11th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1940.

**Hazell**—On 13th August, 1973, Major R. L. Hazell, The Queen's Royal Regiment. A qualified solicitor, he served in the Judge Advocate General's Department in the 1939-45 War.

**Brothurst Hill**—On 8th September, 1973, Major Ralph Brothurst Hill, aged 93. Served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Arras in September 1917.

**Mellett**—On 11th September, 1973, in the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Pte D. G. Mellett (159263), aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1918.

**Allingham**—On 19th September, 1973, S/Sgt Clement Allingham (5627), aged 93. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1898 to 1905, in the Military Foot Police from 1905 to 1910 and in the MPSC from 1910 to 1919. See obituary "Two Chelsea Pensioners".

**Templer**—On 19th September, 1973, S/Sgt Edward Ernest Templer (6984), aged 90. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1901 to 1918, and in the MPSC from 1918 to 1919. See obituary "Two Chelsea Pensioners".

**Clarke**—On 24th September, 1973, Cpl John Percy Clarke (10806). Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1919 and was wounded at Festubert.

**Maxwell**—On 25th September, 1973, Captain Cecil Reginald Maxwell, aged 60. Served in the 11th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and in the reconstituted 2nd Battalion from 1940 to 1944. He was Notts County wicket keeper before the war.

**Poole**—On 30th September, 1973, Major Campbell Evered Poole, aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1926 to 1949. See obituary.

**Townsend**—In October, 1973, CSM George Henry Townsend. Served in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in the 1914-18 War and subsequently.

**Hackwith**—On 18th October, 1973, Captain William Hackwith, The East Surrey Regiment. Bill Hackwith was Adjutant of the 1/6th Surreys in North Africa and Italy. He contributed an article "Cassino revisited" in the November 1969 News Letter.

## Regimental Families

We also announce with regret the deaths of the undermentioned ladies:

**Raynsford**—On 10th September, 1973, Mrs Raynsford, wife of Cpl M. V. Raynsford (22540431) who served in The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment from 1950 to 1968.

**Brown**—On 14th September, 1973, Mrs Alice Brown, wife of Pte Thomas George Brown (6091714), who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

**Hardy**—On 14th September, 1973, Mrs Minnie Katherine Hardy, wife of Pte F. R. Hardy (6137059), The East Surrey Regiment.

**Clayton**—On 13th October, 1973, Mrs Annabella Clayton, widow of the late Captain Gerald Fancourt Clayton, who served in the 8th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1914-18 War.

## Obituaries

### Captain S. Swanwick

Mr J. Moule writes,

"Sid Swanwick (Swannie) was one of my close friends during our service in the Queen's. I first met him when I joined the Orderly Room Staff of the 2nd Bn in 1919. He was the O.R. Sgt. We served together continuously until commencement of the last war, when I was discharged and he was commissioned into the Reconnaissance Corps.

Swannie had a remarkable clerical brain and his knowledge of Orderly Room procedure in all fields was tremendous, so that the standard he set was reflected on the

whole staff. Efficiency was our watchword. As a person he was genial and friendly with all ranks, was never rattled or perturbed when overworked with the result that we were a contented and proficient staff. He served in India from 1919-26 and in Khartoum in 1927 and returned to England with the Bn the same year, continuing in the capacity of O.R. Sgt. His outlook on life never changed—he was a first class athlete and sportsman and represented the Bn at cricket, football and hockey.

After the War he joined the Civil Service and was employed as a clerical officer at the Record Office, Brighton. He retired in 1966 and enjoyed a happy and peaceful existence at Shoreham until he died suddenly and tragically last November.

He was an extremely loyal Queensman and followed all Regimental activities with enthusiasm even after Amalgamation. One of our very genuine old comrades who loved his Regiment and respected the Association. I am certain that all his close friends and associates, particularly those of the 2nd Queen's will mourn his passing".

#### Brigadier A. P. Block, CB, CBE, DSO

Allen Block, who died on 22nd May, 1973, at the age of 74, was an outstanding member of that truly professional group of officers who were bred in The Queen's Royal Regiment between the Wars.

He was born on 13th January, 1899, the son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Block of Esher, and was at Repton when the First World War broke out. From Sandhurst he was gazetted in April, 1918, to The Queen's Royal Regiment and was at once posted to 8th Queen's in France where he served his battle apprenticeship. Here, his charm and leadership quickly won him the enduring respect and affection of those he served with, as they continued to do throughout his life.

The War over, he joined 2nd Queen's in India and remained with them for some 15 years, during which time he saw action on the North-West Frontier. He returned to the UK in 1928. These were the years which gave him that great grasp of infantry soldiering and developed those powers of leadership and command that were to be so successfully exploited in the Second World War. From 1934 to 1938, he was Adjutant of 7th Queen's at Braganza Street and this began a long and happy involvement with the TA side of the Regiment which lasted until his death. When war broke out in 1939, he was back in India with 1st Queen's returning once more to England in 1940 to command 15th Queen's at Dover.

In July, 1941, he took over command of 2/7th Queen's. The Battalion had been severely mauled in the fighting in France the previous year and had been subsequently heavily milked of key men for overseas drafts. Nevertheless, during the following 18 months he transformed it into an efficient fighting unit with a degree of training and battleworthiness that would be hard to match today. He led the Battalion back into action for the last phase of the North African Campaign in April, 1943, and again in the successful assault landings at Salerno in September. At the end of the month, he went to command 139 Infantry Brigade in a neighbouring division. He left behind him the indelible stamp of his personality, his high standards and sound methods and an impetus that was to sustain the Battalion for the rest of the War.

He displayed the same skill and drive during the next 15 months in Italy, taking part in most major engagements until, in December, 1944, his Brigade was the first to be rushed to Greece to deal with the communist insurgency which followed the German withdrawal. He achieved rapid success in the Piraeus district of Athens, where later a street was renamed in his honour by the Greek authorities. Following further counter-insurgency operations around Patras, he was posted to command the Central Mediterranean Training Centre, in Italy, where his flair for training fighting men was again turned to good account. At the end of the War, he joined the Allied Military Government

in Austria, firstly as Director of the Internal Affairs Division in Vienna and then as Senior Military Government Officer for the Styria Province.

He returned to England in 1947 to command 131 (Surrey) Infantry Brigade in the re-formed Territorial Army, a formation composed of two Queen's and one East Surrey Battalions.

In 1950, he revived his association with India when he was made Military Adviser to the UK High Commissioner for the newly-formed state of Pakistan. He retired from the Army in May, 1953, but his knowledge and valuable advice were still to be available as in 1955 he joined the Military Intelligence Directorate in the War Office and was posted to that Branch dealing with India and Pakistan.

He was awarded the DSO for his actions at Enfidaville, Tunisia, in 1943, and later the same year the CBE for his services at Monte Camino in Italy. For his outstanding work in Greece, he was made CB in 1945.

Allen Block possessed a warm and generous personality, coupled with a puckish sense of humour, and his explosive laughter and geniality were infectious. Yet in moments of crisis he generated an air of calm and confidence which gave new strength to those around him who felt that things could not be nearly so bad as they seemed. From the day he joined, he was a fervent supporter of the Regiment and all its causes and, as a personal labour of love, carried out a research into the origins of the Regiment's use of the Paschal Lamb as its badge. He was a military mentor to many officers who sought his wise counsel on subjects ranging widely from army and regimental matters to his most favourite pastime, fishing. He was President of the Old Comrades Association of 2/7th and 8th Queen's and a Vice-President of 1/7th Queen's OCA. At their gatherings, it was instinctive for new arrivals to search immediately for that tall, impressive and benevolent figure who evoked such loyalty from them and who returned it in such full measure, and at a Memorial Service held for him at Emsworth on 7th June, 1973, a wide cross-section of Old Comrades and friends gathered to pay tribute to one who for them and many others had become something of a legend in his lifetime.

He was married in 1924 to Loveday, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Pike Glasgow, by whom he had a son and daughter. To his family goes the sympathy of the Regiment in which he was so deeply proud to serve and for whose reputation he himself laboured so valiantly.

M.E.M.

*Recollections of one who served with and under A.P.B. for many years*

Allen was an enthusiast. Everything he did was performed with the utmost energy and to his fullest extent. He had a most boisterous laugh which rocked the room when he was amused and he was readily amused. He was my first Company Commander and almost his first words to me were "When you join or re-join the Regiment read and study back Orders". He was a strict disciplinarian and did most things according to the book, nevertheless he was very kind hearted: of complete integrity he was utterly reliable. A tall man of large build he always seemed to be walking flat out. It never ceased to amaze me how he could climb hills so fast, this is doubtless a recollection of his taking a picquet up from the river bed to occupy a position on the hills around Ladha. His decorations and war record speak for themselves. He was among the best fighting soldiers and leader of troops in the field produced by the Regiment in the second World War.

In 1922 he was specially chosen as a Guard Commander for the visit of the Prince of Wales to Delhi. In this year too he instigated and rowed in a Regimental four that won the RAMPUR FOORS at Naini Tal, a great achievement for an Infantry battalion. He dabbled with most games but football and cricket were his chief loves and he played them with his usual zeal, the latter till the late years of his life.

The Regiment has lost a very loyal and devoted servant and all those that knew him have lost a very fine friend. In

spite of his abilities and achievements he was never conceited and, above all, he was never pompous.

#### Lieut Colonel E. G. Fricker

Edward Guy Fricker was born on 27th September, 1897, and was commissioned to The East Surrey Regiment in June, 1915. He was seconded for service in the Machine Gun Corps and served in France and Belgium for 2½ years, during which time he was twice wounded. In 1919 he served in North Russia and the following year joined the West African Frontier Force in which he served for five years.

After service as Adjutant of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, Guy retired in 1935 to farm in South Africa. At the outbreak of war he joined the South African Forces and commanded an armoured car company in the Western Desert—an experience he thoroughly enjoyed. The last 18 months of the War he served in the Allied Military Government in Italy. He then returned to his farm in East Griqualand and applied himself to stock farming with the same calm thoroughness and quiet determination which characterised all his work.

He did not retire from active farming until he was well over 70, and even then still played polo, and did many jobs about the farm.

Although separated by distance from Regimental contacts, Guy remained an enthusiastic supporter of The East Surrey Regiment throughout his life.

#### Two Chelsea Pensioners

It is unusual for one obituary to pay tribute to two of our members, yet the lives and deaths of our only nonagenarians, Clement Allingham and Ernest Templer, were so similar it is fitting they should share one memorial.

"Jimmy" Allingham enlisted in the Queen's in 1898 and "Dick" Templer in the Surreys three years later. Both served in the 2nd Battalions of their Regiments in South Africa. They were in fact the only veterans of the South African War in their respective Regiments still surviving in 1973. After completing a seven year engagement in the Queen's, Allingham transferred to the Military Foot Police while Templer soldiered on in the Surreys until 1918.

In that year, both men, now NCOs, transferred to the MPSC, finishing their service in the rank of staff sergeant.

Dick Templer was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in 1950 and was immensely proud to be appointed the Governor's batman. Jimmy Allingham was a comparative "new boy", entering the Royal Hospital in 1971. Both men were loyal supporters of their Regiments and were familiar figures at the Regimental Association reunions, surrounded by friends of all ages.

The two old soldiers faded away within 24 hours of each other in the Infirmary of the Royal Hospital and are buried side by side in the Soldiers Plot in Brookwood Cemetery.

#### Major C. E. Poole

Campbell Evered Poole ("Cam" to all his friends) was born in January 1906. Educated at Brighton College and commissioned from the R.M.C. Sandhurst into The East Surrey Regiment, he joined the 2nd Battalion in Jersey in 1926.

Early in 1927 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in India where he served for the next five years, during which time

he made his mark as a fine golfer and played in the Regimental polo team. In 1932 he was posted home for a tour at the Regimental Depot, where he subsequently became Adjutant. In 1938 he re-joined the 2nd Battalion prior to the start of its tour of the Far East and in the following year was appointed Adjutant, a month before the outbreak of World War II.

A year later all the British units were evacuated from the Chinese Mainland and the Surreys joined the Garrison in Singapore, whence a few months later, they moved to Tanjong Pau, near Jitra, in the extreme north of Malaya.

In 1941 Cam joined the Staff of HQ Malaya Command as G.S.O. 2 where he served until the fall of Singapore in February 1942, when he became a P.O.W. of the Japanese in Changi.

After three and a half years of captivity, during which he spent a long period working on the infamous Burma railway, Japan surrendered to the Allies and freedom came to Cam and those of his comrades who survived.

In March 1947 Cam married Ann Anstey in London and shortly afterwards moved to Brunswick in Germany on attachment to the 1st Bn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The following year he was posted to 2 Surreys in the Canal Zone and on his retirement in September 1949, he and his family moved to South Africa.

On returning to the UK in 1953, Cam took up an appointment as RO III in a REME unit in Malvern with whom he stayed for the next twelve years and where he and his family made their home.

Cam Poole's sudden death came as a great shock to his many friends, especially so to those of us who met him at the Annual Regimental Association Service in Guildford Cathedral only last June, when he appeared his normal cheerful self. He will always be remembered as a fine Regimental Officer and a steadfast loyal friend.

We extend our deep sympathies to his widow and to his daughter, Elizabeth.

F.M.

### Regimental Association News Letter Subscriptions

1. Subscriptions for the 1974 News Letters should now be paid. No reminders will be sent, so if you want to continue taking the News Letter please send your subscription of 50p now.
2. No action is required by
  - (a) Those who have already paid in advance;
  - (b) members of the Officers' Club whose Club subscription includes the News Letter;
  - (c) those who pay by Bankers Order, except to check up their order covers the increased cost of 50p.
3. If you would like the News Letter to be sent to a friend, please give his name and address and enclose 50p for his subscription.