

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. 15

May, 1974

Editorial

Two major Regimental events mark this issue of the News Letter, both evoking Regimental pride in their different ways.

The passing of Brigadier George Roupell was a loss which affected not only the members of the former East Surrey Regiment but which was keenly felt by his friends in our present and former Regiments. For instance, the generous tribute which appeared in the Times was written by an officer formerly of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

George Roupell was the personification of The East Surrey Regiment in which he had been born and bred, but when the time came for Amalgamation, he, like Major General J. Y. Whitfield of the Queen's, gave his whole-hearted support to the new Regiment. In his Special Order of the Day, Brigadier Roupell wrote, "The spirit of the Surreys can never die and in conjunction with that of our sister regiment, The Queen's, it will go on from strength to strength." That his confidence was not misplaced may be seen from the support given to the other event, still fresh in our minds, the Presentation of Colours to The Queen's Regiment by Queen Margrethe of Denmark, our Allied Colonel in Chief.

The attendance of between five and six thousand people, the majority of them old soldiers of our former Regiments, proved that despite all the changes in title, the amalgamations and disbandments, the flame of Regimental pride burns as brightly as ever.

Many had come long distances, some from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, some from the Star and Garter Home, some were over 80, an old soldier still suffering from wounds sustained in 1915 had been brought from hospital by a comrade. All were wearing their medals and Regimental ties, and here and there were Regimental widows proudly wearing their husbands' medals. These members of our former Regiments had not come to see Royalty, they had not come just to see a parade, they had not come for an old comrades' reunion, but by their presence in such numbers they demonstrated their pride in still being associated with the Regiment of today.

Message from Maj.-Gen. R. S. N. Mans, CBE, President of the Regimental Association

I am taking this opportunity to write to all members of the Association on the very important subject of

recruiting both officers and soldiers for our Regular and Volunteer Battalions.

I am sure that you have read recently in the newspapers of the declining recruiting rate for the Regular Army and this has applied particularly to our Regiment. I believe that it is our duty to do all that is in our power to try to help in this matter. Everyone of us at some time or another comes into contact with young men in all walks of life and very often the subject of careers is discussed. When this occurs I am asking you all to put forward the advantages of joining the Army and particularly The Queen's Regiment, either as an officer or soldier. If for one reason or another it is not possible for the youngster to join the Regular Army, then please do your utmost to persuade him to give his services to the TAVR.

In these days, more than ever before, service to the nation in the Armed Forces is one of the most rewarding jobs a young man can do. I urge you all to support me in this matter of evangelising on behalf of the Regiment wherever you may be. If I can be of any help whatever or if you want further information please do not hesitate to contact me direct through our office at Kingston. I am always available to see anyone who you may think would benefit from such an interview.

In conclusion, I ask everyone to make an all-out effort to help. Let "Bring One In" be the motto for 1974 of all members of the Association.

Honours and Awards

In April 1974, Captain M. J. A. Kealy, The Queen's Regiment, was awarded the DSO for bravery and outstanding qualities of leadership in Oman. Mike Kealy is the son of Colonel J. B. H. Kealy, DSO, formerly The Queen's Royal Regiment.

We congratulate the following on the award of the MBE in the New Year Honours List:

Mr C. R. Cronk, MM

WOII H. W. Shearing, RQMS 6 Queens (V)

Colonel Charles Millman, OBE, who returned last December after 2½ years in the Sudan, was awarded the Gadara or Order of Merit (1st Class) by President Numeiry for distinguished services to the State.

Regimental Association

Accounts

The accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1973, were audited by

Regimental and other Service Functions in 1974

Date	Place	Function
Fri 24 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines
Fri 14 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party
Sun 16 June	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service
Sun 15 September	Henley Park	A Coy 5(V) Queen's Family Shoot (see footnote)
Fri 4 October	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner
Sat 5 October	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion
Thu 10 October	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Fri 11 October		
Sat 12 October	Kingston	Warrant Officers & Sergeants Association Ladies Dinner and Dance
Sun 10 November	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades

Note: Range is subject to alteration. Confirmation may be obtained by telephone 0483 61441.

Messrs Menzies Middleton & Hawkins, Chartered Accountants of Kingston-upon-Thames and passed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 6th April, 1974.

The state of the funds as at 31st December, 1973, is summarised below.

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds	Excess of Income over Expenditure
	1973	1972
Queen's Surreys Charitable	6,292	5,867
Queen's Charitable	104,790	40,398
Surreys Charitable	25,408	21,434
Queen's War Memorial	23,626	14,016
Surreys War Memorial	15,429	10,231
Main	2,274	2,021
Reunion	1,075	1,062

Benevolent Work of the Regimental Association

There was an increase in the number of cases and the amount disbursed in grants, £5,112, was the highest ever. Investigations and reports were made by SSAFA and the Forces Help Society, and we are grateful for their kindly and sympathetic work.

We have received help from the Army Benevolent Fund in the form of Major Rehabilitation Grants, Children's Holidays and Supplementary Allowances. Our thanks are also due to the serving members of The Queen's Regiment who voluntarily give a day's pay each year to help former members of the Regiment in need.

Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service of the Regimental Association will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, 16th June, 1974, commencing at 11.15 a.m. The sermon will be preached by the Reverend Peter Mallett, QHC, AKC, CF, the Chaplain General designate and a former chaplain to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

All past members of our former Regiments and present members of The Queen's Regiment, and their families, are invited to attend. Medals should be worn on this Regimental occasion, and it would be a help to

our young ushers, provided by the Surrey Army Cadet Force, if Regimental ties are worn.

There are ample car parking facilities at the Cathedral. Buses run from Guildford Bus Station at 10.30 and 10.45 a.m. The bus stop is at the bottom of the driveway to the Cathedral, which means another 5 minutes walk. For the return journey, the bus leaves the Cathedral itself at 1.13 p.m. arriving at Guildford Bus Station thirteen minutes later.

A Regimental Tent is being pitched outside the Cathedral where there will be a bar, organised by Lt Col R. E. Pounds, MBE, Headquarters, Surrey Army Cadet Force.

Reunion

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, from 1830 to 2300 hours on Saturday, 5th October, 1974. The function is for men only. The cost of admission is 50p, whether or not supper is taken.

Members are requested to submit the enclosed warning-in-slip, with remittance, by not later than Monday, 30th September. Tickets will be issued by the Secretary.

Admission will be by ticket which will also entitle the holder to a buffet supper. Members are asked to buy their tickets in advance. Supper will not be arranged for those who buy their ticket at the door.

Money will be refunded provided cancelled bookings are notified by Monday, 30th September. Members are reminded that cars must not be parked against or alongside the Drill Hall and connected buildings.

News Letter

Thanks to the generosity of those of our members who have added "a bit extra" to their News Letter subscriptions, the financial position is not as acute as had been feared. Providing printing costs do not break us this year, we hope to maintain the News Letter subscription at 50p for 1975.

Christmas Cards

No stocks are available at present and this year's cards will not be available before August. We do not know whether last year's price of 60p a dozen can be maintained. Advance orders can be accepted, but no cash should be sent.

News of the Associations

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

On Saturday, 11th May, we held our 23rd Annual Dinner at the T & AVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, and we were honoured to have with us on this occasion Major General R. S. N. Mans, CBE, our President, and Major P. G. E. Hill from the Regimental Association. The attendance of 53 members was satisfactory but we should like to see more members attending. General Mans in his speech impressed upon the members the importance of recruiting both officers and soldiers for the Regular and Volunteer Battalions of the Regiment and asked each member to bring in a recruit.

Now that the emergency restrictions have been lifted, we can revert to our normal functions and our monthly meetings will continue to be held on the last Saturday in each month when all members and their wives are assured of a pleasant evening.

2/4th Queen's Old Comrades Association

The 45th Annual Reunion Dinner of the Association was held at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon, on 27th April. More than 50 old soldiers, whose ages ranged from 75 to 92 attended. The speakers included the President, Captain P. C. Duncan, Colonel H. G. Duncombe and Mr Harry Mann, the Secretary.

5th Queen's Old Members Association

A record number of 150 attended the 1973 Reunion Dinner. So many donations were received, including many from members who could not attend, that all expenses were cleared and a profit made. The 1974 Reunion Day has been arranged for Saturday, 11th May.

The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

Formerly the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) OCA, this active and well-supported Association has had another successful year. At the end of 1973 the membership amounted to 349. Among the functions held during the year was a visit to St Niklaas, the Belgian town liberated by the 1/7th Queen's in September 1944. Wreaths were laid at the Regimental Memorial in the town, and the party was hospitably entertained, as always, by the Burgomaster and his Council.

The Association's Museum has been for many years in the Braganza Street Drill Hall, but in mid 1973 the room was required by the unit occupying the T & AVR Centre. The Committee decided the collection of exhibits should be housed in the Borough of Southwark and this will be arranged in due course.

2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The twenty-eighth Reunion Dinner was held on 30th March at the Stag, Bressenden Place, S.W.1.

Since the previous Dinner the Battalion had suffered the sad loss of their President, and one time Commanding Officer, Brigadier Allen Block, CB, CBE, DSO, whose leadership and warm personality were especially remembered on this occasion.

The Chairman of the Dinner Club, Hugh Scammell, MC, reported that the office of President had been offered to Lt Colonel Cecil Falk, MC, TD, the Battalion's first Commanding Officer and a most loyal and popular member of the Club. Because of his other commitments he had reluctantly felt obliged to decline however, and there had then been no hesitation in the Presidency being offered to Brigadier M. E. M. MacWilliam, CBE, DSO, MC, the Battalion's last and only other surviving Commanding Officer, and the virtual founder of the Club. His acceptance was warmly acclaimed.

Although attendance of about 55 members was rather lower than in recent years, the evening was generally considered very successful, not least by a late member of the Wiltshire Regiment who wandered in by mistake, having confused the date of his own reunion. He was however extended full Queen's hospitality!

The evening concluded with the customary but nevertheless heartfelt thanks of members to Harry Neale, the Hon. Secretary to whose hard work and enthusiasm the Club owes so much.

Regimental Association of The Queen's Regiment

The Warminster Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association meets on the first Thursday of each month. The President is Col D. C. Snowdon, and we hear there is a surprisingly large number of old Queensmen in that part of the country.

Golf Society

Autumn Meeting 1973

The Autumn meeting of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society took place at Sudbrook Park, Richmond, on 4th and 5th October, 1973. The weather was perfect and the attendance was good with 18 competing on Thursday and 15 on Friday. We were pleased to see members of 1st Battalion The Queen's with us at this meeting.

Results:

Thursday, 4th October

Heales Memorial Trophy—Major T. L. Trotman.
Junior Division—Lt Col P. G. Roupell.
Veterans Halo—A. Mason.
Bogey Greensomes—Lt Col M. J. Doyle and Major T. L. Trotman.

Friday, 5th October

Autumn Bowl—Major T. L. Trotman.
Glasgow Greys—Major B. A. Crutchfield.
Last 9 holes: Senior—Major W. J. Sutton; Junior—Capt C. G. Reeves.
9 hidden holes: Senior—Maj Gen G. A. White; Junior—Capt H. J. Ball.
9 holes Bogey foursomes—Lt Col J. G. W. Davidson and Major T. L. Trotman.
Petri Plate—Lt Col J. G. W. Davidson.

The sweep was won by Major W. J. Sutton with Lt Col J. G. W. Davidson second and Major Paul Gray third.

The Queen's Regiment

Presentation of Colours

On 4th May, 1974, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Allied Colonel in Chief, presented new Colours to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions of The Queen's Regiment.

This was a great Regimental occasion attended by a distinguished gathering of senior officers of the Services, civic dignitaries from the City of London and the four counties of The Queen's Regiment, representatives of both our Allied Canadian Regiments and former members of the Regiment and their families from all parts of the United Kingdom. Many Old Comrades of the Regiment had taken part in similar parades involving our former Regiments' Colours during their own service.

The parade was mounted by the 1st Battalion, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions being abroad. The massed bands were those of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions.

The special significance of this Presentation was that The Queen's Regiment, formed on 31st December, 1966, has never had its own Colours. Each battalion has continued to use the Colours they were carrying before the Large Regiment was formed. The Colours of the 1st Battalion, for instance, were those presented to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on the Amalgamation Parade of The Queen's Royal Regiment with The East Surrey Regiment. The Presentation of new Colours thus ensured that the battalions with their differing Regimental origins were now unified under identical stands of Colours as the battalions of one Regiment.

The parade was staged at Armoury House in the City of London under a cold grey sky and in the presence of over 5,000 spectators. The Allied Colonel in Chief was received with a Royal Salute and the Danish Royal Standard was broken at the masthead. Queen Margrethe, a slim elegant figure, impressed everybody with her youthful charm and friendliness.

The old Colours, having been trooped, were marched off parade for the last time to the moving strains of Auld Lang Syne. Drums were then piled and the new Colours consecrated by the Chaplain General. Her Majesty then presented the four stands of Colours and in a short speech commended them to the safe keeping of the Regiment.

After the march past and the advance in review order, the parade moved off to exercise the Regiment's privilege of marching through the City of London with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and bands playing, the salute being taken by the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House.

Meanwhile the Regimental Associations of our former Regiments assembled on the parade ground and Her Majesty walked down the ranks stopping here and there to have a word with some old soldier of her

Regiment. It was a memorable occasion and everyone must have felt it was an honour to be present on such a great day in the history of our Regiment.

1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Our 1st Battalion, on their third tour of Northern Ireland, have managed to produce their News Sheet, *Braganza*. This publication, no doubt produced under considerable difficulty, contains lively contributions of a topical nature from the Companies and specialist groups of the Battalion and is illustrated with photographs and cartoons.

The following extracts from *Braganza* show what the job of the 1st Battalion is and how they are doing it.

"The Battalion's mission is to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary restore law and order in North Belfast. To achieve this both the IRA and the UVF must first be defeated. Foot and vehicle patrols are therefore out on the streets twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, in fair weather and in foul, checking up on people, and their cars, houses, prams, shopping bags, guests and milk bottles. Even with all these inconvenient measures most local people remain very friendly and identify themselves with the troops, but there are still some openly hostile and a few continue to insult patrols whenever they can. Despite the abuse, the soldier out on the streets must remain impartial—an easy order to give, but one that demands a very high standard of self discipline especially when dealing with those who shoot to kill and bomb to maim the innocent.

"Bombs and bomb hoaxes have occupied our time. We have had over 100 bomb hoaxes and scares and 16 major explosions using an estimated 3,000 lbs of explosives. These bombs have mainly been directed against Catholic owned bars and shops, but due to the alertness of our patrols and their speedy clearing of the area, no serious casualties have occurred.

"In an effort to stop the bombs which are left in cars or thrown from them, we have checked all traffic in and out of the City by VCP's (Vehicle Check Points). In the second week of November we searched 29,000 cars and to date 36,000 cars have been searched by the Battalion.

"Other searches have produced finds of 10 pistols, 6 rifles, 4,000 rounds of ammunition and bomb making equipment which included 700 lbs of explosive. These finds were the result of painstaking patrolling by alert soldiers and information gained by the intelligence sections."

The first two weeks of March saw the 1st Battalion enjoying their post-Northern Ireland leave before getting down to the preparations for the Presentation of Colours on 4th May. They are looking forward to a training trip to Canada in July. The Battalion will be based at Camp Wainwright, the nearest town being Edmonton, and during the tactical training it is hoped there will be an opportunity for every man to have a four day adventure training period.

From Here and There

Donations

We acknowledge with thanks a legacy of £50 from the estate of the late Mr W. H. Wright (6087039) who

enlisted in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in 1936. Embodied in September 1939, Pte Knight went with his battalion to France in April 1940 and was severely wounded a few weeks later. He was never fit for service again and was invalided out in December the following year.

William Knight had been orphaned in the 1914-18 War and had spent much of his childhood in a Salvation Army Home in Wales. He later worked in the Welsh coalmines. A Welshman by upbringing he soon became known as "Taffy" on joining the 5th Queen's.

In the 1960s he was caretaker of the Haslemere Drill Hall and RQMS of the 2nd Cadet Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. He made his home with Mr and Mrs Lown in Haslemere, and Mrs Lown writes:

"He was a very benevolent man, giving much of his spare time to various youth organisations in the district. In addition to the Army cadets, he had helped the Navy cadets, Air Training Corps and the St John's Ambulance cadets. I feel his youth work was, perhaps, his way of repaying what was done for him in his youth."

We also acknowledge with thanks donations from the undermentioned members:

Mr H. C. P. Mayhew (64160) who served in the 2nd Queen's in the 1914-18 War and was wounded at the Third Battle of Ypres.

Mr J. F. Samuels (6086742) who joined the 7th Queen's (TA) in 1936. He was taken prisoner in France in 1940, and during the years of captivity he ran the British News Service and organized the rugger and soccer in his camp. For this he was awarded the YMCA Sports Medal.

Mr W. R. Turpin who served in the 2/4th Queen's.

Our Man at Westminster

In February 1948, after 21 years service with the Colours, CSM Charles Cronk (6082902), who was awarded the Military Medal in 1942, retired from The Queen's Royal Regiment.

On the day of his discharge from the Army, he joined the House of Commons, where the late Major General Sir Ivor Hughes was Serjeant at Arms, and started a new career. Mr Cronk has been Principal Doorkeeper in the House of Commons for the past seven years and in the New Year's Honours List this year, he was awarded the MBE. He is due to retire in July this year, after 26 years service in the House. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Padre's Progress

The Reverend Peter Mallett, CF, former chaplain to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya from 1954 to 1957, who is at present Assistant Chaplain-General, Headquarters British Army of the Rhine, is to become Chaplain-General at the Ministry of Defence in July 1974. The following message was sent to him on 9th January, 1974, when the appointment was announced:

Major General Rowley Mans and the Members of the Regimental Association, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and in particular Members of the former 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, send you their heartiest congratulations on your forthcoming appointment of Chaplain-General.

The following reply was received:

I should be most grateful if you would convey to Major General Rowley Mans and the Members of the Regimental Association of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment my sincere thanks for their kind words of congratulation and good wishes on my forthcoming appointment as Chaplain-General.

My past and very happy association with the Regiment increases the gratitude I owe to them for their kindness.

Peter Mallett.

And another Padre

Older members of the 2/7th Queen's will remember The Rev. Arthur J. Radford, the present Vicar of Okehampton, Devon, who has recently become a News Letter subscriber.

On appointment as an Army chaplain in July 1941, Mr Radford was posted to the 1st Bn The Kensington Regiment. In 1942 he was attached to the 2/7th Queen's and served with the Regiment in Irak, North Africa and Italy until June 1943 when he was posted to Palestine.

Union President

On leaving the Army, Major R. C. Taylor trained for two years at a Teacher Training College in Bath. He now teaches a class of 35 boys and girls aged about 10, at a little school in Somerset.

He thoroughly enjoys his life as a schoolmaster, particularly trying to get the children through their 11-plus exam. Toby Taylor has recently been appointed President of the local branch of the National Union of Teachers.

1874 to 1974

Mrs Kenrick of Fleet, Hants, the widow of Brigadier General G. E. R. Kenrick, celebrated her 100th birthday on 20th February, 1974. The following telegram was sent from the Queen's Surreys Office:

"Heartiest greetings and congratulations on your Centenary from General Mans and Members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association."

Her husband was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in November 1891 and first saw service with the 1st Battalion on the North West Frontier of India in 1897. He served in the South African War and was awarded the DSO as a captain. For his services in the 1914-18 War he was mentioned in despatches six times, received the CB, CMG and Legion of Honour and was promoted Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. After the war he commanded 145 Infantry Brigade (TA).

Still in Harness

Mr W. H. Arnold, who joined the 4th Bn The East Surrey Regiment as long ago as 1911 and transferred to the 1st Battalion two years later, is still working in his eightieth year. Bill Arnold was severely wounded serving with the 7th Surreys in France, and was transferred to the RFC in 1918.

At the age of 76, although completely blind in one eye and partially sighted in the other, he was instructing some workmen on the roof of Headquarters, Forces Help Society, where he works as caretaker, when he fell

and fractured his femur. After six months out of action he was back on the job again, and he intends to continue for as long as he can.

An old Soldier of 6th Queen's

A chance visit to the Regimental Museum by a lady from the United States has resulted in her father, Mr Philip Smith, joining the Regimental Association. 784 P. M. Smith enlisted in the 6th (Service) Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on 30th August, 1914, and was posted to the Drums. The Battalion went to France in June 1915 and in August that year Smith, then a lance corporal, was severely wounded and evacuated to England. He was finally discharged as unfit for war service on 21st August, 1917.

Mr Smith, who was recently awarded the Royal British Legion's gold badge for services rendered, lives at 9 Forge Way, Warboys, Huntingdon PE17 2TE.

An old Soldier of 6th Surreys

Mr Percy James Outrim, a sprightly 76, called at the Queen's Surreys Office in March to inquire the whereabouts of any of his contemporaries.

He joined the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1913 but was too young to go to India with the 1/6th Battalion. When he came of age Outrim was posted to the 26th Royal Fusiliers and later to the 1st London. He served in France and was twice wounded. On demobilization he returned to the 6th Surreys and was discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1922.

Mr Outrim would like to hear from anyone who remembers him. His address is 95 Ruskin Park House, Champion Hill, SE5.

Septuagenarian shot

Ex CSM W. Meaker, who served in The East Surrey Regiment and REME, made a name for himself as a champion pistol shot. Now 71, Bill Meaker is still shooting and he is representing Hampshire in the pistol championship in May.

Surrey in Forbidden City

Wishing to be remembered to old friends is Fred Court, a Security Officer at the British Embassy in Peking. "Massa" Court, a pre-War bandsman, did sterling work as Medical Sergeant in the RAP of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War.

He dispensed treatment and dressings with professional skill and because of his unerring ability to distinguish between real and imaginary ailments, he was held in some awe by young soldiers.

Surrey in Holy City

Tim Rogerson, who was commissioned to The East Surrey Regiment in December 1955 and who resigned from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in May 1966 to emigrate to New Zealand, is now a Major in the New Zealand Army, and is currently serving with the United Nations Operations Staff in Jerusalem, where he was recently met by Lt Col Tony Hannaford. Tim will be remembered by many for his prowess as a cross-country runner in which sport he represented the Regiment.

Surrey in an English City

Ian Holden, who served in the 1st and 6th Battalions The East Surrey Regiment in the 50s is the Director

of Development on Humberside Council. He is an economist and business consultant and has been in local government for the last six years.

Calling old comrades

Mr W. C. Simmonds of 25 Arun Road, Bognor Regis, Sussex, would like to hear from friends with whom he served at the Depot or in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Enlisting in June 1939, William Simmonds was posted to the 1st Battalion in France on completion of recruit training. He writes:

"I was married by the Rev Wellesley Orr at the church near the Depot. I lived at 50 Richmond Road when it was a general store where the lads used to get hot pies and saveloys to bring back to Barracks. That's how I met my wife.

"In the 1st Battalion I was in A Company. We went as far as the Albert Canal in Brussels, then in retreat we dug in along the Escaut Canal. I had been sent by the OC to get stretcher bearers from the Regimental Aid Post in rear. I returned to find everyone gone and the Gerry mortars had played hell with our section right alongside the bridge. After that I can only remember miles of marching until we stopped at Bray Dunes near Dunkirk."

Mr Simmonds remained with the 1st Surreys until 1942 when he was posted to The Queen's Royal Regiment for a year. In 1943 he was transferred to RASC and the last ten years of his service was in REME. He retired in 1961 after 22 years service.

Decorations and Medals

Mr H. A. Baile (6081190) of 814½ Fair Oaks Avenue, South Pasadena, California 91030, USA, has sent us the following advertisement from a local newspaper.

"Authentic British Campaign Medals"
—Show your medal! Award yourself several decorations used by the British Commonwealth from 1914 to 1956. Suspended from battle ribbons, they'll make a colourful addition to your jean paraphernalia. Valued at \$4 to 12, here's our campaign against inflation—each \$2.99."

Mr Baile is highly incensed at British medals being sold in this way, and wonders if anything can be done to discourage this trade. We doubt it. There is nothing to stop medals being sold to dealers and a purchaser abroad is not subject to the laws of this country prohibiting the wearing of medals.

Ration Allowance

A news flash from our 3rd Battalion in Gibraltar will please those who have served on the Rock. It is that the Rock Apes were given a cost of living increase of 2 new pence last December. It is however doubtful if this will cure them of their penchant for windscreen wipers.

No mention was made of the redoubtable Scarface who must be getting a very old gentleman now. Scarface was an autocrat on the Upper Rock who ruled his pack with a rod of iron. In spite of his disagreeable nature and repellent appearance, the old patriarch never lacked for female admirers. He was frequently to be seen asserting his *droits de seigneur* with an air of brooding malevolence.

Information wanted

The executors of an estate in South Africa are trying to trace the whereabouts of Captain John Ogston Livingstone Martin who is believed to have served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma in the 1939-45 War.

Anyone having any information which might help to trace Captain Martin is requested to notify the Queen's Surreys Office.

Visitors from Overseas

Canada

A welcome visitor at the Queen's Surreys Office was Lt Col E. M. Moore, CD, commanding The South Alberta Light Horse. Colonel Moore represented our Allied Canadian Regiment at the Presentation of Colours to the Regiment by Queen Margrethe of Denmark. The Colonel was made an Honorary Life Member of the Regimental Association and presented with the Association's lapel badge.

Australia

We were pleased to receive a visit from Mrs Partridge, wife of CSM J. S. Partridge, in December last year. John Partridge, who was born in Sydney, served in the 17/18th Infantry Battalion (The North Shore Regiment), the Allied Australian Regiment of The East Surrey Regiment.

Mr Partridge came to England in 1960 and in September joined the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA), where he rapidly gained promotion to CSM. He married a local girl, Sgt Sheila Vicarage, who was a staunch member of the WRAC (TA) in Kingston and Richmond.

In 1965 Mr and Mrs Partridge with their small daughter, Ruth, returned to Australia where he rejoined the Australian Army. Mr Partridge is now serving as a Warrant Officer in Sydney.

FEPOW News

Mr Stephen Abbott, OBE, who as a platoon commander in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment was put in the bag in February 1942, has returned to Malaya on a visit. Mr Abbott was in Malaya before 1939 and he hopes to publish a book on the country before, during and after the War. He was one of the few prisoners of war to be sent to Japan.

Another was Pte W. J. Walker (5948030) who, on 8th December, 1941, found himself in an OP near Jitra cut off from the rest of the Battalion. The little party managed to elude the Japanese at first and made their way through the jungle to Taiping, some 120 miles to the south. Here they were picked up by the Japs and incarcerated in the local gaol, where they languished for six months. After a spell in the Kuala Lumpur gaol, Pte Walker and his companions were transferred to the notorious Changi Prison at Singapore. He was not allowed to rejoin the Battalion and for the next 2½ years worked on the Siam-Burma railway. After its completion, Pte Walker was returned to Singapore and for some reason unknown was sent to Japan.

On the capitulation of the Japanese Pte Walker was

sent via the Philippines, USA and Canada to England where he was discharged. A year in hospital at home followed and then he re-enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment. Unable to rejoin the 2nd Battalion, he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps and finally retired as a warrant officer after 32 years.

If his number should seem unfamiliar to old 2nd Battalion men, perhaps 6140614 Pte Secrett may ring a bell, but that is another story.

"Paddy" O'Shea (6140603) would like to hear from old friends in the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. He served in the 1st Battalion in Fyzabad and Khartoum, transferring to the 2nd Battalion at Port Sudan in 1938. Pte O'Shea, who was a signaller, was put in the bag with the rest of the 2nd Battalion in February 1942 and spent the rest of the war at the notorious Changi Jail. He finished his service at Canterbury in 1946.

His address is Mr A. O'Shea, St Finans Hospital, Killarney, County Kerry, Eire.

Badges and Buttons wanted

Mr L. W. Jardine, CIE, of 4 Balfour Mews, London W1Y 5RL, who served in the 1/5th Queen's in Mesopotamia in 1916, has appealed for a Queen's Regimental cap badge, preferably the officers' silver pattern, to mount with his medals.

Anyone prepared to dispose of such a badge is requested to communicate with Mr Jardine, stating price.

Lt Col J. G. W. Davidson, 56 Chazey Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, requires for his blazer 3 tunic and 2 cuff buttons of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), preferably of the type bearing the Naval Crown and the numeral "2".

Any former member of the Regiment willing to part with such buttons is requested to get in touch with Lt Col Davidson.

Mr G. Ewing, an honorary member of the Regimental Association, has an extensive collection of badges and military insignia. He is having difficulty in obtaining the bronze lapel badge of the Old Contemptibles Association.

Mr Ewing writes, "If any member could oblige me I will of course pay for the badge, and they have my assurance that it is strictly for collection purposes, not re-sale."

His address is 7 Lyham Close, Prison Quarters, Brixton, London, SW2.

Correspondence

From: Mr E. C. Hetherington
25 York Road
Windsor
Berkshire.

11th January, 1974.

To: Editor,
Regimental Association News Letter.

Dear Sir,
I wonder if some military researcher could tell us when and why the prefix "Service" was first used to denominate units of what was loosely known as

"Kitchener's Army" in the Great War of 1914-18.

The old East Surrey Regiment had five Service battalions—the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th (Bermondsey) and 13th (Wandsworth). The first two of these battalions, if not all, were raised in 1914/15, but it would be interesting to know whose brainwave it was to use the prefix "Service". Others, such as "Emergency", "War-time" or "Kitchener's" may have been considered and rejected. There is probably in the War Office archives a record of an order or a decision which would throw light on the point.

Yours faithfully,

E. C. Hetherington.

Editor's Note:

Can any reader help Mr Hetherington who himself served in the 8th (Service) Bn The East Surrey Regiment until wounded in the Football Attack at Montauban on 1st July, 1916.

From: Mr Mark Ricaldone
14A Palmerston Crescent
Palmers Green
London N13 4UA.

30th January, 1974.

To: Editor,

Regimental Association News Letter.

Dear Mr Editor,

I am writing to ask for your help in trying to obtain details of operatic performances held at the San Carlo Opera House, Naples, when the theatre was under the control of HQ 56 Area, CMF. The Controlling Director was Major T. A. Lines, DADAWS, and Captain F. P. Francis, RA, was House Manager.

The first concert for Allied Forces was on 18th November, 1943, and was followed by various operas including *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Faust* and *Madam Butterfly*. These performances continued until May 1944 when the Opera House was handed over to Pasquale di Costanzo who continued to operate for the next two years, still under the control of Major T. A. Lines, now Town Major. Some time after May 1946 it was handed back to complete Italian control.

I have already written to the San Carlo Opera House, but their records do not include the period from November 1943 until late in 1946. For some years I have been carrying out a research into the operatic activities of the late Beniamino Gigli who sang in some of the performances at the San Carlo. I have a programme of one such performance when Gigli sang in *L'Adrianna Lecouvreur* on 19th May, 1945. The programme shows that this was the 82nd performance at the San Carlo, but whether this meant from November 1943 or May 1944, I do not know.

I would be grateful if you could make some inquiries for me.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ricaldone.

Will anyone able to help Mr Ricaldone in his search for details or copies of programmes of any Beniamino Gigli performance at the San Carlo Opera House, please write to him.—Editor.

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

Loss of the Birkenhead

Mr C. S. A. Avis of Pretoria, a regular correspondent, refers to a book "Drums of the *Birkenhead*" by David Bevan, the foreword to which has been contributed by Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL.

The sinking of the *Birkenhead* is fully recorded in Volume V of the Regimental History and well summarised in Jock Haswell's short history of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the "Famous Regiments" series.

In brief, HMS *Birkenhead* sailed from Cork on 9th January, 1852, with drafts of ten regiments on board. The Queen's detachment consisted of Ensign Boylan and 51 rank and file. After coaling at Simon's Bay on 24th February the *Birkenhead* sailed at 6 p.m. on a calm starlit night. At 2 a.m. the following morning the ship struck a rock near Danger Point some two miles off Hermanus.

Troops were mustered on deck and the senior officer ordered the detachment commanders to ensure complete silence was preserved. Working parties were organized to help in manning the pumps, lowering the boats and getting the horses overboard. The women and children were passed into the cutter, and those troops not engaged, some 350 men (including the Queen's), were ordered aft.

With engines going hard astern, the *Birkenhead* slid off the rock but almost immediately struck another under the engine room. The force of the impact tore the bottom out of the ship causing her to break in two. From this moment the *Birkenhead* was lost. The water rushed in and she began to sink rapidly.

Chaos, confusion and panic could have invaded the scene. Instead the troops, most of them young soldiers, quietly carried out the orders of their officers as the ship went down. In his report of the disaster, the senior officer wrote, "Everyone did as he was directed, and there was not a murmur nor a cry amongst them until the ship made her final plunge."

Of the 467 officers and men on board, 355 were drowned or killed by sharks. Probably many more would have been lost had it not been for the discipline and restraint of the soldiers. The Queen's lost Ensign Boylan and 35 of his draft. Of the 16 survivors, some were alive in the early years of this century.

Mr Avis, who enlisted in the Regiment in 1910, adds this interesting footnote:

"In the pre-1914 formation of eight companies to an infantry battalion, the letter 'G' was not allotted to a company of the 1st Battalion The Queen's (RWS) Regiment. As recruits we were told that this letter of the alphabet was not used in honour of the detachment which was lost in the ill-fated disaster of the troopship *Birkenhead*."

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

Hill 60

Major B. H. Geary, VC, has written:
"For some time I have felt I should write to tell you of something which would probably interest some

people.

"Sometime during the early afternoon of 20th April, 1915, I was at the Battalion Headquarters dug-out. Major Paterson had just received a message from Lt Roupell and after reading it he said, 'That's typical of all that boy's work. He tells us just what we want to know and adds nothing unnecessary. He'll one day command this Regiment as his father did.'

"I went back to my company and shortly after the Battalion HQ dug-out was destroyed by a shell. So this prophecy was made within an hour or so, perhaps minutes, I don't know, of the death of the prophet.

"Does anyone know anything about Pte Jordan who saved my life by getting a Hun party to carry me off the battlefield on 2nd August, 1918?"

Editor's notes:

The incident described by Major Geary occurred during the second day of the epic defence of Hill 60 by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in April 1915. Lt Roupell was commanding A Company and 2/Lt Geary was a platoon commander in C Company on the flank. Major Paterson, the Second in Command, described in the Regimental History as "a soldier of rare merit", was in command of the Battalion.

The defence of Hill 60 cost the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 7 officers and 106 soldiers killed and 8 officers and 158 soldiers wounded. The position was handed over intact at dawn on 21st April. For gallantry in this action, the Victoria Cross was awarded to Lt Roupell, 2/Lt Geary and Pte Dwyer.

The 3rd (Reserve) Bn The East Surrey Regiment

In the last News Letter, Major J. C. Drane referred to the welcome handed out to newly joined officers by Colonel Shipley who commanded the 3rd (Reserve) Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Dover in the 1914-18 War. Another reminiscence comes from Brigadier Norman Brading:

"Having joined from Cambridge as a very temporary officer I found myself at the Shaft Barracks, Dover awaiting posting to the 10th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. I think Major Hall was Adjutant and quite a number of Regular officers wounded from France were there—Lawton, Dowler, Paton, Wigston etc. They at least were treated as 'officers and gentlemen', but 2nd Lieuts (tempy) were so much dirt! I remember we slept on the floor in the officers block, four to a room, and were allowed to use the lower ante-room. When the Mess Sergeant announced, 'Dinner is served', the rush to get into the dining room was terrible—our august Regular officers from the upper ante-room having been given at least 10 minutes start on us!

"Col Shipley never came in the mess except on guest nights. For some unknown reason he took an interest in me and one day asked if I ever contemplated becoming a Regular officer. I think I said I hadn't a hope of getting into the RMC but he said, 'Leave it to me.' Lo and behold! some weeks later, complete with bedding roll etc., 2nd Lt Brading awaited a train at the Priory Station for Camberley.

"It appeared I had a nomination as a GC, but to the horror of the RMC Staff, including the Commandant, I was dressed as a 2nd Lt! What to do next? I proposed stripping myself of badges of rank and

becoming a GC but was told that only the King could do that unless I was court-martialled for much misbehaviour! And so I appeared on parade as a 2nd Lt and used the Officers ante-room and other privileges—all most awkward amongst my GC friends such as Hambro, Fitzgerald, Templeton, Satow etc. However, with the good offices of Col Warre, the Asst Comdt, he arranged for a certification in the Gazette: '2nd Lt N.B.B. resigns his commission on appointment to a cadetship at the RMC.' And so I became a GC. As things drifted on I became a Platoon Comdr (now Under Officer) and eventually passed out to my old Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment.

"Now for the funny side. Again I was to report to the Shaft Barracks, and my reception in front of Lt Colonel Shipley went something like this.

"RSM, 'Quick March. Mr Brading from the RMC, Sir.'

"Col Shipley, eyeglass in eye, examining papers in front of him, 'Oh, Brading, back from Sandhurst. You needn't think you know everything just because you've been to Sandhurst.'

"2/Lt B., 'I don't . . .'

"Col S., 'Don't answer me back and don't you pinch the soap out of the officers lavatory.'

"2/Lt B., 'I would never . . .'

"Col S., 'That's impertinence! You'll not leave Barracks for seven days!'

"RSM, 'Mr Brading, Sir, About Turn. Quick March.'

"Within seven days I was in the mud and slush of the Somme."

Chapels and Memorials

Chapel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

The new Regimental altar frontal has at last been completed. Made and embroidered with the badge of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by the nuns and lay-workers of the Convent of St John the Baptist, Clewer, near Windsor, the frontal was collected on 8th May, 1974, and delivered to Guildford Cathedral. It should appear on the altar in the Chapel on 16th June, 1974, when the Regimental Association holds its annual service in the Cathedral.

Field of Remembrance

Mr T. Cahill, BEM, Quartermaster's Office, Royal Hospital Chelsea London SW3, has written about the East Surrey plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. He feels there may be many people who would like to plant a cross in remembrance of some soldier of the East Surrey Regiment, but who are unable to get there.

Mr Cahill has kindly offered his services for any one who would like to have a remembrance cross planted in the East Surrey plot. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of Mr Cahill's offer should send him 5p for the cost of the cross and the name they wish to be inscribed thereon by Monday, 28th October, 1974.

Visit to Enfidaville

On 22nd February, 1974, Mr John Whittle, formerly 5343206 Pte J. Whittle of the 2/6th Queen's, visited Hammamet in Tunisia for the weekend. He took

advantage of the time to visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Enfidaville where the Queen's fought so hard in April 1943. He saw the graves of many Queensmen who died fighting on the hills, including those of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col H. E. Wilson, and of Captain B. Bateman to whom Mr Whittle had been batman.

Mr Whittle was very impressed with the care taken at the cemetery by the Arab gardener. Altogether there were 1,132 known graves and 69 unknown graves at Enfidaville. Both Queen's Brigades, 131 and 169, had seen hard fighting at Enfidaville. The 2/6th Queen's alone had lost 17 killed and 79 wounded in their first major action in North Africa after "the longest approach march in history".

Nicosia Military Cemetery

During a recent visit to Cyprus, Lt Peter Hitchcock of The Queen's Regiment visited the British Military Cemetery at Nicosia where he found the grave of 2/Lt L. T. Peters, The Queen's Royal Regiment, who died on 6th August, 1941.

Mr Hitchcock took an excellent photograph of the officer's grave and headstone which has been sent to the Queen's Surreys Office. If anyone knows the address of the family, we should be pleased to send them the photograph.

Our Allied Regiments

Canada

This year sees the 40th anniversary of our association with one of our Canadian Regiments, for it was in 1934 that the alliance between The South Alberta Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment was approved.

Although our allied Canadian Regiment can trace its origins back to the Rocky Mountain Rangers of 1885, the official birthday dates from the formation of the Canadian Mounted Rifles on 1st June, 1901. Various changes of title followed including the Alberta Mounted Rifles and the Alberta Light Horse. The Regiment saw service in the 1914-18 War in the 31st Bn Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Some years later when the alliance of Canadian with British Regiments was under consideration, the number "31st" was to prove the link; and so in 1934 The South Alberta Regiment became allied to The East Surrey Regiment, the former 31st Regiment of Foot. This somewhat tenuous connection forms the foundation of a friendship which has lasted for 40 years, although the original regiments now have different names.

Ten years after the formation of the alliance, the Canadian regiment, now designated the 29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (The South Alberta Regiment) CAC, landed in Europe and fought in France, Belgium and Holland. There was unfortunately little opportunity to further the liaison at that stage because The East Surrey Regiment had no battalions serving in North West Europe.

In 1954 the Militia Forces of Canada were reorganised. The South Alberta Regiment whose Headquarters was at Medicine Hat, was amalgamated with the 68th

Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment and the 41st Anti-Tank Regiment (SP). The new Regiment was designated The South Alberta Light Horse Regiment (RCAC) with Headquarters in Calgary, some 190 miles away. The former South Alberta Regiment thus became a Squadron of the newly formed Regiment and remained at Medicine Hat. Keen disappointment was felt that the South Alberta Regiment, which had fought with distinction in two World Wars, should now be reduced to sub-unit status.

Major Rod Ray, the Squadron Commander, was determined to see the restoration of his Regiment. A vigorous recruiting campaign was undertaken and the Squadron grew in strength and prestige. This improvement was to stand it in good stead when the Militia Regiments were again re-organised on 1st February, 1959. This time the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment, less A Squadron at Medicine Hat, was absorbed into the King's Own Calgary Regiment (RCAC). Thus A Squadron found itself the sole survivor of The South Alberta Regiment.

Thanks to the efforts of all ranks of A Squadron, the SALH had managed to increase their strength from 37 to over 300. The reward for this tremendous effort was the regranting of Regimental status on 1st December, 1960, and the appointment of Lt Colonel Ray as its first Commanding Officer. This historic event was marked by a ceremonial parade at Medicine Hat, at which our Regiment was represented by the present Deputy Colonel, Major General R. S. N. Mans.

In September 1962, Brigadier Roupell, the last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment, who had himself served in Canada from 1929 to 1931, spent three days with The South Alberta Light Horse. In July 1965 the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment was training in Canada and opportunity was taken by Lt Colonel Woodman, the Commanding Officer, and three of his officers to visit The South Alberta Light Horse.

In 1956 also, the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General F. J. C. Piggott, visited The South Alberta Light Horse in camp at Wainwright. In his account of the meeting the General wrote, "Our visit to Calgary and Wainwright was made additionally pleasant by the presence of Al Brown as our guide and mentor. I had heard about Al. A few years ago he visited England for a week or two, and, very properly, got in touch with the Surreys Depot at Kingston upon Thames. He appeared to enjoy it, for he stayed 18 months, dividing his time between the Depot and the TA, including Camp." General Piggott, on behalf of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, handed over to the SALH a silver Victorian ink stand.

Here it is appropriate to mention The South Alberta Regiment's own gift to our Regiment, certainly one of the biggest and most impressive ever seen. In the account of his visit to The South Alberta Light Horse, the then Lt Colonel R. S. N. Mans wrote:

"There was especial concern for the fate of the Buffalo Head presented to The Depot Officers Mess of The East Surrey Regiment in 1940. One of the donors, Harold McBain, explained how the head was consigned to England as part of the G 1098 of the Calgary Highlanders! I was able to assure everyone that in spite

of recent upheavals the Head was still very much in evidence. In fact I recalled how as a member of the then 'rival firm' it had regarded me with positive hostility during some of the more intense discussions of the Amalgamation Committee held in the Kingston Mess."

This massive head with its baleful stare is an object of interest, even of awe, to visitors to the Queen's Surreys Office at Kingston upon Thames.

One of the most important events in the history of The South Alberta Light Horse was the Presentation of the Regimental Guidon by HRH Princess Alexandra at Medicine Hat on 25th May, 1967. On that occasion our Regiment, now The Queen's Regiment, was represented by Major M. F. Reynolds of the 1st Battalion.

We know that any members of our Regiment will be hospitably received by The South Alberta Light Horse, and we hope that any members of our Allied Canadian Regiment in England will visit our Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury, and, if time permits, the Queen's Surreys Office at Kingston upon Thames.

Canloan

Colonel C. H. Nice, TD, DL, writes:

"On the Canloan front, you may be interested to know that their 7th National Reunion will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, from 7th to 9th June. (Regional reunions are held annually, National ones every 5 or 6 years). I quote, 'In the Spring of 1944, 673 Canadian Officers volunteered to serve with the British Army, mostly as platoon commanders. They served with every battalion of the British 2nd Army, except for those from Vancouver who served in the 8th Army with the Royal Irish Fusiliers. They so served from D-Day through to Burma and suffered 75 per cent casualties.

"Since that time many close personal ties have been maintained with the Regiments and individuals. As Regimental Associations were all in UK, Canloan has formed its own Association in Canada to provide the functions of a Regimental Association. Since the war we have had periodic national reunions across Canada and in 1968 we traced our wartime paths from Britain to N.W. Europe, when the British Army and our Regiments gave unparalleled hospitality.

"The 7th National Canloan Reunion will be from 7th to 9th June in Ottawa and it is our prime objective to have as many of our old comrades from British regiments to join us."

"I shall myself be in Canada at this time and have been invited to attend and I know that should any other officer happen to be nearby, Canloan would be delighted to entertain him (with any lady in attendance!) Notice is too short this time for proper circulation but I am hoping to arrange for future events of this nature to be notified earlier.

"Needless to say, if there is anything I can do regimentally while in Canada, you have only to let me know."

Return to Malaya

Mr. Stephen Abbott, OBE, who served as a subaltern in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45

War, has written the following account of a trip he has recently made to Malaya. This is the first instalment. The next will appear in the November News Letter.

"I returned last week from a trip which began in what remains of the 1941 2nd East Surreys camp at Tanjong Pau Rubber Estate, North Malaya, and ended with visits to Changi POW camp and, of course, the Krangi War Cemetery in Singapore. Something of what I saw may be of interest—in particular, to old friends and colleagues in the Battalion.

"To begin with, I was astonished to find that so little had changed in North Malaya that I was able to stand at specific spots and say to myself—'these are the undamaged foundations of the Officers' Mess'; 'this was the Guardroom'; 'here are the trenches frantically dug by "A" Company as the Japs marched through Thailand', and so on.

"To those who recall such places, let me say that the Royal and Empire cinemas in Alor Star are as scruffy as ever, the Club and Racecourse are unchanged (except that they are graced with the title 'Royal Kedah'), and that the Rest-house—having been used as an ice-factory by the Japanese—is now restored to its former Edwardian splendour. In Penang, our Sandycroft 'holiday camp' is a girls' school—its beach now beautified accordingly; Mr Wing Look's restaurant, now owned by a welcoming grandson, still has nothing to offer except the best and cheapest food in town; the Wembley Cabaret (so my wife and I were told by our rickshaw driver) still offers everything—but, alas, the boisterous Elysée Cabaret has been replaced by a soulless concrete hotel. The E & O is much as Somerset Maugham left it.

"On a more serious note, I met a number of local people who recalled—or whose parents had told them about—the exploits of the Surreys in peace and war. A Tamil Supervisor in Tanjong Pau Estate had helped to dig the anti-tank trap in front of our positions at Jitra. A waiter in the Kedah Club recalled the premature destruction of Alor Star bridge—when most of the Battalion and its armour had still to cross it.

"The battle at Gurun, 20 miles South, is recorded in all histories of the Malayan Campaign. I spent most of a morning there—remembering, with sadness and pride, the brave role enacted by the remnants of an exhausted Battalion; and the faces of men who gave their lives. Among these were our acting Commanding Officer, Pat Dowling, and my own Company Commander, John Kerrich. It was strange to stand alone at those cross-roads which, 32 years ago, had been the scene of such gallantry by so few; a counter-attack by a handful and weary men and one Surrey Bren-gun carrier—led by a Brigadier with a walking-stick. Somehow it had succeeded, if only temporarily. I looked down at the spot in the roadside ditch where John and I, with CSM Swanson and 8 men (all that were left, then, of 'A' Company) had lain awaiting the next Japanese onslaught. When it came, the Corporal lying next to me fell asleep again while working the bolt of his rifle—with the enemy infantry less than 100 yards from us! I remembered chucking a hand grenade use-

lessly at a Japanese tank a few minutes later. It bounced off—injuring one of our own men . . . Yes, Gurun was full of memories: nothing is changed except the sign-post at the crossroads, which is of modern design.

"After Gurun—Bedong, Sunjei, Petani, Bukit Mertajam, Taiping. It was in this last beautiful town where, on the 16th December, 1941, nine officers and about 180 men of the 2nd Surreys gathered together in a school and learned that these remnants of the Battalion were to proceed to Ipoh within two days to join up with the 1st Leicesters. The new unit was to be named the British Battalion: and so it remained until 1945. Last month I found the school, quite unaltered, and visited the Taiping War Cemetery where memorial stones to several Surreys killed in North Malaya are to be found. It is an impressively simple place—beautifully kept, and lying quietly at the foot of a jungle-covered mountain."

Publications

"More than twice a hero—a record of the life and times of Captain Bernard McCabe" by Colonel J. W. Sewell.

Recently published as a limited private edition sponsored by The Queen's Surreys Office of The Queen's Regiment and The Light Infantry Office (Cornwall) this booklet traces in great detail the career of Bernard McCabe from the time of his enlistment in the 31st Regiment of Foot, including his gallant action as a Sergeant at Sobraon during the Sutlej Campaign of 1845-1846, to his death in 1857 as a Captain in the 32nd Regiment from wounds sustained during a sortie from the Residency at Lucknow.

Colonel Sewell has carried out a great deal of research into his subject from which has emerged a most interesting and readable account.

The booklet is obtainable from RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Queen's Surreys Office, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2NB for 58p post free or 55p for personal callers.

"The Maori Wars" by Colonel Tom Gibson is published in the 19th Century Military Campaign Series by Seeley, Service & Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL. The price is £5.50.

Bookbinding

Many of our readers have collected Part I, II and III of the series of eye witness accounts of the operations of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War.

These can be bound in a stiff maroon buckram cover by the Kingston Bookbinding Works. The title "Operations of 1 Surreys in the 1939-45 War" is in gold lettering on the spine. Inquiries should be sent to Knapp Drewett & Sons Ltd, Kingston Bookbinding Works, 20 Church Street, Kingston upon Thames. The cost in January this year was £3.15.

Acknowledgements

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following publications:

Journal of The Queen's Regiment, The Globe and

Laurel, The Queensman, the 1st Battalion's News Sheet "Braganza", Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association News Letter, 4th Bn The Queen's OCA News Letter, 2/4th Queen's Old Comrades Journal, Reports of the 5th Bn The Queen's Old Members Association, "The Pascal Lamb" News Letter of the Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association, Report of the Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association and The East Surrey Band Association News Letter.

Regular Forces Employment Association

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and its object is to find suitable employment for men and women when they leave the Services and in the years thereafter. It is registered as a charity and draws its income from Public Funds and from the Services Benevolent and Welfare Organisations.

Its services are available to all who have not held commissioned rank in the Regular Forces and who leave with a character of "Good" or better after more than three years service, or who have been invalided from the Service before completing three years.

The Association works in close co-operation with the Services, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment and operates through 42 Branches covering the United Kingdom, each of which is run by an Employment Officer who has been in the Service himself and is in close touch with local employers.

The services of the Association are free. The addresses and telephone numbers of its Branches can be obtained from the Regimental Association, from Post Offices and from Employment Offices.

Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre

The Centre is situated in the best part of Lowestoft right on the sea front and within easy reach of the centre of the town. It provides a bracing seaside holiday for ex-service men who need to recuperate their health and it is ideally suited for this purpose. The cost is £1 a day.

Application should be made to the Secretary, Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre, Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, Suffolk. A nomination form will be sent. This includes a medical certificate which indicates those who cannot be accepted as guests owing to their state of health. There are no facilities for nursing in the Centre.

Deaths

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

Kirkby On 12th September, 193, Pte Edmund James Kirkby (12258), aged 75. Served in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1919.

Knight In September, 1973, Pte William Henry Knight (6087039), aged 63. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1936 to 1941 when he was discharged on account of wounds. See article "Donations".

Brown On 6th November, 1973, Captain James Brown, MM, aged 80. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1912 to 1919. He was wounded in 1914 and awarded the Military Medal in 1916. He was commissioned in the field in July 1917.

Spens On 15th November, 1973, Lord Spens, PC, KBE, QC, aged 88. As William Patrick Spens, he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1910 and was commissioned to the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1912. He was Adjutant when the Battalion embarked for India in October 1914 and remained in that appointment when the Battalion, now the 1/5th Queen's, sailed for Mesopotamia in December 1915. During the 1914-18 War he was three times mentioned in despatches.

As Sir Patrick Spens he was Chief Justice of India from 1943 until Indian independence in 1947. Sir Patrick was MP for South Kensington from 1950 to 1959 when he became a baron.

Jenkins On 23rd November, 1973, CSM Frederick Walter Jenkins (22456061), aged 41, the son of Sgt W. J. Jenkins, BEM, who died in 1970. Served in the 1st and 6th Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1951 to 1961 and in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) until 1967.

Shaw On 29th November, 1973, Pte Frederic Alan Jefferson Shaw (1068463), aged 65. Served in the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the 1939-45 War.

Lucas On 7th December, 1973, L/Cpl William George Lucas (7813941), aged 72. After service in the Machine Gun Corps, served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1929. Mr Lucas was the Branch Secretary of the Ripley Branch, Royal British Legion.

Gabb On 11th December, 1973, Captain Geoffrey Mervyn Gabb, aged 80. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1913 to 1922. He was wounded at the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914.

Barter On 26th December, 1973, Pte Dennis John Barter (19077260), aged 45. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1946 to 1948.

Howard On 29th December, 1973, Sgt Sidney David Howard (6139385). Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1930 to 1946. From 1942 he commanded the Defence Platoon at HQ 11 Infantry Brigade.

Ions On 29th December, 1973, Pte James John Ions (6141858), aged 53. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1937 to 1946 and was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

Prior On December, 1973, Sgt William Oliver George Prior (6133075), aged 69. Served in The East Surrey Regiment as a Regular soldier before and during the 1939-45 War.

Bays On 3rd January, 1974, ORQMS Stanley Bays, MBE (6134340), aged 74. Served in the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1917 to 1919 and was wounded in France in 1918. Transferred to The East Surrey Regiment in March 1919 and served until 1946. See obituary.

Cooper On 6th January, 1974, Cpl Frederick John Cooper, aged 70. Represented the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the Lahore District Regimental Boxing Championship of 1934.

Foskett On 7th January, 1974, Major David Henry Foskett, aged 53. Enlisting in the Artists Rifles in 1937 he was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939. He served initially in the 1/7th Queens and was posted to the 1st Bn in India in 1940. A good deal of his service was with the 1st and 2nd Gurkhas. Major Foskett served again with the 1st Queen's before retiring in 1959.

Twyford On 10th January, 1974, Cpl Albert George Twyford (1568), aged 81. Served in the 1/24th London Regiment (The Queen's) from 1913 to 1916. He had been a resident of the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for the past two years.

Bartholomew On 18th January, 1974, Cpl James Henry Bartholomew (240275), aged 79. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1912 to 1919. A printer by profession, Mr Bartholomew was a former member of Warwick Town Council, and, at the time of his death, chairman of the Warwick branch of the Royal British Legion.

Cops On 23rd January, 1974, CSM Cecil A. Cops (6135365), aged 70. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 to 1946. See obituary.

Murton On 24th January, 1974, Pte Walter Reginald Murton (14159513), aged 45. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1946 to 1948.

Hunt On 26th February, 1974, Pte Albert V. Hunt (241169), aged 87. Served in the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in India and Mesopotamia from 1915 to 1919.

Masterson On 3rd March, 1974, Major William Masterson, OBE, TD, aged 89. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1899 to 1922 and was commissioned in 1916. Masterson was an expert on weapons. He was an instructor at the Small Arms School, Hythe and then in the Machine Gun Corps from which he graduated to naval 6pr guns and tank gunnery. He was transferred to the Royal Tank Corps in 1922 but always remained a loyal supporter of his old Regiment.

Roupell On 4th March, 1974, Brigadier George Rowland Patrick Roupell, VC, CB, DL, aged 81. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1912 to 1946 and was the last Colonel of the Regiment. See obituary.

Kellie On 21st March, 1974, Captain Donald Fores Kellie, MBE, aged 79. Served in the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) from 1914 to 1919. He was mentioned in despatches for services in Mesopotamia in March 1918. As Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, he was instrumental in the "adoption" of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by the Worshipful Company in 1962. This privilege had previously been conferred upon the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in 1938.

Lawrence On 22nd March, 1974, Cpl William Albert Lawrence, DCM (L/9315), aged 83. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1908 to 1919. In the 1914-18 War, he was twice wounded, awarded the DCM and mentioned in despatches.

Marler On 25th March, 1974, Private Fred Marler (4776), aged 82. Served in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1919.

Wilson On 30th March, 1974, Major Frank Archibald Hamilton Wilson, DSO, TD, aged 64. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1932 to 1947. See obituary.

Morley On 10th April, 1974, Philip Henry Morley (6140456), aged 59. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1933 to 1940 (including the BEF) and later with the Maritime Royal Artillery.

Bowles On 9th May, 1974, RQMS Walter Henry Reuben Bowles, BEM (6135668), aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1922 to 1956. Obituary will be published in the November News Letter.

Regimental Families

Chandler On 9th December, 1973, Mrs Emily Chandler, widow of Pte William Alfred Chandler (11267), who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1918.

Keane On 23rd January, 1974, Mrs Anne Rhodes Keane, wife of Major M. W. Keane who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1926 to 1947.

Obituaries

C. A. Cops

Tim Connolly, his comrade of fifty years, writes:
With the passing of Cecil Cops, the one time membership of the Sergeants Mess of the 1st Surreys narrows. Nostalgic memories of days and nights on the African deserts, the high hills of Hong Kong, the bright sunlit days on the plains of India, and the blood and tears of the Dunkirk beaches. A model soldier and a fine instructor, his service with the Indian Auxiliary Forces brought honour to the Regiment. Always the centre of a laughing, chaffing group at the Regimental Reunions, "Taffy", as he was known, will be sadly missed, but as Charon ferries him across the Styx, his old comrades who have gone before, will be there to greet him. To his sorrowing wife, Doris, and his family we can only say that the world was a better place for knowing a man of his stature.

Brigadier R. N. Thicknesse

Ralph Nevill Thicknesse who died in February 1974, will be remembered by many old 1/6th Queen'smen. A Royal Ulster Rifles man, he took over command of the Battalion from Major F. A. H. Wilson whose death is also recorded in this issue. Archie Wilson was 2IC and had assumed temporary command when the CO, Lt Col R. J. A. Kaulback, was wounded by a shell in March 1943. Lt Col Thicknesse handed over command of the 1/6th Queen's to Lt Col (later Maj Gen) M. Forrester in August on the cessation of the Desert War. Colonel C. H. Nice writes:

"Ralph Thicknesse was an extremely popular CO, esteemed and respected by all. Possessing a keen sense of humour and the silver tongue of the born raconteur, he whiled away many a lonely night watch with his fund of stories of his earlier 'cloak and dagger' days—as many a signaller can testify.

"He always had a soft spot for his 'Bermondsey Boys', and whenever possible attended reunions, which in no possible way could have helped to ease the heart condition which developed after his retirement.

"He will be remembered with affection by all who served with him."

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

Bunyan's famous passage on the crossing of Mr. Valiant-for-Truth through the River that has no bridge was read at the service of Thanksgiving for the life of Brigadier Roupell. One felt that if ever there was a warrior for whom all the trumpets sounded on the other side, it was George Roupell.

There were so many facets to the character of this distinguished and gifted man that this short tribute cannot begin to do him justice. Yet, if one were to select but two, perhaps the qualities which would first spring to mind would be his pride in and loyalty to his Regiment and his love for his fellows.

The son of an officer who had served in the 70th Regiment and later commanded the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, George was commissioned in the Regiment in 1912. In the years before the 1914-18 War, in which the Regular content of the Regiment was all but destroyed, he became imbued with Regimental pride and traditions. The story of his gallantry at Hill 60 is well known, but he always maintained that the award of his Victoria Cross was a tribute to the bravery and tenacity of all the men of the 1st Surreys who took part in that epic defence. Roupell was, like so many outstandingly brave men, extremely modest, and he could not be persuaded to write his memoirs. Nevertheless, he has recorded accounts of certain periods of his service in both World Wars which are of unique interest.

On one occasion as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion in India, he turned down a soldier's application

to transfer to another Corps. The man, somewhat nettled, said, "I don't see what you're frightened of, Sir," to receive the dour reply in the Colonel's bleakest voice, "I'm frightened of nothing, Smith." Those who knew him realize how true these words were.

Duty came first throughout his life—duty as a Christian, as a soldier and as a citizen. He set and demanded high standards, and all who came in contact with him were not only impressed but inspired by his integrity and steadfastness. George Roupell was a man of great moral stature and calm strength, deliberate in his thought and confident in his judgments. One knew that what he did was not only right and proper, but that it was the best thing to do. As the Vicar of Shalford said in his address, George Roupell was always able to see the best in people and he brought out the best in them.

Brigadier Roupell's long and distinguished career was crowned by the Colonelcy of The East Surrey Regiment in 1954. It was a bitter blow when the Regiment ceased to exist as a separate entity five years later but he loyally supported the new Regiment formed by amalgamation, and its successor, The Queen's Regiment of today. In the Epilogue to "The East Surrey Regiment" in the "Famous Regiments" series, Brigadier Roupell wrote:

"The spirit of the old East Surrey Regiment, the spirit of loyalty, courage and comradeship, will continue, whatever the title or the form of the Regiment may be." Such were the words of a dedicated man and they surely reflect his own high ideals.

R.A.F.M. writes:

George joined the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment at Kinsale in 1911 and was posted to A Company, one of the old single companies prior to reorganisation. At first he was very quiet and shy but soon settled down. George was an above-average cricketer and was also fond of hockey. He was always supremely happy when organising and playing team games with his company. His relations with NCOs and men were always excellent and instinctive, and remained so throughout his long association with the Regiment.

There is one particular episode of those days which stands out as clearly to me now as on the day it happened. As Orderly Officer I was in the anteroom pending a tour of the barracks, when Stafford, then Adjutant, came in accompanied by Damer Wynyard's father. George looked in, got his letters from the rack and hurried out. Then Wynyard said, "That boy's got a long line of fighting ancestors behind him. He'll be a great soldier some day." To which Stafford replied, "Well, he's not a bad soldier now." This strangely prophetic statement, said with the greatest conviction, made an indelible impression on my mind, and though it happened 63 years ago, it seems like yesterday.

Editor's Note

Damer Wynyard, who had won the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst, was some four years senior to Roupell. He was severely wounded at Mons in August 1914, and was killed at Hill 60 by the same shell which killed the Commanding Officer, Major W. H. Paterson.

His father, Lt Colonel Richard Damer Wynyard, mentioned above, was gazetted to the Seventieth Regiment in 1878 and served in the Second Afghan War. He retired from The East Surrey Regiment in 1895. During the 1914-18 War he commanded the 12th (Reserve) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. At his funeral in 1934 the Regiment was represented by Major G. R. P. Roupell, VC.

G.W.K. writes:

I first met George Roupell on active service in France in March 1915 when, as a newly joined subaltern, I was posted to his Company with the 1st Bn. I shall never forget his kindness and help to me then.

In April 1915 we were together at the battle for Hill 60 and I know how well he earned his Victoria Cross. In November 1918 we were again together in the 1st Bn on active service. He was then in command of the Battalion and saw the first Armistice on November 11th in France near Mons.

Between the two wars he held a number of Staff appointments but he was never happier than when he periodically returned to Regimental duty, and we served together in Gibraltar, the Depot, India and the Sudan.

He was an outstanding soldier in both war and peace and his unswerving and constant ambition was the welfare and high standard of The East Surrey Regiment, culminating in his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment. He never spared himself towards the attainment of this goal.

After his retirement and up to the date of his death he did splendid work for many Associations concerned with the welfare of retired Officers and Other Ranks of the Services.

He and I became great friends and I cherish the memories of many times we spent together.

He can have no equal as a loyal steadfast friend and adviser, not only to me, but to all ranks of The East Surrey Regiment and to many others. He truly achieved, in every way his ambition—the good of the Regiment.

A.L.S. writes:

Having had the privilege of reading the Editor's tribute to George Roupell, I restrict my remarks to avoid repetition.

I knew George for over fifty years and had the highest possible regard for him as a man, as a soldier and a staunch friend. For me his dominant characteristics were his integrity, his loyalty to his Regiment and his friends, and his tenacity of purpose.

An especially happy time for me was during the years when I served under him when he was Colonel of the Regiment. It was then I was able best to appreciate fully his outstanding qualities.

F.J.C.P. writes:

I only got to know him well after the amalgamation in 1959 of his own much loved East Surrey Regiment (of which he was the last Colonel), with the old Queen's Royal Regiment, to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Those who had responsibility for guiding the Queen's Surreys during its eight years of separate existence could always rely on his help, especially on matters and customs connected with the Surreys. He was rightly jealous of their reputation, and he attended every possible re-union and gathering where old Surreys might be found. A most modest man, it was a pleasure to see the warmth with which he was greeted by his old regimental comrades; within half an hour he would usually be seated quietly in a corner surrounded by an ever changing circle of friends and admirers. He will be greatly missed by many old friends and new, but he will not be forgotten.

A permanent reminder of his heroism as a Regimental subaltern at Hill 60 in 1915, where he and two other Surreys won Victoria Crosses, exists in the painting of the battle scene hanging in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. His widow and his children will be joined and supported by many in their great loss.

An Old Contemptible, Chum W. A. Billimore, who joined the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in 1911, writes:

Obituary to a great soldier

By the death of our Chum G. Roupell we have again suffered a grievous loss in the long line of distinguished soldiers who have presided over our Association since its formation in 1921. Chum Brigadier Roupell won his VC at Hill 60 in 1915. Although wounded several times he refused to quit his post and led his men in repelling a strong German assault. By his example he inspired his men to hold out until the end. He was one of the few survivors when the Battalion was relieved.

During his distinguished military career he served in many parts of the world and during the 1939-45 War commanded the 36 and 105 Brigades. He was Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment from 1954 to 1959 and was made Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1956. He was

our Association President up to the day he died and had been President of the Guildford Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association for over 25 years.

Our Chum Brigadier showed outstanding loyalty to his Regiment and to our Association. He was unstinting in his service to the many organisations with which he was connected. Always modest and unassuming, he never sought acclaim.

Major F. A. H. Wilson

Colonel C. H. Nice writes:

All Regiments have their characters, memories of whom remain long after their passing, and Archie Wilson was certainly one of these. Joining the 22nd London (The Queen's) Regiment in 1932, he quickly became one of the leading lights in the livelier aspects of Regimental life.

At the outbreak of War in 1939, Archie became full-time Adjutant under contract of the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. An ever-lasting memory with Sgt Peart is of Archie having an Adjutant's Parade to hear the declaration of war on the radio. Immediately after the announcement, Archie, in full dress, declaimed in his grandest manner:

"Gentlemen of the Queen's, Britain is now at War. Men of the 2/6th Queen's, PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD."

He served with 2/6th Queen's in France in 1939/40, returning with them as a company commander. He rejoined 1/6th Queen's in 1941 in time to go with them to Egypt. It was then he really came into his own and his buccaneering spirit became more than apparent.

After Alamein, he was awarded a well-deserved DSO for safely withdrawing the Battalion through the January and February minefields after the CO had been captured and the two senior majors had become casualties. CSM "Chick" Coles, MM, tells of Archie maintaining the strictest control by dire and awful threats, and exhorting all and sundry to "Keep off the sky-line" while he himself, with monocle firmly in place, strode along the tops of dunes regardless, using his walking-stick with tremendous dexterity as an indicator of the route. He was not, of course, disregarded as a suitable target for enemy artillery, but this discommoded his near neighbours far more than it did him.

After serving in the Desert Campaign as company commander, 2ic and, for a short time before Col Thicknesse arrived, as Commanding Officer, Archie left the Battalion at the end of the campaign to become an Instructor at the Staff College, Haifa. Although he did not return to the Battalion again during the war, he never lost touch and after the re-forming in 1947, he would always attend reunions and OCA Parades whenever possible. His sudden appearances from places as far apart as Kingston-on-Thames, Portugal, South Devon and remote islands off Aden became commonplace for with Archie, the unexpected was often the expected.

His piratical appearance on TV and his entry in the "Body of Britain" competition, at the age of 62, were examples of his liking for the unorthodox and of his somewhat Elizabethan attitude to life; indeed, he would surely have been a boon companion of such as Drake and Hawkins.

He will be recalled by all his old friends with great affection, tinged with envy at his zest for life.

A former platoon sergeant of B Company, 1/6th Queen's writes:

Alamein—The attack through the minefields and the probe before the final assault. The 1/6th Queen's advancing under a barrage in line abreast led by tanks. Suddenly there was shouting—we had walked into the German and Italian lines and the CO and Adjutant were in the bag. Major Wilson, monocle in his left eye, stick in his left hand and pistol in his right, halted the advance. In his well-known voice he gave the order, "Any officer or man going forwards or backwards without my order will be shot."

That night left us not only with our own wounded but those of the Germans and Italians. We stayed throughout the next day with exchanges of small arms fire, realising we were not only cut off but suffering from our own artillery fire. It was decided to withdraw at dusk, one company at a time in single file with two men leading probing for mines with fixed bayonets.

Major Wilson then took over temporary command of the 1/6th Queen's. Many of us owe our freedom to him and also our lives. Whatever he did, he always upheld the traditions of the Queen's. His was a well earned DSO.

In civilian life he was well known in many fields, and he lived his life to the full.

S. Bays

The Secretary of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association writes:

Stan passed away suddenly on 3rd January, 1974. He enlisted at Kingston in 1917 and was posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers. He joined them in France and was wounded in 1918. He was discharged in March 1919 and re-enlisted the same day in The East Surrey Regiment with

whom he served until 1946. Most of his service was spent with the 1st Battalion in Russia, Ireland, Egypt, Hong Kong and India. He was promoted to ORQMS in September 1932. In 1937 he was posted as ORQMS to the Depot where he served until 1946. On discharge he joined the Surrey T & AFA Headquarters in Surbiton as Chief Clerk where he continued to serve until 1968 when the TA was disbanded. He was a founder member of our Association and took over as Secretary in 1954 until his resignation in 1962. Much of his spare time was spent ensuring the smooth running of our Association. He was a quiet little man who had a vast knowledge of Military Regulations and was most competent in any task he undertook. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and Old Comrades.

Another Surrey writes:

Whatever Stan Bays tackled was done with quiet efficiency and method. Although modest and unassuming, he was always complete master of his job. Stan could never be idle. When his employment with the TA came to an end, he soon found another job, although well past retirement age. He died, as he would have wished, in harness.

Stan Bays was a man of many talents and a great asset to the Association. His death is a great loss to all of us who knew him.

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