

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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The Queen's Regiment
(Queen's Surreys Office)
Portsmouth Road
Kingston upon Thames
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News Letter No. 16

November, 1974

Editorial

The principal Regimental event this year has been the Presentation of Colours to The Queen's Regiment by Queen Margrethe of Denmark, our Allied Colonel in Chief. In 1975 interest focuses on the Laying up of the old Colours of the former 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

With the exception of a very few readers, none of our members served under these Colours, but they are familiar to most of us.

No one who was present at Bury St Edmunds on 22nd April, 1960 will ever forget the moving spectacle of the old Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment being slowly marched off parade for the last time to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. Many felt as if this really was the end of our old Regiments; but yet, new life was kindled by the Presentation of its first Colours to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, and we knew that the spirit of our old Regiments was carried on in the Queen's Surreys. These are the Colours, which, having been retired, are now to be laid up in the Regimental Chapel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Guildford Cathedral at the Regimental Association service on Sunday, 15th June, 1975.

The first and only stand of Colours of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment will be consigned to the care of the Cathedral of Surrey; and in our Regimental Chapel they will take their place with the old Colours of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Details of the ceremony will be published in the next issue of the News Letter.

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on their awards.

CBE

Major F. H. S. Palmer, TD

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Sgt M. A. N. Britton, 1 Queen's
This is a new award. It replaces the BEM for Gal-

lantry, which was discontinued on 2nd June, 1974. In order of precedence, the Queen's Gallantry Medal follows the Military Medal. All ranks are eligible for the award.

Order of St John

Lt Col W. C. E. Nash, TD, who has been appointed an Officer Brother of the Order.

Appointments—Officers

We congratulate Lieut Colonel Foster Herd on his promotion and on assuming command of 7th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment.

Colonel J. W. Sewell is to be Secretary (Col) to MS Army List Review Working party from October 1974 to April 1975.

Lieut Colonel M. F. Reynolds, at present GSO1 (Ops) HQ N. Ireland, is to command 12 Mech Bde in December 1974.

Lieut Colonel A. G. Jones, at present Q (Quartering) HQ UKLF, is to be Colonel AQ South West District in January 1975.

Regimental Association Reunion

There was a larger gathering than usual at this year's Reunion, and we were particularly glad to have more 2nd Surreys members, in spite of the FEPOW Reunion being on the same night. The 4th Queen's OCA were, it seemed, mostly represented by the Shonfeld family, while a large number of Hurleys swelled the numbers of the Surreys. Sgt F. G. Gilham and In Pensioner F. Quilter from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, were not the only pre-1914-18 War soldiers there. Also present were Harry Adcock and George Aldridge who enlisted in the Surreys in 1906 and 1910 respectively, while G. H. (Bill) Bailey who came to the Reunion with Joe Dennis's private army, joined the Queen's in 1911.

The cost of the supper had gone up but the price of the tickets remained at 50p. Thanks to "Chick" Evans's ever-successful raffle and the generous support of our members, we were able to bridge the gap and to avoid finishing up in the red. We hope to hold the 1975

Forecast of Events 1975

Date	Place	Function
Sat. 8 Feb.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Sobraon Dance
Thu. 8 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting and AGM
Sat. 10 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association AGM and Annual Dinner
Fri. 23 May		Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines
Fri. 13 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party
Sun. 15 June	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service and Laying up of Colours of 1st Bn the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
Fri. 3 Oct.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner
Sat. 4 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion
Thu. 9 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Fri. 10 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Sat. 11 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Ladies Dinner and Dance
Sun. 9 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parade

Reunion on Saturday, 4th October, same time, same place.

Christmas Cards

Regimental Christmas card

The card of The Queen's Regiment has on the front page a delightful picture of Queen Margrethe presenting Colours to the Regiment on 4 May, 1974. The cost, including envelopes and postage, is £1.08 a dozen—minimum order one dozen.

The cards are obtainable from RHQ, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Orders must be accompanied by a remittance payable to The Queen's Regiment Account No. 0579577.

Regimental Association Christmas card

The Regimental Association Christmas card is the same as in previous years, except that it is printed lengthways this year to make a slight change.

The price is still 60p a dozen, including postage and

packing. Cards may be ordered on the enclosed order form.

Army Benevolent Fund Christmas card

Old soldiers of the 1914-17 War will be interested to hear that one of the Army Benevolent Fund Christmas cards this year is a picture of "Tommy Atkins 1914. A young Contemptible 60 years ago". What makes this picture of particular interest is that the soldier is clearly wearing the East Surrey cap badge. Inquiries revealed that the artist was Percy E. Syer who served in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

The cards which are designated card B, are obtainable from the Forces Press (NAAFI), Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1UF. The price is 5p each. Packing and postage on 10 cards is 12p, and 21p on 20 cards.

The Queen's Regiment

Our 1st Battalion

The following account of the 1st Queen's training visit to Canada has been extracted from "The Queens-

man", the monthly News Letter of The Queen's Regiment. Old sweats may be interested to see how the range and variety of outdoor activities has extended since pre-War days.

"The Camp Wainwright training area is approximately 350 square miles with eleven large lakes, many smaller ones and a major river obstacle in it. The terrain is undulating, sandy with scrub and trees and abounding in wild life (including mosquitoes).

"Training in the Wainwright area has been hard and varied. Each company has had two five-day training periods on the area, five days local leave and five days adventurous training in the Rocky Mountains, 350 miles away. A leave centre was opened in Calgary, and many men were able to attend the Calgary Stampede. A lot of hitch hiking has been done during the leave period, Vancouver, 1,000 miles away, has been frequently visited also the USA, the furthest city being Chicago.

"Adventurous training at the David Thompson resort on the Cline River has been very popular. Activities there have included canoeing instruction and a two-day trek on the North Saskatchewan River, pony trekking, rock climbing, fishing and three-day treks in the Rockies. The battalion exercise was held on 30/31 July/1 August in which all phases of conventional war were practised, including how to survive in tropical rainstorms!"

Presentation of Colours—May 1974 Gramophone Record

A long playing record, "The Queen's Parade", which is a recording of the music played by the massed bands of the Regiment during the Presentation of Colours, is available from Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1JY, at a cost of £1.45. Order should be accompanied by appropriate remittance. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "RHQ The Queen's Regiment".

Officer Recruiting—Regular and Volunteer

Two evening presentations were made during October to representatives of universities, polytechnics, technical colleges, and schools to publicise the Regiment and its need for officers to scholastic establishments throughout the County of Surrey and the outer London Boroughs of South West London. The first of these took place at Kingston upon Thames on 24th October, and the second at Guildford on 31st October.

The presentations commenced with an opening address by General Rowley Mans illustrated by VU foils showing the regimental hierarchy, methods of entry to commissioned service and the Sandhurst course. He stressed the need for not only permanent officers, but also for short service commissioned officers, in the Regular battalions, at the same time emphasizing the

Regiment's need for officers in the Volunteer battalions. He was followed by Captain Mike Kealy of 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment who gave an account of his own career in the Regiment and the Army since leaving school, ably indicating the wide range of appointments he had had and the extensive travel associated with his service. He illustrated his talk with most interesting photographic slides of scenes in the various parts of the world he had visited.

The final talk at Kingston was given by Lieutenant Richard Ratner of the 6th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment in which he outlined what was expected from an officer of the Volunteers, the methods of achieving a TAVR commission and the type of appointments an officer could expect to hold during his service.

At Guildford, the talk on the Volunteers was given most ably by Captain Richard Holmes of the 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment on the same lines as that given by Lieutenant Ratner.

At both presentations, the talks were followed by lively question and discussion periods chaired by General Mans, the evenings ending with a pretty substantial supper party at which there were further exchanges of ideas.

Major Mike Brady, Regimental Careers Officer, assisted at both presentations, and the Schools Liaison Officer of Headquarters London District was present at Kingston; the Deputy Schools Liaison Officer of Headquarters South East District attending at Guildford.

The views were expressed after each gathering that they had been worthwhile exercises, and had certainly stimulated interest in the Regiment.

News of the Associations

2/4th Queen's OCA

The November 1974 News Letter contains an account of the 45th Annual Reunion Dinner, and draws attention to the following forthcoming events:

17th November, 1974

Annual Shrine Remembrance and Dedication Service followed by the Annual General Meeting.

3rd May, 1975

Annual Reunion Dinner at which the Golden Foundation year of the 2/4th Queen's OCA will be celebrated. The Dinner normally held on the last Saturday in April, has been postponed on account of Mr. Harry Mann's Diamond Wedding anniversary on that date.

5th Queen's Old Members Association

At Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, 11th May, the 5th Queen's Old Members Association held

their reunion. Just on 150 gathered together for this annual occasion. Although the majority had come from the Surrey area, several had travelled from as far afield as Leeds, Swansea, Wimborne, Cambridge and Kent to be with their comrades of thirty years ago. There were quite a few of the 1914-18 veterans present but these get less each year.

The Chairman, Major H. B. Watson, welcomed the guest of honour, Major General F. A. H. Ling, Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, and all other officers and members. He went on to say that a lot of work went into organising such a function and the main part of this work fell on the Secretary, Captain Jimmy Patterson, who had held this post for the past four years. It was with great regret that Jimmy had decided to retire owing to other commitments. The Chairman thanked him on behalf of everyone for the effort he had put in over those years, and hoped he would be prepared to give his assistance in future years. A volunteer was then called for to fill this office.

He also thanked Ron May (Treasurer), Jack Homersham and Geoff Register who had put in no end of work behind the scenes. Major Watson closed his speech by telling everyone of the Regimental Association Cathedral Service.

A volunteer has come forward to take on Hon. Secretary. He is Doug Mitchell of Guildford. He served with the Battalion from 1940 to 1945, being with the MT Section throughout. His duties commenced on 1st September.

1st/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment Visit to Ghent, September 1974

Many visits have been made to the ancient city of Ghent since we first entered it in September, 1944. This particular visit was first suggested in February by the Ghent Branch of the Royal British Legion asking if we should like to join them in a "British Week" then being planned.

As it happened, this British Week was officially opened on Liberation Day itself, 6th September, but instead of our being allowed to make arrangements in our own sweet way, as the time came nearer we were bombarded with telephone enquiries and frantic correspondence with the British Embassy, Brussels. Interviews with Belgian radio culminated in an atrocious headline in a local paper "City opens its arms to soldiers three!"

Ignoring that, CSM "Chick" Coles, MM, Chairman of the OCA, with CSM Bill Edwards worked like trojans to get things going. Chick Coles flying a day in advance to Belgium, with Sgt Bob Elliott, to help tie up the reception of the party following from Bermondsey. These two were joined on Friday evening, 6th September, by Cpl Harry Mitchell, who many will remember as medical orderly in the RAP.

On arrival in Ghent, the first two reported to the Leopold Barracks, centre of the uprising by the Resistance members in 1944 as we entered the city. Accom-

modation had been arranged here and they were warmly welcomed by the PRO who, throughout the whole of the visit, was of the greatest help in every way as, indeed, was the Adjutant/Chef. Normally the barracks close down from Friday evening to Monday morning, but the PRO, the Adjutant/Chef and some of the waiters gladly volunteered to stay on over the week-end to cater for the visitors.

Soon after 1800 hours CSM Coles and Sgt Elliott attended, by invitation, a reception given by HM Ambassador to Belgium at the St Peters Abbey. Here they were met by Mr. John Doorbar, First Secretary (Commercial), who was responsible for the planning of British Week. Mr. Coles was then presented to His Excellency who thanked him and the party for coming so far to take part in the proceedings.

Taking their leave at about 2030 hours and still escorted by the PRO and Adjutant/Chef, they were taken to the Whitbread's British pub where they were stopped outside by the Town Crier of Lambeth, Alfie Howard, resplendent in his full gear. Asked why he sported a Queen's badge, he replied that he had served with 1/7th Queen's throughout the war. He then performed his duty by ringing his bell and announcing to all and sundry "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! I am commanded by HM Government to welcome 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA to Ghent. God save the Queen". After this they all entered and laid the dust suitably in good British beer. On Saturday the ever-helpful PRO provided a truck to meet the main party at 1530 hours, but at the railway station Mr. Coles was told that the boat had been delayed two hours due to bad weather. The party eventually arrived at 1830 hours to be greeted by, among others, Sgt Ron Gibson and his wife, long known to the Bermondsey Boys as Mimi Fassin, sister of the late Albert Fassin, former president of La Sarcelle Groupe of the Resistance Army.

After an excellent meal at the Barracks, we all went to the Hotel De'ysse to meet the Royal British Legion and members of La Sarcelle. Here we were joined by Lt Col J. H. Mason, DSO, TD, who commanded 1/6th Queen's in 1944, and who was introduced all round. Some of the OCA had not seen him since those far-off days and this, of course led to many reminiscences. "Chick" Coles took advantage of this meeting of old friends to give a little speech of thanks to the Royal British Legion and to old friends of the Resistance.

Sunday was to be the day of parades, the first one being a commemorative service at St. Peter's Church attended by HM Ambassador, the Burgomaster and untold numbers of dignitaries. RQMS Johnnie Bryan and Cpl Ron Togwell acted as standard bearers carrying a Queen's Regimental flag and a Desert Rat flag, forming up with all the Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion and marching into church with them.

Immediately after this church service, the next parade was back at the Leopold Barracks where wreaths were laid on the Memorial to Colonel Haas, Colonel of the Resistance movement during the last war. Already wet, we got wetter still when parading at the City War

Memorial in the King Albert Park, for here upwards of 50 wreaths were laid, during which time the rain never ceased to pour down.

After drying off and lunch at the Barracks, part of the afternoon was spent in a short rehearsal in preparation for the evening parade. This took the form of a Tattoo by the Alamein Staff Band of The Royal Tank Regiment, and bands of the Royal Marines, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The 2nd Light Infantry and two Belgian Bands. As a start, however, on a cue given by the Director of Music of the RTR Band and to the sound of the old Regimental march *Braganza*, we marched in single file out of the shadows of tunnels on either side of the arena, wheeled left and right respectively, up the steps on to the rostrum, wheeled again right and left to meet and thus form a single file across the full width of the stage, halting exactly on the last note of *Braganza*. On the word of command from CSM Bill Edwards, we turned to face the audience to be dazzled by spotlights in all colours and strengths, and very startled by the instantaneous ovation from the 5,000 spectators. After the usual pause of 2-3, we were given the cue to sit down; and there we sat in the best stalls to watch and enjoy the very fine Tattoo which followed. Afterwards most of us found ourselves "drinking up" with anybody and everybody, but Lt Col Mason and CSM Coles were invited to the VIPs buffet supper.

Once more the PRO and Adjutant/Chef did their stuff and with their help and connivance, we were allowed to use the Sergeants Mess on Monday evening to give a little party to which we invited the Chairman of the Royal British Legion in Belgium, Mr. Jimmy Wells, Mimi Fassin, now Mrs. Gibson and husband Ron, Adjutant Rudi Baeyens and other members of La Sarcelle. Adjutant Rudi Baeyens in 1944 had attached himself to our A Coy, then commanded by Major Brian Miller. Both were wounded at the same time when crossing one of the bridges. During the course of the evening a presentation was made to the PRO and the Adjutant/Chef as a small token of our appreciation for all they had done to make our stay such a successful one, in addition to giving up their week-end to do so.

On Tuesday, 10th September, the Royal British Legion provided a coach to take us to the Canadian cemetery at Adegem where we formed up and had our little parade, in proper Regimental fashion, and laid wreaths on the main memorial. "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by Sgt Gibson, after which circlets of poppies were laid on each of the graves of those men of the 1/6th Battalion who had fallen during the liberation of Ghent. Details of these graves may be obtained from CSM Coles. We then went to the National Shrine of Rieme where Mr. Wells gave a short history of its macabre history. Here too we laid a wreath, this time on the memorial to the 1/6th Queen's.

All the OCA offer their grateful thanks to those who made their visit back to Ghent such a memorable one, in particular Mr. John Doorbar, the Belgian PRO and the Adjutant/Chef at the Leopold Barracks, Mr. Jimmy Wells and Mimi and Ron Gibson. Needless to say all

parades were conducted in proper Queen's fashion: turnout and bearing well up to standard: and, even though soaking wet, bearing that misfortune with real Queen's pride.

Annual Reunion 2nd/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

The annual Salerno reunion was held aboard HMS *President*, by kind permission of the Captain, on Saturday, 7th September, 1974. There was again a good turnout of over 80 old comrades, very creditable considering that it is 28 years since the battalion was disbanded.

Frank Peart, well and fit again, organised the party and Colonels Kealy and Bolton, old commanding officers were present. CSM Bert Troster proposed the toast of the Regiment. He is unique in that he was the only member of the Battalion who was awarded both the DCM and MM. He is further unique in that he joined at the outbreak of war as the foreman of the gang of civilian drivers who drove the lorries which were our only means of transport at Caterham until we went to France in April 1940. He volunteered to enlist and became MT sergeant for four years before joining a rifle company. We were very pleased to learn that Colonel Kealy's son Michael had been awarded the DSO whilst still only a Captain, a very rare honour. Like father like son!

RSM Sid Pratten also said a few words and Colonel Kealy responded to the toast. A collection was taken on behalf of Arthur Lawrence, who sadly has been an inmate of the Star and Garter Home for a number of years. The sum of £26.50 was raised which will help his wife to get him extra comforts. Frank Peart also handed out Salerno mementos to those who were at the landings and throughout the Italian campaign. These consisted of tie clips with Regimental Badge and paper weights made from stones collected this year from the beaches at Salerno, each mounted on a wooden block, again with Regimental Badge.

Our grateful thanks are also due to Colonel S. W. Peet for so kindly arranging an excellent buffet meal, assisted by the ever young CSM "Togo" Hearnden. Old and grey as we all now are, we look forward to our reunion next year.

Golf Society

Annual Match v Royal Marines Golf Society

The annual match took place on 24th May, 1974, at the Liphook Golf Club, it being the Royal Marines' turn to act as hosts. On a day of generally indifferent weather Liphook had sunshine and only two heavy rain storms and made an attractive setting for the occasion. For a change the Regiment was a bit stronger than the Marines and achieved a comprehensive victory by 9 points to 2, although a number of the individual

matches were closer than the score suggests. While the victory by such a margin was unkind to the hosts it enabled the Regiment to recover for the first time the Cup which has been competed for annually in this match. This Cup was formerly one belonging to 4th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, and was re-designated for the annual golf match in 1969.

Results

AM—SINGLES

J. G. W. Davidson beat D. G. R. Hunt	1 up
G. A. White lost to P. R. Kay	3 and 1
P. G. Wreford-Brown beat R. R. G. Hoare	5 and 4
F. T. A. Hole beat P. Baxter	6 and 5
J. A. Clark halved v C. J. G. Judd	—
J. W. Sewell beat P. L. Spurgeon	2 up
C. G. Reeves beat R. W. Peters	4 and 2
Result: Queen's Surreys 5½ RM 1½	

PM—FOURSOMES

H. P. Mason and Hole	
halved v Hunt and Kay	—
Davidson and White	
beat Hoare and Spurgeon	2 and 1
Wreford-Brown and Clark	
beat Judd and Baxter	7 and 6
Sewell and Reeves	
beat Peters and T. R. M. Crutchfield	6 and 4
Result: Queen's Surreys 3½ RM ½	

Autumn Meeting 1974

WINNERS

Thursday

Stableford Bogey

Senior Division — Heales Trophy	
Lt Col J. G. Davidson	35 points
Junior Division — B. A. Hoffmann	30 points
Veterans' Halo — Major M. W. Keane	24½ points

Bogey Greensomes

Brigadier M. J. A. Clarke and Lt Col J. G. Davidson

Friday

Medal

Senior Division — "Autumn Bowl"	
Colonel J. W. Sewell—Net 74	
Junior Division — "Glasgow Greys"	
Major B. A. Crutchfield—Net 71	
Petri Plate	
Brigadier M. J. A. Clarke 71-76—Net 147	

Last 9 holes

Major P. J. Collman

9 Hidden holes

A. Mason

Bogey foursomes

Lt Col J. G. Davidson and Capt J. M. B. Westing

Sweep

1st—Capt H. C. Mason; 2nd—Major A. C. Cater;
3rd—F. T. A. Hole.

From Here and There

Donations

We acknowledge with thanks donations from the undermentioned members: Captain J. H. Patterson, Messrs. E. G. Alsop, C. E. Hill, C. Howard, V. E. Fagence, B. Keogh in New Zealand, H. A. W. Roseman, S. N. Stubbs, G. Vaughan in Australia, R. J. Williams in Canada and J. F. Samuels.

Once again we express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Sloan for a generous donation in memory of her son, Geoffrey. Captain Sloan was killed in action at Cassino on 18th May, 1944, while serving in the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. He had previously served in the France 1940 and North African campaigns.

Visitors to the Queen's Surreys Office

Older members of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment will remember Sgt "Jigger" Lee who served from 1909 to 1929. He retired at Rawalpindi and remained abroad working for an oil company until 1938.

Mr. Lee, 90 in September, visited the Regimental Museum and was able to point out a photograph of himself in the 1st Battalion's cricket eleven in 1910.

A sprightly octogenarian visitor was Major Handley Geary, VC, who had come from Canada to attend the VC and GC Association meeting in London. Major Geary contributed a reminiscence of Hill 60 to our last News Letter.

Soldier Artist

As mentioned elsewhere, one of the Army Benevolent Fund Christmas cards is a picture of an East Surrey soldier, "Tommy Atkins 1914", signed "P. E. Syer". We wrote to the Royal Academy who confirmed that Percy Syer exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1918 to 1922. His address was recorded as "8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, BEF, France". With that clue it was an easy step to Lt. Col A. P. B. Irwin, DSO, the Commanding Officer of the 8th Surreys. The Colonel not only remembered L/Cpl Syer well, but said the artist had painted a portrait of him. Inquiries disclosed that the original of the Tommy Atkins picture had been given to Lt General Sir Denis O'Connor of the Army Benevolent Fund. The General supplied the address of the artist's widow, and Mrs. Syer has written as follows:

"My husband earned his living as a commercial artist

with the Association of Designers. He became an Associate of Royal British Artists and each year he had pictures exhibited in the Royal Academy.

I have a water colour painted while he was in the trenches in France. It is called 'The Stretcher Bearer' and is of a British Red Cross man in khaki uniform and tin hat, supporting a wounded German, bare-headed, close cropped hair and looking grey faced and ill. This was to have been a full-length picture and was painted in a dug-out by candlelight, but the candle fell across the lower half of the picture, so Percy cut it in half and sent the picture over to me in London. I took it to the Royal Academy and it was hung there in due course. Sad to say, he died at the age of 35 years in 1925."

Ties of our former Regiments

It is not always easy to find the ties of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment. Mr. D. James writes:

"You may be interested to hear that E. H. Rann, Tie and Heraldic Shield Specialists, of 21 Sicilian Avenue, Southampton Row, London, WC1A 2QH, was able to supply me with a silk Regimental tie recently. They also have terylene. An old gentleman, who appears to have been in the trade since the first World War, went to great trouble to obtain this tie for me. I can recommend the shop to all."

Regimental Brooches

An old member of the 1/7th Queen's is having difficulty in getting a lady's brooch in the shape of the Paschal Lamb. Can any reader help—either by offering a Queen's brooch for sale, or by letting us know the name of a firm likely to supply?

Calls from Collectors

Mr. W. H. Hill (ex CSM 2/6th Queen's) is a collector of military items. He is asking for pairs of the following shoulder flashes—

56th (London) Division
7th Armoured Division
8th Army

If any reader can help Mr. Hill, his address is 30 Charter Road, Cippenham, Slough, Bucks.

Crown Imperial

The formation of this military historical society was reported in the November 1973 News Letter. The founder, Charles Cowie of 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, Yorks., writes:

"Since I wrote to you about this Society, we have grown apace with General Sir Walter Walker, KCB, CBE, DSO, as our President and Major General D. G. T. Horsford as the Vice-President. I would however very much like to have members of our former Regiments in with us. I am sure that there must be historians and collectors who would prove helpful, and, who knows, learn more as I have done."

Regimental Museum

Mr. E. T. Shonfeld has presented to the Regimental Museum an interesting exhibit in the form of the badge of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, made in glass and surrounded by a border of crushed glass from shattered windscreens. The badge was made by the handicapped people of Croydon in their Purley Way workshop.

Musical Memories

Tunes bring back memories for many people. A certain song may remind one always of a certain time and place. Ex-Cpl Roy Sear, who served in 1st Queen's in Burma, thinks there must be many Queensmen who would remember these two songs.

(Sung to the tune of "Lily Marlene")

Out there in the jungle,
Down by Mandalay,
A few forgotten soldiers
Slowly wend their way.
They often dream of Burmese plains,
Of dust and heat and monsoon rains.
Kohima was decisive.
We'll all remember that.

(Sung to the tune of "South of the Border")

South of the Border
Down Buthidaung way,
That's where we met the Jap,
Gave him a crack
He'll remember some day.
The going's not easy,
And the fighting was tough.
But I reckoned we showed him
Not to be so rough.

Can anyone remember the words of the second verse of this song? Mr. Sear thinks "the Mayu Range" and "Tojo must die" came into it.

Marching song

A pre-War member of the 5th Queen's writes, "There was a famous song we sang just before reaching Guildford. I only remember it finished up—
'You should hear old Pongo shout
'Put those bloody woodbines out!'
We are the Guildford boys.'"

Does any one know the rest of the words, and have they any reminiscences of "Old Pongo"?

Racing News

Old friends of the late Brigadier Allen Block will be interested to hear that his brother, His Honour Commander L. K. A. Block, has written as follows to the Colonel of the Regiment.

"My wife breeds racehorses to sell, but this year she has rather a nice filly that she proposes to put into training with Sir Mark Prescott at Newmarket.

The filly is by 'March Past' out of 'Kathie' by 'Zucchero'. A name that suggests itself is 'Braganza'.

Would you as Colonel of the Regiment have any objection?"

To which General Ling has replied the Regiment would be delighted, and will follow with keen interest the fortunes of the Regimental racehorse.

New Member

Mr. Sid Pennells, OBE, ISO, MSM, has joined the Regimental Association, some 56 years after demobilization. He writes, "I am afraid there are few members of the original 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment left: places like Trones Wood took a heavy toll. We took in a large number of reinforcements from The Royal Sussex Regiment after suffering pretty heavy casualties on the Somme."

Number please

Mr. R. Coleby, batman to two Commanding Officers of the 1st Queen's in the 1914-18 War, joined the 6th (Service) Battalion immediately on its foundation in August 1914. Numbers were then issued on a battalion basis, and Pte Coleby was allocated Number 69. He asks if there is any member of the former Queen's Royal Regiment who can boast a lower number.

Company Photograph

Mr. H. Mellows, formerly 2nd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment, has a photograph of D Company, taken in Colchester in 1938. Copies can be obtained from Mr. Mellows, Flat 8, Two Wemyss House, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. The cost will be about 90p.

11th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

Mr. D. M. Fairie, 20 Lumley Road, Cheam, Surrey, while digging in his garden, turned up a bright metallic object. After cleaning, it was found to be an oval silver identity disc of the type worn on a chain round the wrist.

The inscription is Lieut L. G. Maudling, Queen's Regiment, and, on the reverse, "Raffles from Pops". The Regimental History reveals that Lt Maudling was serving in 11th Bn The Queen's in 1918.

It would be very interesting to hear if anyone knows of the present whereabouts of this officer or his family. The identity disc may be claimed from the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

The Retreat from Mons

Mr. W. A. Billimore (10288) who was with the Regimental Transport in the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War, writes:

"One item I'll always remember is the Retreat from Mons—210 miles in 10 days, civilians retreating with the troops, sharing what they had with the soldiers, even if it was only bread.

We'd march, the troops fighting a rearguard action, then halt by the roadside and the cooks would come up. At times before any rations could be issued we had to saddle up and retreat again. If we got three hours rest we were lucky. How the fighting troops survived on such scanty rations will always remain a mystery."

A question of title

A collector in Australia has queried the name on the brass shoulder titles worn by The East Surrey Regiment.

These were always E SURREY until in 1946 the 2nd Battalion, then in the Canal Zone, took into use the title SURREYS, as authorised for signal procedure and staff duties. The supplier of the new titles was the Battalion Contractor, Karim Bux, and rumour had it they were manufactured in India from brass cartridge cases "acquired" from rifle ranges.

It is believed that the title SURREYS was worn on khaki drill for about two years, when it reverted to the original title of E SURREY.

Customs

Gentlemen, you may smoke

A custom which has no doubt died out with the decline of marching in infantry battalions, was the smoking of pipes on route marches. Cigarette addicts had to wait for the ten minute halt for their smoke, but the pipe smoker was permitted to puff away contentedly all day while on the line of march.

Does any reader remember this concession to the pipe man, and what was the reason underlying this discrimination?

Beardies

A reader has inquired about the practice of wearing a beard on the part of Pioneer Sergeants. Queen's Regulations are not on the whole enthusiastic about hairy soldiers, but an exception is made "in cases where tradition has permitted the holders of certain appointments to wear beards".

Does anyone know how the Pioneer Sergeant's beaver has become hallowed by tradition; and, incidentally, does anyone remember a bearded Pioneer Sergeant before the 1939-45 War?

News from Down Under

Australia

Before the 1939-45 War there was a close liaison between The East Surrey Regiment and their Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry, the 17th Bn The North Sydney Regiment. The 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment was then in India and the trail down under was first blazed by the late Orderly Room Sergeant Stan Bays. In the succeeding years he was followed by a number of young officers all of whom were most hospitably received and entertained by the Adjutant of the 17th North Sydney Regiment, Captain Charles Dolan.

Since then Major Sutton and Brigadier Roupell have made their number with our Allied Australian Regiment, and the latest visitor is Major R. G. D. Bruce, who writes as follows.

"In the middle of May 1974, I had the great pleasure of again meeting in Sydney, Major Charles Dolan, who as Adjutant and Quartermaster of the 17th North Sydney Regiment had looked after those subalterns

visiting Australia from the 1st Battalion in India, in the mid 1930's.

Charles Dolan served in the Middle East in the early months of the War, being evacuated from both Greece and Crete and was then posted to New Guinea. For six years after the War he was with the United Nations in Java, Sumatra, Bali and Timor, finally being injured at the invasion of Ambong, an island near New Guinea. After a considerable time in hospital he was invalided from the Army in 1963, and now, in spite of ill health, he manages to work for Legacy, an organisation which looks after the dependants of ex-servicemen.

On the evening of 4th June at the invitation of the Adjutant, Captain Dennis Cullen, Charles Dolan and I were entertained in the Officers Mess of the 17th Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment. This Battalion was formed in 1960 as a result of the amalgamation of the 17th Bn North Sydney Regiment, the 18th Bn Kuringai Regiment, the 30th Bn The NSW Scottish Regiment and the 6th Mounted Rifles.

The Second in Command, Major Ken Kirby, Major David Leese and the Adjutant were enthusiastic in showing us their silver, trophies and photographs. The silver cigarette box and cigar lighter, presented by the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in 1934 and taken out by Lieuts Cunningham and Lett during their prewar visits, were on display and looking well cared for.

The RSM kindly presented me with an inscribed shield of the Regimental Crest, this should, I feel belong to the Regiment and I have handed it over to our Regimental Museum at Kingston.

A few days later at the New Imperial Service Club, near the old Barrack Street site, Charles Dolan and I were kindly given an excellent lunch by Colonel Southwell, the Commanding Officer. All this kindness and hospitality to a Retired Officer visiting Sydney in a private capacity, was convincing proof that in spite of amalgamations, the old ties between our Regiments are as strong as ever."

New Zealand

Mr. Leo Duncan, who joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1935, writes from 5 Cumberland Grove, Porirua East, New Zealand, that he, Drum Major Bennett, Sgt Harry Reeves and Cpl Charlie Gillett, all now resident in New Zealand, would like to hear from old friends. Leo will forward any letters sent to his address.

Letter from Cyprus

Major General Francis Piggott has sent the following letter received by him from Brigadier D. G. Loch on 20th September, 1974.

Karakoumi House
Near Kyrenia
c/o UNFICYP, Nicosia
BFPO 567.

Dear Francis and Joan,

12th September, 1974.

Many thanks for your letter of 1st September. We, with many others, have suffered since 20th July from naval and aerial bombardment, cannon fire, automatic and small arms fire. The last shots we heard were in the evening of 10th September. We were taken by Turks 1½ hours after the first cease fire next day by 25 hooligans of the National Guard, who threatened to shoot me four times in Peggy's hearing. That evening we were re-taken by Turks, and have since been under Turkish domination.

Only 56 villagers remain out of 250; our servants are known to be safe. I had one God-awful night, preventing rape, God knows how, but was unable to prevent one woman being brutally beaten up. I had five rifles in my chest. Our maid's cottage in the garden was ravished, as I had two rifles in my chest. The last raid on our property was on the night of 1st September. I routed three civilians, one armed with a rifle, with my Dutch hoe, which is always at my bedside, with a torch at night.

No chickens, fruit or vegetables remain in the village—all looted. All unoccupied houses have been stripped. Kyrenia is a ghost town; all shops and houses looted, and 500 tradesmen have been locked up in the Dome Hotel since 23rd July. We were without domestic water and electricity from 20th July to 3rd September, except for three days. We have had domestic water and electricity since then, but today the electricity is off. We have lived a dawn to dusk life like peasants. Kyrenia is full of Nazi-like Anatolian illiterate peasants. One has to have a pass to move in daylight, and there is a curfew from one hour before dusk to one hour after dawn.

Very few British remain, say five or six in the five villages East of Kyrenia, though Karakoumi can boast of 12 having agreed to stand and fight. West of Kyrenia there may be 10 and in Kyrenia itself about 15. We used to total 500 odd. Those who ran have had their properties looted and re-looted. Looting has stopped now, but I still have an anti-rape guard from dusk to dawn under my command. Early on I demanded, and got, a sub inspector, Sgt and eight Turkish Cypriot constables for 24 hours per day. Reaction has set in and we British are most depressed and are living in a grossly inefficiently administered Police State.

Poor Peggy is dead beat, but won't leave for the UK since I can't—the village would die without me. I give them 15 loaves of bread a day, and with Red Cross and Crescent help, they live. My aim is to raise money from anywhere (a) to keep this village alive, and (b) when the time comes—if it ever does—to rehabilitate it.

We occasionally see a newspaper, two weeks old, by courtesy of UN officers. I now think that letters c/o HQ UNFICYP are best, as small units of British UN Forces visit the Red Cross next door. Incoming mail c/o HQ UNFICYP comes by hand of a great Swedish friend,

who has been re-employed by UN as a civilian or by other devious routes. To sum up, we are fed up with living under an incompetent military dictatorship to which we can see no end. Everything north of the Kyrenia range is dead. The Sovereign Base Areas might be 2,000 miles away from us, but we keep in touch with the world through the Forces Broadcasting Service.

Thanks a lot for writing.

Douglas and Peggy.

Friends wishing to write to Brigadier Loch should use the address at the heading to this letter.

Correspondence

From: Mr. G. W. Hinde
14 Hamill Road
East Tomaki
South Auckland
New Zealand.

To: Editor,
Regimental Association News Letter.

Dear Major Hill,

I see from the papers that a lot of people are waiting to emigrate to New Zealand. There is plenty of room for young people with a trade, but at the moment there is a shortage of houses, and we too have inflation with us. People should go into these things before they decided to sell up, and it is a big step if you have children. There is a lot that goes on in Britain that people would miss.

I met the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on their visit to Auckland. The Duke saw the Queen's badge on my jacket and he asked me about the Paschal Lamb. It was very interesting talking to the Duke, and it made our day. The people of New Zealand have a soft spot for the Queen and the Duke and turn out in their thousands to see and meet them. It is a pity we can't see them more often.

Yours sincerely,

G. W. Hinde
(ex 1/6th Queen's)

From: Lt Colonel E. M. Moore, CD
Commanding Officer
The South Alberta Light Horse
Regimental Headquarters
PO Box 730
Medicine Hat
Alberta
Canada.

To: Major F. J. Reed
RHQ The Queen's Regiment
Queen's Surreys Office

Dear John,

I can't express in words the feeling I had when I received my Life Membership Card and lapel badge during my visit. Rather than try, I would like to express appreciation for the all too short visit and tour of the Regimental Museum and Hampton Court Palace. My wife Jean is as enthusiastic as I am about a return trip

of greater length within the next two years.

Thank you again for making my first trip to England outstanding.

Yours sincerely,
Mickey.

Canloan

As a sequel to his article in the last News Letter, Colonel C. H. Nice, TD, DL, writes:

It was fortunate I was able to arrange for my last visit to Canada to include the period 7th - 9th June last, for that was when the 7th National Canloan Reunion was held in Ottawa. I was even more fortunate to receive the warmest possible invitation for my wife and me to be guests at this Reunion. As mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, the Canloan Officers' Association was formed by volunteer Canadian Army Officers who served with extreme distinction with British Army units, mostly infantry, during which time they suffered over 70 per cent casualties and gained, in addition to other decorations, 41 Military Crosses. Close contact is still maintained with the British Regiments and nothing pleases them more than to have representatives of such Regiments at their Reunions. In fact, so pressing are their invitations that with my old mates, learning of my trip to Toronto, it almost amounted to blackmail!

Annual Reunions take place in each of the Provinces, but the great "do", the National Reunion, is held every five or six years; this one in Ottawa was the first held there since the unveiling of their Memorial in 1961. The first item on the programme was on Friday, 7th June, from 1500 hours onwards and known as "Registration"; it took the form of reporting to the Committee Room in the hotel, humbly muttering one's name in the hope that it would tally with one on the list and thus be recognised as genuine. Magically appeared a commemorative mug with the Canloan crest emblazoned thereon and in which happily reposed a bottle of Bass. This was indeed a favourable start, after which we progressed towards our own room encumbered by a series of "Come in for a quick one" en route. It was pleasing to note that bottle openers were a fixture in the rooms!

After driving nearly 300 miles and our stomachs still not geared to the time difference after our flight out, we needed the short rest period before the next gathering at 20.00 hours, and it was as well that we took advantage of it for the following event, called "Pub Night" was a fantastic meeting of old buddies for which all our reserves of sobriety were needed. Many had travelled even further than we had to meet after a lapse of anything up to 30 years, and the scene is one best left to the imagination for no words of mine could describe it adequately. Having "borrowed" an extra large "Desert Rat" flag before leaving London (England!), the ex-Queen's caused a deal of envious and ribald remarks by hanging it from the balcony where it flew triumphant throughout the evening. I had also with me a map of the last positions held by 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's on the River Maas—where 1/7th Queen's suffered severe casualties in their successful Panheel

attack—and this, of course, caused discussions ad nauseam.

Those present of the Canloan Officers who had served with 131 (Queen's) Brigade were Eric Brown; Gordon Chatterton, ED; Art Connor; Joe (the friendly dentist) Craib; Donald Findlay, ED, QC; Arthur Lawrence; and Vincent Lilley, MC, CD. Most had their wives with them, not only to grace the proceedings with their charm and beauty but also, I suspect, to see that their men folk returned in reasonable order to their rooms! In addition we had the gracious company of Mrs. Margaret Baker, widow of Maxwell L. Baker, MC (1/5th Queen's), and Mrs. Thelma Catley, wife of Jack Catley (1/7th). It is possible that a few names are missing, for which I beg forgiveness, but by this time life had taken on a roseate hue and name-taking seemed too serious a business.

Fortunately Saturday morning was free for guests while Canloaners conducted their business affairs, and we used the time to great effect in regaining full composure. The weather was glorious and the town most beautifully laid out on the banks of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers and Canal; along the waterways the banks are literally covered, in season, with thousands of bulbs and here we meandered until it was time for luncheon at the Arts Centre in the middle of Ottawa, a splendid modern building. What struck us so much was that everybody was so friendly, and in that large gathering nobody was a stranger nor lonely, as can happen at similar functions here in the UK. A restful drive around the parks and waterways acted as a further restorative before returning to the hotel to change and enjoy a couple of revivers in Vince Lilley's room with the others. Here he very kindly presented me with a Canloan Shield, lapel badge and Canloan tie. By this action, I understood that he had at last forgiven me all my lapses as his 2 i/c when he commanded "B" Coy 1/6th Queen's.

That evening we were all guests at the Dinner given by the Government of Ontario; this was indeed a grand affair, much enjoyed, at which the guest speaker was General Sir John Mogg, GCB, CBE, DSO. Luckily, the dancing originally planned to follow had been cancelled for I am sure we were all of us much too full of good food, good cheer and general bonhomie for such violent exercise. It seemed natural, therefore, after a session of photographs, to gravitate once more to Vince Lilley's room where he apparently had ample supplies to keep us going. Through all the talk and hubbub, it became apparent that Joe (the friendly dentist) Craib had switched on the charm with all the ladies with an ease I could only admire and envy but it failed sadly as a means of drumming up his business as a fang merchant.

On Sunday morning everybody attended the Memorial Service held at the Canloan National Memorial. In a beautiful, serene and peaceful situation on the East bank of the Rideau River, the far side from the City Hall, their Memorial stands in a perfect setting for the ceremony which followed. With the simplicity of sincerity, the Service followed its course through the oft-remembered hymns, calls and the lament before ending with the National Anthems. It was indeed a

most moving and dignified ceremony which will live long in the memories of all there.

The final phase of the Reunion was the Reception for next-of-kin followed by Luncheon at the Officers' Mess—and what a "do" that proved to be! Prominent is the memory of the buffet where two huge carcasses of beef reposed at the ends of the tables and from which large slices were carved with, from our viewpoint, reckless disregard. Other memories there must be somewhere but they drowned in the welter of farewell drinks which followed. Our route back to Burlington was through Kingston Ont., where we stopped for a "cuppa". However, Major Eric Brown and his wife, Frances, with Mrs. Margaret Baker as passenger, had followed us into the town and prevailed upon us to go to their home just outside the town. In the cool of their garden and with the tender ministrations of the ladies, we were able to wind down somewhat from the hectic pace of the events of the past two days, an excellent conclusion to what was a most memorable occasion.

All ex-Queen's of course, upheld the traditions of the Regiment by comporting themselves with dignity and decorum at all times, even under great stress! Apart from the warmth of welcome and the unbounded hospitality, what was so impressive was the loyalty to, and sincerity of feeling for, the Regiments they had served so well; many of their British counterparts would find it astonishing.

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

Reminiscences of 1914-1918

Mr. V. E. Fagence, our chronicler of the 1914-18 War, sends the following verses which were discovered in a dugout on the Western Front in 1918. He thinks they might stir the memories of some of our older readers.

I learned to wash in shell-holes, and to shave myself in tea,

While the fragments of a mirror did a balance on my knee.

I learned to dodge the whiz-bangs and the flying lumps of lead,

And to keep a foot of earth between the snipers and my head.

I learned to keep my haversack well filled with buckshee food,

To take my Army issue and to pinch what else I could.

I learned to cook Maconachie with candle ends and string.

With four-by-two and sardine oil, and any old darn thing.

I learned to use my bayonet according as you please,

For a bread-knife or a chopper, or a prong for toasting cheese.

I learned to gather souvenirs that home I hoped to send.

And hump them round for months and months, and dump them in the end.

I never used to grumble after breakfast in the line, That the eggs were cooked too lightly or the bacon cut too fine.

I never told the Sergeant just exactly what I thought,

I never did a pack drill, for I never quite got caught.

I never stopped a whiz-bang, though I've stopped a lot of mud,

But the one that Fritz sent over with my name on was a dud.

Regimental Museum

The Museum has received from Colonel N. C. E. Kenrick the very fine set of medals awarded to his father, the late Brigadier General G. E. R. Kenrick, CB, CMG, DSO.

George Kenrick was born in 1871 and commissioned to The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment at the age of 20. He first saw action with the 1st Battalion on the North West Frontier of India in 1897. In the South African War he served in the 2nd Queen's and was awarded the DSO and mentioned in despatches. He remained with the 2nd Battalion and was Adjutant from 1910 to 1914.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Major Kenrick was appointed DAQMG 5th Division and served in Third Army, 2nd Corps and GHQ. He was six times mentioned in despatches and finished the war as a Lieut Colonel with CB, CMG and Legion of Honour.

Brigadier Kenrick's last appointment was Commander of 145 Infantry Brigade TA. He retired in 1925 and died ten years later. We are glad to have the medals of this distinguished old soldier in the Regimental Museum.

Mrs. Kenrick, the widow of Brigadier General Kenrick, celebrated her 100th birthday on 20th February this year, and a congratulatory telegram was sent from the Queen's Surreys Office.

Lord Freyberg VC and the Queen's

In an ex-servicemen's club in New Zealand, Mr. G. W. Hinde (ex 1/6th Queen's) has been discussing the award of General Freyberg's VC and his connection with our Regiment.

The following facts have been extracted from an old Army List. Bernard Cyril Freyberg was employed with the Royal Naval Volunteer Division from 30th August, 1914, and became CO of "Hood" Battalion in the Royal Naval Division on 19th September, 1915. He was appointed captain in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on 18th May, 1916, and the following day became temporary lieutenant colonel, still commanding "Hood" Battalion. Lt Col Freyberg was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry north of Ancre in France on 13th November, 1916.

He remained in command of "Hood" Battalion until 20th April, 1917, and on 25th September the same year

was transferred to the Grenadier Guards as a captain.

Although Colonel Freyberg's parent regiment at the time he won the Victoria Cross was The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, there is no record of his ever having actually served with the Queen's, and the Regimental History makes no mention of him.

Footnote

The following story was circulating in Trieste after the 1939-45 War ended. General Freyberg was commanding the New Zealand Division, and one day a senior general said to him, "You know, Freyberg, none of your chaps salute me. Do you think you could do something about it?" To which General Freyberg replied, "Try waving to them, General. They'll always wave back!"

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

Perhaps Sir Harry Goring's chief claim to fame was that he was the last Colonel of the Regiment as Marines and the first as a Regiment of the Line.

Born in Sussex in 1679, Harry Goring succeeded to the baronetcy at the age of 33. He served as Member of Parliament for Horsham from 1707 to 1708, for Steyning from 1709 to 1714 and for Horsham again until June 1715. Goring's political duties did not prevent him from serving in the Army, and it was on 1st March, 1711, that he was promoted by purchase to the command of Churchill's Marines.

During the period of his command, Goring's Marines were employed by detachments at sea and on garrison duties ashore in the traditional role of the Marine Corps. Consequent upon the Treaty of Utrecht which concluded the Seven Years War in 1713, the Regiment was threatened with disbandment and Colonel Goring himself was placed on the half pay list.

The following year, after the death of Queen Anne, there was an upsurge of Jacobite activity with the aim of restoring the son of James II to the throne. The situation was sufficiently serious for six new cavalry regiments to be raised and the three senior Marine regiments, including Goring's, to be restored to the Active List as Regiments of the Line. Goring's Marine Regiment thus became the Thirty First Regiment of Foot, and Sir Harry was reappointed to the colonelcy in 1715.

Unfortunately Colonel Goring was suspected of Jacobite sympathies, and, perhaps for that reason, the Regiment was posted to Ireland and took no part in the suppression of the Jacobite Rising of 1715. As a result of political pressure, the Colonel lost his seat in the House of Commons in June 1715, and three months later was obliged to sell his commission.

On his retirement Sir Harry, then 36, returned to Sussex. When he died at Horsham on 12th November, 1731, at the age of 52, he was the father of nine sons. Lady Goring survived him by another 37 years, and died at the age of 100.

A Gallant Officer

We are indebted to Mr. Herbert Heather for an extract from a letter written by Lieut John Bird of the York Fusiliers on 15th July, 1796.

The Thirty First Foot disembarked at St. Lucia from Barbados on 1st May, and 16 days later were ordered to make a night attack on a fortified detached post called La Vigie. The post was extremely strong being constructed high up on a narrow isthmus and defended by a lower and an upper battery.

From the moment the two guides were killed by the French picquets, the attack was doomed to failure. The ground was steep and thickly wooded, it was pitch dark, the enemy's position and strength were not known and the troops were inexperienced.

Nevertheless, the attack was launched and the Thirty First succeeded in capturing the lower battery. As they clambered up the steep ascent towards the upper battery, the enemy opened fire with grape-shot, so intense that they were forced to withdraw. Lieut Bird wrote:

"The Thirty First Regiment has been particularly unlucky in an attack on La Vigie, and lost in a few hours over 200 men.

The fall of Captain Johnston of this Regiment is too extraordinary for me to omit to mention it. He led his company to the attack very gallantly. A ball passed through his right arm: his sword fell from his hand: he took it up with his left, and continued to lead them on to the storm.

A second shot wounded him in the thigh—it was a flesh wound, and he proceeded a few steps further when a third ball went through his breast. He fell, but very collectedly ordered his men to do their duty when a fourth shot went through this brave man's head as he lay on the ground."

Robert Johnston who had been appointed ensign in the Thirty First in 1777 was the senior captain at the time of his death. The Regimental History comments, "The losses of the Thirty First in this unfortunate affair were very heavy. Ten officers, four sergeants and 80 rank and file were killed on the spot. Six officers, four sergeants and 121 rank and file were wounded." Three officers, including both lieut colonels, were to die of their wounds.

Mr. Heather comments that Captain Johnston's gallantry would probably have won him an award in modern times.

Return to Malaya

This is the second instalment of Mr. Stephen Abbott's account of a return visit he made to Malaya recently.

"This letter would be incomplete without mention of Singapore. We arrived by air and, circling over the city, I was reminded that the last occasion I had seen it from above was in November 1941. I was then in the cockpit of a 2-seater Vickers Wildebeeste bi-plane, sitting behind its only armament—a .303 machine gun. It had been built in 1927 and had a normal cruising speed of

90 mph. The following month planes like this were in combat with 350 mph Japanese 'Zero' fighters.

Singapore has, of course, been transformed in almost every respect since the war. I expected to find little to remind me of our battles or subsequent captivity. How wrong can one be! Within hours of arrival I casually asked a friend if the name 'Mount Echo' meant anything to him. 'But of course', he replied; 'it still belongs to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank'. Half an hour later I stood inside this massive, now empty, residence—in the very room in which Clive Wallis had handed me the Message Form (which I still possess) instructing all Units to lay down their arms. The house stands on a small hill amid 12 acres of garden, in which I found many signs of the trenches we had dug on the 13th February, 1942, and held under heavy fire and infantry attack until these orders came through on the 15th. Mount Echo was the British Battalion's last defensive position in 600 miles of action in the Malayan Campaign.

From here, my wife and I followed—as near as possible—the route we had marched, with all the pride we could command, to Changi two days after Singapore's surrender. This took us down the Bukit Timah Road, through the heart of the city, and along the coast road to Selerang Barracks. It was here that, in August 1942, the Japanese confined over 20,000 POWs shoulder to shoulder on the barrack square for over four days to compel us to sign forms promising not to attempt escape. Those who were present will never forget that experience; and I was interested to re-visit the scene.

The day before, I had sought permission from the Commanding Officer of the Singapore Army Unit occupying the barracks—telling him the reason. He was therefore expecting me; but little did I anticipate what almost amounted to a 'hero's welcome'. Our 1942 'Selerang Incident' has been embodied in the tradition of the Unit. Behind the Commanding Officer's desk, in the Officers' Mess, and in the Warrant Officers' and NCOs' Mess, are gilt framed parchments describing what happened—and all new recruits are expected to know about it as though it were part of their own Unit's proud record.

I will not dwell further on the visit to Changi: I am sure that, like myself, most people who were there as POWs would prefer not to be reminded of the experience. Krangi War Memorial is, however, a different matter—even though my visit there was quite the most saddening part of the whole trip. The Memorial commemorates by name 24,000 servicemen who died in the Malaysian campaign or in subsequent captivity and whose graves are either unknown or cannot be maintained. The long, long list of Surreys is headed by Major F. B. B. Dowling, MC. In the cemetery itself are 4,000 headstones of men buried nearby; among these I was able to pay a small personal tribute to many old friends and companions. At the foot of this quiet and serene hillside is a stone on which is written 'THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE': on the hill-top is the Memorial itself with the inscription, in six languages, 'THEY DIED FOR ALL FREE MEN'.

There is nothing more to say."

Chapels and Memorials

Chapel of The Queen's Royal Regiment

The following letter has been received by Major F. J. Reed, the Regimental Secretary, from Canon Michael Hocking, Rector of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity with St Mary, Guildford.

"You will recall that we had a conversation about the matter of putting in a new carpet and upholstering the kneelers in The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford. The ones we have there were getting very shabby indeed and were quite unworthy of the Chapel.

I was delighted when the General agreed that this could be done provided the total cost was under £100. A local firm has now supplied and fitted the new carpet and has done the whole job magnificently.

Another local firm has the matter of upholstering the kneelers well in hand and, as soon as this is done, I will send along that account for your inspection. It is now perfectly clear that the final total will be well under £100.

Would you make it clear to your Regimental Association how very grateful we all are for the very great interest that The Queen's Royal Regiment continues to take in their Chapel. For our part, I think you know that anything we can do for the Queen's will be most gladly done."

Milstead Church, Kent

Major H. B. Watson, TD, Chairman of the 5th Queen's Old Members Association, recalls that during the 1939-45 War the 1/5th Queen's twice had their Battalion Headquarters in the village of Milstead, near Sittingbourne.

On 10th December, 1950, the officers of the 1/5th Queen's presented an oak chest to the church. It bears a small tablet engraved with the Regimental crest and the inscription:

"This chest with some of the hymn books was presented by Officers of the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment who during the years 1941 and 1942 worshipped in this church."

Queen's Memorials in Gibraltar

Mr. V. C. Reynolds (ex 2/7th Queen's) has sent us some interesting photographs of Regimental headstones in the Trafalgar Cemetery at Gibraltar. Originally the general garrison cemetery, it is located in a pleasant garden immediately outside the Ragged Staff gate. The name "Trafalgar" was acquired after Nelson's great victory of 1805. The photographs relate to four young officers of the "2nd or Queen's Regiment" who died "of the malignant fever" within a few days of each other in October 1804.

Notwithstanding having already served three tours of duty amounting to 35 years on the Rock, the Queen's were again posted there in March 1802. The Regiment won high praise for efficiency in the Commander-in-Chief's first annual report, but they also established a

name for themselves as a hard-drinking lot, so much so, according to one account, that no other regiment would dine with them.

After the Regiment had been on the Rock for two and a half years, an outbreak of typhoid swept through the garrison. It reached its peak in October 1804 and 862 men died. Of these, the Queen's lost seven officers and 91 soldiers, some of whom lie buried in the Trafalgar Cemetery.

It is interesting to note that the Queen's provided a Guard of Honour of three officers, four sergeants and 60 rank and file for Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson when he visited Gibraltar on 20th July, 1804. Some 15 months later, the Admiral's body was to be landed at Rosia Bay after the Battle of Trafalgar.

Visit to War Cemetery

Mr. L. J. McGuinness has taken a number of colour photographs of the headstones of our soldiers buried in the Rimini War Cemetery. Among those who can be identified are

Queen's
1634667 Pte P. Ashbul
14219126 Cpl F. D. Cook

Surreys
14564431 Pte John A. Cook
14208654 Pte Victor E. Extance
14571867 Pte William J. Harford
5187640 Pte Robert Johnson

These men were among eight soldiers of the 1/6th Battalion killed on 20th September, 1944.

6146053 Cpl William R. Wilson
probably 1st Battalion, killed on 17th April, 1945.

If any reader knows of the whereabouts of the relatives of these soldiers, we will be pleased to send them the colour pictures taken by Mr. McGuinness.

English Short Land Musket

The author of this article is Mr. Gary Kraidman, an authority on historic military firearms, who lives in New Jersey, USA, and who visited the Queen's Surreys Office earlier in the year.

"The following article deals with a British musket acquired by me seven years ago and eventually traced to the Second Regiment of Foot. It is only proper to acknowledge the kind assistance of Major F. J. Reed of The Queen's Regiment in Kingston upon Thames for information on the probable use of the musket. Years of study and documentation permit speculation on the history of this firearm, and the author's conclusions can only be considered an educated guess based on circumstantial evidence.

The flintlock musket with a length of 57.75 inches and a calibre of .79 was discovered to have regimental markings on its 41.50-inch barrel. These markings appeared as 2 REG which would attribute its ownership at one time to a member of The Queen's Regiment.

The lockplate had the Tower marking and broad arrow signifying Government ownership. Other lock markings included the GR (for George Rex) under the Royal Crown.

An escutcheon plate on the wrist of the flintlock was marked G over the Roman numerals III. Furniture on the musket was brass and the barrel showed typical proof marks. The second ramrod pipe showed a slight flare. The flintlock, based on Darling's reference, is classified as a Short Land, New Pattern Type 2 musket (or a model variation of the so-called Second Model Brown Bess Musket).

Dating such a piece is a tremendous problem but one can speculate, on the basis of the second ramrod pipe, that it was manufactured circa 1775. Haswell (1967) states that the Second Regiment of Foot was alternating between England and Gibraltar at this time; accordingly, one can speculate that the musket 'might' have been in these areas as well. The final solution to its past history may never be uncovered but the fun of tracing it back to and actually visiting the Regimental Museum are in essence the main reasons for my hobby and this article.

References: A. D. Darling 'Red Coat and Brown Bess'.
Jock Haswell 'The Queen's Royal Regt.'"

The Machine Gun Corps

Many of the officers and soldiers in our Regiments served in the Machine Gun Corps in the 1914-18 War, but in spite of a splendid fighting record comparatively little is known of the MGC today. Yet the Corps in its seven years of existence numbered over 170,000 all ranks and rendered sterling service on the Western Front and other theatres of war for over three years.

In 1914 each infantry battalion had two Maxim or Vickers machine guns, and because their capabilities were not fully appreciated, they were often incorrectly handled tactically. Soon after the early engagements with the Germans, two main lessons were learnt. The first was that the most effective fire power was developed when firing in enfilade or when sited to give indirect overhead fire. The second lesson was that guns deployed individually in forward company areas were virtually wasted. The effectiveness of German machine guns grouped in pairs or larger numbers had become unpleasantly apparent.

The Vickers gun, an adaptation of the weapon designed by an American, Hiram Maxim, was in service in the British Army for over 50 years. Its fixed gun platform and heavy mounting enabled accurate and sustained fire to be maintained at the rate of between 500 and 600 rounds a minute. The medium machine gun, correctly handled, was soon to be recognised as a formidable infantry weapon. In December 1915 the Prime Minister announced that 80 per cent of our casualties on the Western Front had been caused by machine gun fire.

Shortly after the outbreak of war the establishment

of machine guns was increased to four to a battalion, but the Army was expanding so rapidly that supply could not keep up with demand. Most battalions had four guns on paper but only two on the ground. Early in 1915 some brigade commanders on the Western Front realised the value of a concentrated volume of automatic fire available at short notice and at the same time maintaining flexibility of fire power. They accordingly withdrew the medium machine gun sections from their infantry battalions in order to form their own unofficial brigade machine gun company of 16 guns.

In October 1915 the Machine Gun Corps was formed. All machine gun sections in the BEF were now compulsorily brigaded and their personnel transferred to the MGC. The machine gun companies so formed were given the number of the Brigade, eg the MG company of 11th Brigade in 4th Division was designated 11th Coy MGC. This brigade organisation lasted until February 1918.

Although machine gun companies were normally controlled by brigades, Divisional MG Officers were appointed in 1916 for the control of all divisional machine guns in large scale operations, such as the Battle of the Somme. The deployment of machine guns under the divisional commander's control proved its worth particularly at Messines in July 1917, at Passchendaele and in the March 1918 German offensive.

It was not until February 1918 that service battalions of 64 guns were formed on a divisional basis in France. Usually the three brigade MG Companies were formed into a machine gun battalion by the addition of a fourth MG company, and the battalion assumed the number of the division, eg the 4th Bn MGC was composed of 10th, 11th, 12th and 234th Companies MGC, which were lettered A, B, C and D Companies. It is of interest that early in 1918 there were 278 MG companies in service overseas, over 200 of them in France and Flanders.

The majority of MG battalions were disbanded with their divisions after the War. Newly raised Regular battalions began to replace the units still on active service overseas. Some served in North Russia, others in Mesopotamia and in India. However, the rundown continued and in 1922 the Machine Gun Corps itself was disbanded.

During the seven years of its existence, the Corps had a distinguished record of service and gallantry. Some 11,500 officers and 159,000 Other Ranks had served in its ranks. Of these 4,000 officers and 58,000 men became casualties — killed, wounded or missing. Among the many decorations awarded to the Corps, the Victoria Cross was won by seven of its members.

The Machine Gun Corps has ceased to exist but its esprit de corps lives on in its Old Comrades Association whose Honorary Secretary is Major D. O. Dixon, 11 Bywater Street, Chelsea, SW3 4XD, and who publishes the MGC OCA News Letter quarterly. We are indebted to Major Dixon for much of the information in this article.

Footnote

The following footnote is contributed by Brigadier

C. D. Armstrong, CBE, DSO, MC, who served in the Corps from March 1916 to March 1918.

Many of the MG Corps records have disappeared, but a beautiful Book of Remembrance of Corps dead and missing has been deposited in the Parish Church at Grantham. There now only remains the "Boy David" Memorial to the Corps situated close to the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park Corner.

Major D. O. Dixon has done wonders over the years to revive the Machine Gun Corps Old Comrades Association. The OCA meets annually in May at the Boy David Memorial for a Service of Remembrance. Attendance at this Service and the subsequent luncheon reunion may be 100 or more Old Comrades, some travelling from the four corners of Great Britain.

If one remembers the Corps ceased to exist some 50 years ago, truly it is said that old soldiers never die, they only fade away.

Regular Forces Employment Association

The Regular Forces Employment Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. It has 42 Branches in the major cities of the United Kingdom and its Employment Officers—all ex-Servicemen—are in close touch with local employers. Part of the cost comes from the Government and part from the Services Benevolent and Welfare organisations.

The Association's services are free to ex-Regulars who have not been commissioned, have at least three years' service (or have been invalided out before three years) and a character assessment of "Good" or better. And the Association takes a long term interest in ex-Regulars, who may use its services as often as they wish.

Although the main objective is to find ex-Servicemen suitable jobs, the Association's Employment Officers will help on other matters such as advice on housing or re-training. More than 10,000 ex-Servicemen use the Association each year to help find a suitable job, and 80 per cent are found jobs.

Deaths

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

Lambden—On 8th September, 1972, Captain Ray Stanley Lambden, aged 45. "Bat" Lambden served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Palestine and Egypt after the War. After a spell in the Metropolitan Police, he rejoined the Army and served for ten years in The Malay Regiment. The last few years of Bat's service were in the Sultan of Muscat and Oman's Armed Forces, first in the Dhofar Gendarmerie and latterly on the staff of HQ Dhofar Forces.

Smith—In 1973, Pte John Smith (9843), aged 83. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1908 until discharged on account of wounds in 1915.

Newbold—On 25th July, 1973, Cpl Charles R. Newbold (6084207), aged 60. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1928 to 1949.

Stalton—On 23rd January, 1974, WOII Frederick Charles Stalton, BEM (6133311), aged 74. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1918 to 1922 and subsequently in the Royal Artillery.

Davis—On 2nd April, 1974, Pte Charles Davis (6084106), aged 65. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1928 to 1935. Recalled in 1939, he was a prisoner of war in Germany from 1940 to 1945.

Whale—In May, 1974, Pte Jack W. Whale (6105671), aged 62. Served in the 2/5th Queen's from 1942 to 1946.

Walters—On 17th May, 1974, L/Cpl Richard William Walters (9521), aged 79. The son of the RSM of the 1st Queen's and born in Malta, Richard Walters served in the 2nd Battalion from 1909 to 1915 when he was discharged on medical grounds. Mr. Walters' reminiscences of the unofficial truce of December 1914 were published in the November 1972 News Letter.

Dent—On 27th May, 1974, Sgt Reginald William Dent. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1924 to 1945.

Foster—On 1st June, 1974, Captain Douglas Cunliffe Foster, aged 58. Served as Mortar Officer in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in North Africa where he was wounded. He served on the staff of GHQ from 1943 to 1946.

Perriment—On 3rd June, 1974, Pte George William Perriment (63646), aged 75. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 to 1920.

Jebens—On 15th June, 1974, Major Frank Julius Jebens, MC, aged 85. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 to 1919. See obituary.

Reddick—On 17th June, 1974, Sgt Stanley William Reddick (22004526), aged 44. Enlisting in 1948, he served in The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment. His last appointment was PSI to 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and he retired in 1968.

Mayhew—On 20th June, 1974, Pte Henry Charles Phillip Mayhew (64160), aged 77. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War. Wounded at the Battle of Ypres in 1917. Mr. Mayhew was a loyal and generous supporter of the Regimental Association. His last donation was acknowledged in the May 1974 News Letter.

Reilly—On 23rd June, 1974, Cpl Edmund George Reilly. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1935 to 1959 and was a prisoner of War of the Japanese on the fall of Singapore.

Fairtlough—On 23rd June, 1974, Major Leslie Howard Fairtlough, aged 68. Son of Lt Col H. Fairtlough, CMG, DL, who was killed in action commanding the 8th Queen's in September 1915, Howard Fairtlough served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924 to 1935 and in The Royal Pioneer Corps in the 1939-45 War.

Hicks—On 28th June, 1974, Lt Colonel Maxwell George Hicks, TD, DL, aged 92. Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1939 and subsequently in The Royal Pioneer Corps. Colonel Hicks, who commanded the 6th Surreys from 1936 to 1939, saw service overseas in both World Wars. His son, Captain J. M. Hicks, was killed in action with the 1st Battalion in North Africa in 1943.

Rogers—In July, 1974, Pte Elijah Rogers (61518), aged 76. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1916 to 1919.

Woodhouse—On 11th July, 1974, Cpl Charles Thomas Woodhouse (6138595), aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1929 to 1937 and from 1939 to 1941. He was then transferred to RAOC and later to REME on the formation of that Corps.

Horton—On 13th July, 1974, Lt Colonel W. G. Horton, MC, aged 76. Served in the Scots Guards in the 1914-18 War and commanded the 70th (Young Soldiers) Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1941.

Fletcher—On 24th July, 1974, Brigadier Michael Victor Fletcher, CBE, aged 64. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1951. See obituary.

Mansel—On 29th July, 1974, Major John William Morton Mansel, TD, aged 64. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1935 to 1948. See obituary.

Buchan—On 6th August, 1974, Major Thomas Ogilvie Malcolm Buchan, MC, aged 82. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1913 to 1928. See obituary.

Heasman—On 10th August, 1974, Pte George Edward Heasman (6103674), aged 67. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1925 to 1942.

Wise—On 21st August, 1974, Lt Colonel Alfred Roy Wise, TD, aged 73. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1923 to 1932. See obituary.

Tatham—On 27th August, 1974, Cecil Francis Tatham, who was a platoon commander in the 8th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

Curcher—On 5th September, 1974, Pte James Howard Curcher (14186230). Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1946 to 1949.

Potts—On 15th October, 1974, Captain Arthur Leonard Potts, aged 83. Served in the 8th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1918, and was Secretary and Treasurer of the 8th Queen's OCA until disbandment in 1970. See obituary.

Tatman—On 16th October, 1974, Sgt Harry Tatman (6090136), aged 57. Served in 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1945. He was Councillor and Alderman of Old Greenwich Borough, a Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Greenwich from 1960 to 1961.

Howe—In October, 1974, in London, Ontario, Lt John A. Howe. A CANLOAN officer, he served first with the 6th Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and joined the 1/7th Queen's in Normandy. He was wounded in September 1944 during the advance towards Nijmegen.

Regimental Families

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

Bassett—In May 1974, Mrs. Eileen Bassett, the widow of Major General R. A. M. Bassett, CB, CBE, MC, who was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1911 and retired in 1946.

Irwin—On 27th September, 1974, Mrs. Eileen Irwin, wife of Lt Col A. P. B. Irwin, DSO, late The East Surrey Regiment.

Boyton—On 28th September, 1974, Stuart Colin, aged 22, youngest son of the late Major R. F. Boyton, The East Surrey Regiment.

Voisin—On 25th October, 1974, at her home in Jersey. Mrs. Louisa Matilda Voisin, aged 103. The mother of the late Lt Col F. O. Voisin of The East Surrey Regiment, Mrs. Voisin had many friends in the Regiment.

Rose—On 7th November, 1974. Mrs. Jill Rose, daughter of the late Major W. G. Gingell, MBE, MM, The East Surrey Regiment and Mrs. E. Gingell.

Obituaries

WOII W. H. R. Bowles, BEM

Walter Bowles who died on 9th May, 1974, at the age of 67 started his soldiering in The East Surrey Regiment in 1922 when he joined as a boy from the Duke of York's School at Dover. He was posted to the 1st Battalion in Cairo and became a Drummer and saw service in Sudan, Hong Kong and India where he made a name for himself as a feather-weight boxer. At the outbreak of war, Sgt Bowles was an instructor at the Regimental Depot and in view of his instructional ability, he served in a number of training battalions during the War.

In 1950 he was posted to the 1st Queen's Own Royal West Kents and went to Malaya where he became RQMS Kuala Lumpur Garrison. "Babs" returned to UK in 1955 and unfortunately suffered a serious illness which kept him in hospital until 1956 when he was discharged having completed 34 years' service.

He was awarded the BEM and MSM and was mentioned in despatches. After his discharge he never failed to keep in touch with his Regiment and was an exceedingly loyal Surrey. Although stricken with arthritis he would, whenever possible, attend Regimental functions, where he loved to talk over old times. "Babs" was keenly looking forward to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' annual dinner, but sadly he passed away two days before.

The Regiment was his life and he will be sadly missed by all old Surreys.

Major F. J. Jebens

E. F. B. writes:

Frank Jebens was commissioned to the Royal Fusiliers in December 1912 and transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment as a Brevet Major in November 1919. Of his service prior to joining The Queen's Royal Regiment unfortunately little information exists, except that he served in France and Belgium, was wounded at Gallipoli and served in the North Russian Expeditionary Force. He was awarded the Military Cross and held a number of Staff appointments.

During his service with The Queen's Royal Regiment he served with the 2nd Battalion in India, Khartoum, Dover and Aldershot. From Aldershot he joined the 1st Battalion in Tientsin and was appointed Commandant of the Legation Guard in Peking. He moved with the 1st Battalion to Quetta in November 1934 where he was 2nd in Command to Lt Col Hull during the Earthquake. Major Jebens retired in December 1938 but rejoined on the outbreak of World War II, taking up various appointments and finishing his service on the Allied Control Commission, Berlin.

The few of us remaining who served with "Jeb" will always remember him for his kindness and amiability. He was intelligent, well read and had an interesting background of continental knowledge particularly so with good food and wines. These he never failed to provide for his friends when a suitable occasion arose, usually cooking part of the meal himself. "Jeb" died aged 85. He continued to attend all Regimental functions to the last, including the 1973 Officers' Dinner.

L.C.E. writes:

Many of those who served in the Regiment in the old days will have heard with sorrow of the death of "Jeb". His name brings back nostalgic memories. We regarded him as a "crusty old bachelor", but he was exceedingly kindhearted and would do anything for anybody, particularly the younger generation. A great gourmet, he was a bit of a trial to the Mess staff and particularly to the Mess Sergeant and the Messing Officer: many officers gave way to the temptation to pull his leg in this respect but he never seemed to resent it. In the 2nd Battalion he became the Machine Gun Company Commander and it was the real love of his life at that time. Ceremonial and Close Order drill he disliked intensely. He was deeply suspicious of Battalion HQ, and in Aldershot always referred to the

then Adjutant (me) as "that office boy". He looked upon games, except for fencing, as an occupation solely for the young and unintelligent, though he made a point of attending all Battalion fixtures of any importance.

When he joined the 1st Battalion in Quetta he became Second in Command and was given the task of reorganizing the accounting system to Double Entry. In 1948 he was employed with the C.C.G. in East Berlin, and appeared proud and happy frequently to visit the 2nd Battalion in the Olympic Stadium. The story of his life as a "character" while a serving soldier between the two World Wars can be noted as a real feature in the annals of the Regiment.

J.B.C. writes:

The death of "Jeb" gave me much sadness. I had just written a periodical letter to him. Though my visits to the South have virtually now ended, I had hoped to be able to visit him in hospital, but it was not to be.

In his earlier days as a Major commanding a company in the 2nd Battalion in India he certainly was a "character". Though kindness itself, his rather gruff manner tended to make him a somewhat fearsome figure, and to an Adjutant he was not the easiest Company Commander with whom to deal. He was, though, invariably fair, devoting much time and energy to important matters which he regarded as worth while. These did not extend to the ceremonial side of soldiering!

Our paths did not cross again for a long time but then for many years we met periodically in London, generally at the time of the Regimental Dinner, and on occasions at his home or elsewhere. Due to his kindness we always sat together at the Dinner. I very greatly valued his friendship—and a most genuine friendship it was.

His outward appearance never seemed to change. In latter years he suffered much from chest trouble and physical disability in walking. He made a point though of attending all possible Regimental functions and of late went to much trouble to do so. His reward will have been the warm welcome from all that invariably awaited him.

"Jeb" was an able and hardworking man with a wide range of knowledge. He was gifted with a dry but very attractive sense of humour which came more to the surface as he grew older.

Brigadier Michael Victor Fletcher, CBE

Michael Fletcher joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1931, as a University Entrant from Worcester College, Oxford, and served in Aldershot with the 2nd Battalion until 1936 when he was transferred to the 1st Bn in Quetta and later Allahabad.

On the outbreak of war he was made a Staff Officer at GHQ India, where he remained for most of the next five years. In July 1945, he was transferred to Europe, where his fluent German caused him to be posted to the Civil Affairs/Military Government Staff. He played a prominent part in the great Berlin Air Lift in 1948/49; the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment were in Berlin at the time. Later he was 2nd in Command of the Battalion while at Iserlohn. He then had a succession of Staff appointments at HQ BAOR, HQ AFCE, and finally as Chief of Staff in Hong Kong; and in 1961 he became Military Attaché in Bonn as a Brigadier. In 1965 he retired and became Private Secretary to the Governor of Victoria, Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe, his one time Brigade Commander in 5 Inf Bde at Iserlohn. He finally retired and returned to England in 1968.

Major J. W. M. Mansel

John was the architect of this house into which my family and I moved nearly 20 years ago: consequently he has been often in our thoughts. We regarded him as a friend and adviser in matters of house maintenance. We heard of his sudden death with real sorrow and offer our sincere sympathy to Gilly and her family.

As a soldier John was a great admirer and friend of the Regiment. He was a member of that pre-war band of great Territorials, and kept up his connection with the Regiment ever since he first joined 5th Queen's in 1935. As his Adjutant I knew him as a most enthusiastic member and Commander of the Camberley Company. Nothing was too much trouble and Camberley always appeared one of the most popular and well attended of all the Battalion's Drill Halls. In the Regiment he was possibly best known as a cricketer and he played in matches against HMS *Excellent* for many years.

I have always been led to believe that he was of the greatest value to other prisoners' escapes from the POW camp in Germany. This was due to his compilation of their documents to which he gave his great artistic skill and talent and as a result declined ever to make any attempt himself to escape. I was looking forward to reading his book which he announced in a BBC interview with Jack de Manio on 28th February this year. I hope that it was sufficiently far advanced to be published and go on record and in memory of a very charming personality.

L.C.E.

Lt Colonel W. S. A. Clough-Taylor, late The Royal Welch Fusiliers, writes,

Although it is more than thirty years since John and I were fellow prisoners of war in Germany my memory of him has not faded.

He worked so hard (perhaps too hard) to help others. His delicate calligraphy was a source of astonishment to those who saw the truly fantastic accuracy of the forged documents which he produced for would-be escapers.

But best of all, I remember so well the gentle charm and quiet humour of his brilliant cartoons.

There could be no better example of his character.

There are many besides myself who not only benefitted materially from his work in those far off days but who are still grateful for a friendship not to be forgotten.

Major T. O. M. Buchan

With the passing of Major Buchan, the Regiment loses one of the few remaining officers who sailed from France with the 1st Bn The Queen's on 12th August, 1914. Tom Buchan was born in 1892, educated at Cheltenham and commissioned in the Regiment in 1913. He was wounded at the First Battle of Ypres in October 1914 and spent the rest of the War in France on Brigade and Divisional Staffs. He was twice mentioned in despatches and awarded the MC as a Brigade Major in 1918.

After the 1914-18 War, he served in Germany, India and Iraq. His last appointment before retirement in 1928 was Adjutant of 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's).

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, Tom Buchan offered his services immediately. He served at the War Office from November 1939 to July 1946. Operational staff work was his speciality and he held a number of G staff appointments in both World Wars.

L.C.E. writes:

All the Officers were especially selected to accompany the 2nd Battalion to India in 1919. The four senior Captains were Cheltonians of approximately the same vintage and were great friends. They were Guy Oliver, Tom Buchan, Bobby Ross and Reggie Phillpot. On my joining I received the injunction that they above all were examples of what a Queen's officer should be both in war and peace. I never, ever, had reason to doubt this statement. Tom Buchan was the last survivor of the four. When he was Training Company Commander at the Depot, I was his subaltern and got to know him comparatively well; I formed a great admiration for his character and qualities. He knew his job, was strict but absolutely impartial. It was a sad day for the Regiment, and indeed for the Army, when he decided to retire. He would have made

an outstanding Commanding Officer and would undoubtedly have gone on to high rank, as in addition to being a magnificent Regimental Officer he was a first class Staff Officer, not always a dual qualification. His death will bring sadness to all those in the Regiment who knew him.

Lt Col A. R. Wise

Lt Col A. F. F. Young writes:

I knew Roy Wise well and kept in touch with him until shortly before his death. Like so many Territorial Officers, he was unorthodox and, at times, scathingly critical of the higher command, while maintaining his fervent loyalty to the Army and to his Country. He was a popular and highly respected Commander of D Company, 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, whose headquarters were at Woking, but was forced to transfer to the Reserve in 1932 owing to the increasing demands of his political career.

He was something of a rebel politically; an outspoken, witty and entertaining speaker, not always seeing eye to eye with those who framed the Conservative policy, particularly towards the British Empire, of which he was always a staunch supporter.

A great upholder of tradition, he was one of the last MPs to appear regularly in the House of Commons in a morning coat. He was educated at Repton and, when one of his old school fellows was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, the Press asked him if it was true that he was at Repton with the new appointee, he replied in characteristic vein, "On the contrary, His Grace was at Repton with me—in fact, he was my fag!"

Captain A. L. Potts

Mr. George Nevell, formerly Assistant Secretary of the 11th (Lambeth) Bn Queen's OCA, writes,

"Arthur Potts joined the 11th Bn Queen's on the Somme in September 1916 and served throughout the War. In the early 20's the Battalion's Old Comrades Association was formed, and until it was disbanded in 1970, there was no more hard working member than Captain Potts. He was Chairman for many years and Secretary from 1967. Loved and respected by all who served with him in war, he was 'Skipper' and friend to all members of the Association in peace. He was ever ready to shoulder responsibility and ever ready to help any member in need."