

# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

**President**  
Major General R.S.N. Mans, CBE  
**Chairman**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Regimental Headquarters**  
The Queen's Regiment  
(Queen's Surreys Office)  
Portsmouth Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey

## News Letter No. 17

May, 1975

### Editorial

In this issue we record the death of not only the oldest officer in the Regiment, but possibly in the Army. General Sir Ivo Vesey died in Colchester Military Hospital on 20th February, 1975, at the age of 98. The General's service in The Queen's Royal Regiment started so long ago that there can be few of his contemporaries alive, but he will be remembered for his Colonelcy of the Queen's during the years of the Second World War. The Regiment was represented at General Vesey's funeral by Maj Gen Mans, Maj Gen Piggott, Lt Col Peet and Maj Broadbent. The Last Post was sounded at the General's graveside by a bandsman from 1 Queen's.

Those who were present at the Presentation of Colours to The Queen's Regiment by Queen Margrethe in May 1974 saw the old Colours of the 1st Battalion marched off parade for the last time. These Colours are to be laid up in the Regimental Chapel in Guildford Cathedral at the Regimental Association Service on Sunday, 15th June.

The recent increase in postage rates has necessitated raising the cost of Christmas cards and Regimental Histories. Revised prices are in the enclosed Order Form. The cost of the News Letter will remain at 50p this year, but the 1976 subscription will have to be raised to 70p.

### Appointments—Officers

Our congratulations go to the Colonel of the Regiment, General Fergus Ling, on his appointment to Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey.

We also congratulate Brigadier Mike Reynolds on his promotion, and on his appointment as Commander of 12 Mechanised Brigade which he assumed on 8th December, 1974.

### St. George's Day

The following messages were exchanged with the Royal Marines on 23rd April, 1975.

### From the Queen's Surreys Office

Remembering with pride, especially on St George's Day, our long and close association, all members of the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment send to you, and to all Royal Marines, Heartiest Greetings on your Corps Day of Remembrance for both World Wars.

### From the Commandant General Royal Marines

It was with great pleasure that I received, on behalf of the Royal Marines, your message of good wishes on our Day of Remembrance. We also look back with pride at the close ties that have bound us together in a world of change, and we send best wishes and good fortune to all ranks of The Queen's Regiment and to all members of the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

The Royal Marines selected St George's Day as their Corps Day of Remembrance for both World Wars. It commemorates the anniversary of the Zeebrugge Raid in 1918 in which the 4th Bn Royal Marines lost 353 out of 700 killed and wounded and won two VCs. The East Surrey Regiment selected the same day as their Regimental Day, still known as Ypres Day. It commemorates the fighting in the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915 in which both 1st and 2nd Battalions took a distinguished part. In the defence of Hill 60, one of the actions in this battle, three VCs were won by the Regiment.

### Queen's Surreys Office

After eight years as the Chief Clerk of our office, Mr. Arthur Scriven, MBE, has retired. He enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1920, and served in the 1st Battalion in Egypt, Sudan, Hong Kong and India. For the next eight years he served in the 6th (Territorial) Battalion, first as PSI of the Hersham Detachment and, on the outbreak of War, as Orderly Room Sergeant.

Discharged from the Regular Army in 1946, he joined the Territorial Army on its re-formation in 1947 as ORQMS of the 6th Battalion and, at the same time, its civilian chief clerk. He held this position subsequently in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) and the 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment until 1967.

## Regimental and other Service Functions in 1975

Date	Place	Function
Fri. 23 May	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match v Royal Marines
3, 4 and 5 June	Horse Guards	Household Division
Fri. 13 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club
Sun. 15 June	Guildford	Regimental Association
Sat. 5 July	Wembley	Military Musical Pageant
16 July - 2 Aug.	Earls Court	Royal Tournament
Fri. 3 Oct.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club
Sat. 4 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association
Thu. 9 and	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society
Fri. 10 Oct.		
Sat. 11 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association
Sun. 9 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parade
Sat. 15 Nov.	Royal Festival Hall	Kneller Hall
		Band Concert in aid of Army Benevolent Fund

His retirement on Ypres Day, the Regimental Day of The East Surrey Regiment, brings to a close 55 years unbroken service. As Her Majesty Queen Margrethe of Denmark remarked when Mr Scriven was presented to her at the Presentation of Colours last year, 'That must be something of a record'.

Arthur Scriven has also retired as honorary secretary of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association, a position he had held for ten years. Major General R. S. N. Mans, Deputy Colonel (Surrey) presented Mr Scriven with a combined radio, cassette player and recorder in the presence of a gathering of Regimental representatives, including three of his former TA Commanding Officers, as a token of his long service to the Regiment, and the high regard in which he had been held by all ranks over so many years.

We welcome as his successor, Lt Colonel Derek Heald, OBE, a retired Regular officer of the Royal Engineers.

## Regimental Association

### Accounts

The audited accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ending 31 December, 1974, were confirmed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 12 April, 1975.

### Financial Adviser

At the end of November 1974 the stockbroking firm of S. R. Scott, Stratten & Co ceased to trade as a separate entity, and the services of Roger Close-Brooks

The state of the funds at 31 December, 1974, is summarised below.

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds		Excess of Income over Expenditure	
	1974	1973	1974	1973
	£	£	£	£
Queen's Surreys Charitable	6,520	6,292	228	425
Queen's Charitable	51,906	104,790	972	2,662
Surreys Charitable	25,955	25,408	1,652	1,253
Queen's War Memorial	21,292	23,626	34	366
Surreys War Memorial	15,836	15,429	407	338
Main Reunion	2,533	2,274	259	253
News Letter	1,115	1,075	40	13
	386	136	60	39

### Benevolent Work of the Association

The case work load in 1974 was slightly less than in recent years, the total disbursed in grants to our old soldiers amounting to £4,230.

as our Financial Adviser came to an end. For over 21 years Roger has advised first the Old Comrades Association of The Queen's Royal Regiment and later our present Regimental Association on financial affairs, and the Association is truly grateful to him for his professional advice so freely given. Major Close-Brooks, who won his DSO at Anzio, was 2IC of 2/7th Queen's in Italy from November '44 to October '45.

We extend a warm welcome to Colonel D. A. Willows ADC, DL, of the stockbroking firm of Capel-Cure Myers as our Financial Adviser. Colonel Willows, who was a Regular officer of the Buffs, is Deputy Colonel (Kent) The Queen's Regiment. He was appointed ADC (TAVR) to HM The Queen from December '74.

### News Letter

The Regimental Association Main Committee has discussed the finances of the News Letter in the light of a 21 per cent increase in the cost of printing and the recent heavy increases in postage rates. The Committee considered that the News Letter does much to keep the "old and bold" in touch, not only with each other, but with Regimental affairs in general. It was decided to keep the News Letter going as long as possible without lowering the standard, albeit certain small economies would have to be made. The Committee decided to hold the 1975 subscription at 50p but to increase to 70p for 1976.

### Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service of the Regimental Association will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, 15th June, 1975, commencing at 11.15 a.m. The Service will be conducted by the Dean of Guildford, the Right Reverend A. C. Bridge, who will also preach the sermon.

During the Service the old Colours of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment will be handed to the Dean of Guildford by Lt Colonel J. G. W. Davidson, Commanding 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment, for laying up within the Cathedral.

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

As usual, there will be a refreshment tent on the grass outside the Cathedral. The bar will be organised by Lt Colonel R. E. Pounds, MBE, Cadet Executive, Surrey Army Cadet Force.

### Reunion

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames from 1830 to 2300 hours on Saturday, 4th October, 1975. The function is for men only. The cost of admission is 50p, whether or not supper is taken.

Members are requested to submit the enclosed warning-in slip, with remittance, by not later than

Monday, 29th September. Tickets will be issued by the Secretary.

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

Money will be refunded provided cancelled bookings are notified by Monday, 29th September. Members are reminded that cars must not be parked against the Drill Hall or connected buildings.

## Museum of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

An article on our Regimental Museum, described as " . . . this well-arranged and spotlessly maintained museum", was published in the May 1975 issue of "Soldier". The writer has managed in a short compass to give a comprehensive general description of the Museum's contents, and has referred to the nautical tradition of both our former Regiments carried forward into The Queen's Regiment of today.

The Museum is open Monday to Friday, 0930 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630. Admission is free and there is car parking space. The Museum is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Among the weapons on display are two curved Oriental swords captured by the Queen's at the storming of Khelat in 1839. The story of battle, murder and sudden death behind these swords will be the subject of an article to be published in a future issue of the Military Historical Society Bulletin.

## The Queen's Regiment

### Our 1st Battalion

The following is an extract from The Queensman, the monthly News Letter of The Queen's Regiment, and refers to the commemoration of Sobraon Day.

"The route was lined by all ranks as the Colour was marched from the Officers Mess to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. The Band and Drums preceded the Colour Party and the Colour itself was carried by Sgt Maye of Kirke's Company. In accordance with tradition, the Colour was then entrusted to the safe keeping of the Mess for the remainder of that day—a unique and well celebrated occasion."

The Battalion has just completed its fifth tour in Northern Ireland. The period up to the so-called Ceasefire was fairly quiet, but since then there has been much of the senseless violence which characterises relations between the communities in that "distressful country". The doggedness and persistence of routine patrols and searches has continued to yield good results, and the Battalion has secured several notable hauls of arms and ammunition.

## The Families

The grass widows of the 1st Battalion are producing their own journal, called "Frustrations". This lively and amusing publication must do much to boost the morale of the separated families of our 1st Battalion. Contributions come from mothers and children: there is a crossword puzzle, cartoons, photographs and news of Wives Club activities. The following notices were published in the Advertisement Section of the last issue of "Frustrations".

### For Sale

Army wife—well worn, in good working order, well-upholstered. One previous owner.

Tea maker, male, 12 years old. Heavy on fuel, but good worker. No reasonable offer refused.

Double bed. One half in perfect condition through lack of usage. Would suit lady who sleeps on left side.

### Wanted

FREEDOM!!!

## 5th (Volunteer) Bn

The Battalion took part in lining the route for the funeral of Colonel The Duke of Norfolk, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, on 31 January, 1975.

## 6th and 7th (Volunteer) Bns

The 6th and 7th Battalions amalgamated to form the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment with effect from 1 April, 1975. Battalion HQ is at Horsham, and companies at Farnham, Hornsey, Crawley and Wandsworth.

## News of the Associations

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

As members of the Association will know, our Chairman and Hon. Secretary have recently retired.

Captain J. McCoy, the Chairman, joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1919 and served in India, China and Palestine. Mac, as he has been known throughout his six years as Chairman, has done much to promote the friendship and comradeship for which our Association is known, and we are grateful for his help and guidance. Mac is going to the United States for a prolonged stay and consequently feels he would be unable to continue as Chairman of the Association when abroad. The Committee has agreed, but insist that Mac should remain a member of the Committee. The new Chairman is Major J. C. Cox, MBE, who is already Hon. Treasurer of the Association.

Arthur Scriven enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1920 and served in the 1st Battalion in Egypt, Sudan, Hong Kong and India. On the outbreak of War, he was appointed Orderly Room Sergeant of the 6th Battalion and served in North Africa and Italy. He finally retired as ORQMS and civilian chief clerk from the Territorial Army in 1967.

Arthur became Hon. Secretary of our Association 12 years ago and we could not have been better served. Conscientious, methodical and far-sighted, he has taken endless trouble over Association affairs. He has produced our News Letter and, with the aid of a small working committee, has organised our social functions. One knew that whatever Arthur did would be well done. Quiet, patient and kindly, Arthur Scriven was popular with all our members. We are glad to report that he, too, will remain a member of our Committee. The new Secretary is Mr Tom Shaw of 5 Picquets Way, Banstead, Surrey.

## 2/4th Queen's OCA

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon, on 3 May, with Mr Harry Mann, MBE, in the chair. This was a special occasion representing 50 years since the foundation of the OCA and there was a good gathering of Old Comrades, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to be present. Among the company were a number who had taken part in the landings at Suvla Bay in August 1915, and one sprightly veteran of 93.

Congratulations were offered to Mr Mann on his Diamond Wedding, celebrated the week before; and in token of his dedicated and tireless work as Secretary of the Association over so many years, a cheque was presented to him, the tribute being acclaimed with musical honours.

## The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

After a lapse of three years this Association returned to our native heath at Old Jamaica Road for our Reunion Dinner. By courtesy of the Royal Marines Reserve the present incumbents of the modern Training Centre, we sat down to dine in the O.Rs club followed by the use of the WO/Sgts Mess for liquid refreshments. As a break from tradition it was held this year in the Spring and not in late Autumn as of yore. Friday, April 25th was the date in question and seventy members and guests sat down to a very fine meal, the pièce de résistance—steak and kidney pudding that great standby of the proletariat.

Guest of honour was our old adjutant and friend of former years Major General R. N. S. Mans, CBE, who unerringly found his way despite the massive rebuilding since his tenure of duty here. That he is no stranger to these parts was evident in some of the anecdotes he related during his after dinner chat. We are also inclined to believe that he came to give the old place the "once over" and to see if the "bootnecks" are treating us well. He need have no fear on that score because we are treated like long lost brothers and to prove it both the Commanding Officer, RMR Lt Col J. Champion, VRD, RMR, and his adjutant Capt J. Noot, RM, attended this function as our guests, faithfully upholding the traditions of their Corps they were among the few survivors late that evening.

We also welcomed Major J. Reed from Kingston who proved to be a real gourmet, his appreciation of the main course was almost lyrical. Two former Resistance

members from La Sarcelle, Ghent also joined in the spirit of the occasion as did Lt Col John Mason, DSO, making one of his rare appearances before dashing off to the States on business matters. Finally our President Colonel Geoffrey Bevington, TD, was to be seen making the most of it before departing on a transcontinental tour of Canada.

It would be churlish to close this account without mention of those members who worked so hard to make this function a success. To those who came many miles just to be there and last but not least those worthies the Black Caterers Ltd and the marines behind the bar.

## Presentation to Colonel G. J. Bevington, TD

After a lapse of some years, during which the Association was kept alive only by the sterling efforts of a devoted Committee, the 6th (Bermondsey) Bn The Queen's Royal Regt OCA returned officially to their old home on the corner of Jamaica and Abbey Streets, albeit under a new roof, that of the RMVFR.

Although some of the Committee Meetings have been held in the Queen's Room, allocated for that purpose, the first Social Evening was held on the 8th February, 1975, when a very good number of members came from places far and near.

Advantage was taken of the opportunity to make a surprise presentation to Colonel J. G. Bevington, TD, as a mark of appreciation for all he has done throughout the years for the Bermondsey Queen's, and the local community.

Continuing the family tradition of service to the community (his grandfather was 1st Mayor of Bermondsey in addition to commanding the unit) he followed his grandfather and father in voluntary service, their combined services to the unit extending over 100 years. As 2IC he was with the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regt when it went to France in 1939 and was severely wounded early 1940; after nearly two years in hospital, he returned to serve in the Mediterranean theatre although unfit for front line service.

After the war, he continued his interest in the Bn, eventually following Gen Sir Ivor Hughes (his Commanding Officer in 1939) as Honorary Colonel, and it is due to his untiring efforts on behalf of the Association that they have been granted facilities in the new buildings. General R. S. N. Mans, CBE, who, as Adjutant, reformed the Bn in 1947, was invited to make the presentation but unfortunately a "bug" had the temerity to attack him and Major John Reed, from RHQ Kingston was told literally at the last moment, as he entered the building, that he was to deputise for the Deputy Colonel. (It was gratifying to note at a later function that General Mans had fully recovered his usual good form and bonhomie: what happened to the "bug" is not recorded!)

Major Reed performed his task valiantly and helped to maintain the surprise to the very last moment, for Colonel Bevington was possibly the only person in the Club Room who thought that he was to be presented on behalf of the OCA with a Queen's Regimental flag

which had been embroidered by Mrs R. Nice, wife of the last Commanding Officer of the 6th Queen's.

Major Reed, assisted by the Chairman and Secretary, removed the flag, exposing before Col Bevington's unbelieving eyes a salver, suitably engraved, with 6 matching goblets and cut glass mounted jug. It was a very moving moment as he stood to applause from the Members and a very fitting one for such a man to realise that all his efforts and service through the long years to The Regiment and others have been appreciated.

This was indeed the highlight of a very successful and enjoyable evening, and augurs well for future festivities which it is hoped will be held with the consent of the Commanding Officer, RMVFR and his Staff to whom all grateful thanks for their help and assistance.

## 2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The twenty-ninth Reunion Dinner was held on 22nd March at The Stag, Bressenden Place, SW1. The comparatively low attendance again of about 55 members was no doubt partly due to the early Easter this year.

However this was relieved to some extent by an innovation introduced by Hugh Scammell, MC, the Chairman of the Dinner Club. Messages from a number of members who could not attend, and from places as far apart as Kenya and Lancashire, had been pre-recorded on cassette and were then broadcast to the assembled gathering. Your readers can no doubt imagine the fund of reminiscent ribbing this produced.

Those present included two of our "regulars", Colonel J. W. (Toby) Sewell, author of the successful pocket history "More than Twice a Hero", and Colonel David Blum. They will be serving together again shortly when they both take up new appointments — in Berkeley Square!

It was remarked by Lt Col Cecil Falk, MC, TD, who commanded the Battalion on its formation, when the TA was doubled after Munich, that Col E. A. Rose, CBE, the Battalion's keen and generous Honorary Colonel throughout its existence, is now 96 and still going strong.

As usual a very good time was had by all, thanks to the efforts of Harry Neale, our Honorary Secretary to whom members expressed their continuing gratitude.

## From Here and There

### Legacies

We record our thanks and pay tribute to three East Surrey officers who have remembered the old soldiers of their Regiment in their wills. In order of receipt, the legacies are:

Major J. H. Johnson, MBE, TD, the sum of £10. Major Johnson's obituary appears in this issue.

Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, the last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment, the sum of £100.

Major A. L. Sutton, MC, the residue of his estate. It is expected that The East Surrey Regiment Charitable Fund will benefit by something like £29,000. This magnificent legacy, typical of the generous nature of "Rosie" Sutton, will be a very welcome addition to the Regimental funds.

#### Donations

We are grateful to all those members who have sent donations or added "a little extra" to their News Letter subscriptions or Reunion tickets. Our thanks are specially due to G. R. Aldridge, W. H. Arnold, H. F. Clayton, D. G. Coles, S. J. W. Lewis-Wheatley, R. J. Tedman, S. J. Traylen and G. Vaughan.

#### Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs R. H. J. Catchpole of 22 Shirley Road, Enfield, Middlesex, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 13 October, 1974, and to Mr and Mrs H. Mann of 22 Woodland Way, Shirley, Croydon, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 26 April, 1975.

#### Where are they now?

Mr H. F. Cox (6140928), known to many in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment as "Jumbo", is seeking information on the following old friends who were in the bag with him.

Pte Edward Ashburn Musk (858622) B Coy  
Cpl Edwin Ernest Oatley (858449) HQ Coy

Information, please, to Mr Cox, Bydand, Promenade, Leven, Fife, Scotland KY8 4HY. Mr Cox, who was a despatch rider in the 2nd Battalion, will be pleased to correspond with anyone who knew him during his service—1934 to 1946.

Mr J. G. Oliver (6136942), who served in the 1st Surreys in India, and in the 1/6th and 2/6th during the War asks for news of

L/Cpl Spooner A Coy 1 Surreys.

Mr Oliver's address is 118 Mendip Crescent, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

#### News from Cyprus

The last issue of the News Letter contained a description by Brigadier D. G. Loch of the appalling conditions in his village of Karakoumi after the Turkish invasion of last summer. "Duggie", displaying the qualities of fortitude and toughness for which he was known, stood up to the invaders; and by his courage and the force of his personality, succeeded in getting some measure of protection for his villagers.

It is sad to record in this issue the death of that stout-hearted man who did so much for others.

#### 'Jeb'

Major F. J. Snowdon sends this reminiscence of the late Major F. J. Jebens.

"Frank Jebens was a training officer at Annual Camps with the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) and later 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was educated at Dulwich, and was in many ways directly responsible for some ten Old Alleynians joining this battalion as officers.

"In 1942 I was lucky enough to meet Jeb as a member of AMGOT (irreverently known as 'Ancient Military Gentlemen On Tour') at Algiers. As usual, he was his dry and crusty self, waiting for his entry into Europe. Later he was delighted to recall this finale to his military career."

#### Old Contemptible

Earlier this year there was correspondence in the Daily Telegraph on the subject of the youngest Old Contemptible. A letter was published on 16th April from Mr L. Child which ran, "I enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in September 1913 as a man. I landed in France on 16th August, 1914, and was in actual combat at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 23rd August, 1914. My date of birth is 24th May, 1898. I was 16 years and 3 months when I was in combat."

Older members of The East Surrey Regiment will remember Len Child. He was a sergeant in the 1st Battalion and still under 20 when awarded the DCM for gallantry in the Polderhoek fighting of 1917. He was wounded in May 1918, but returned to the 1st Battalion, serving with them overseas until 1928. After service at the Depot and in the 2nd Battalion, CSM Child was posted as PSI to the 6th Territorial Battalion from which unit he took his discharge in 1934.

Mr Child, who was 78 in May, lost his elder son serving in the 1st Parachute Regiment in North Africa in 1943. His younger son won the DFM as a Warrant Officer Air Gunner in 1944 and is now in Australia.

#### The Old and Bold

Mr H. W. Smith (9474) who is 85 wonders if he is the oldest old sweat. He joined The East Surrey Regiment on 11 March, 1908, and served in both Regular battalions. After being wounded in France he was declared unfit for further service in the Army. Nothing daunted, he transferred to the Royal Air Force, served for 36 years and finished as a WO1.

#### New Member

The latest old soldier to join the Regimental Association enlisted as long ago as 1914. He is Mr W. Meads (L/10634) who went to France with the 2nd Queen's in October 1914. He had the misfortune to lose an eye at the First Battle of Ypres, and was invalided out of the Service in July 1915.

Mr. Meads is Hon Secretary of the Slough Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association.

#### Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The latest Regimental entrant to the Royal Hospital is Mr F. G. Tanner (6137666), who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1927 to 1939. On mobilisation he was transferred to the Intelligence Corps in which he served throughout the War, retiring with the rank of WO2. After the War Mr Tanner became a Chancery Guard under the Foreign Office, and up to a few years ago was working at the Hague.

#### Return to civil life

Most of Mr W. H. Green's long service has been in the RAOC, but he served from 1956 to 1958 in The East Surrey Regiment before transferring to RASC, and he has been a loyal supporter of our Regimental Association ever since. Like many another soldier, Bill Green did not find it easy to settle back into civilian life. He writes:

"Two jobs I found, and was beginning to enjoy, when I found myself redundant after a short period in both. However in July this year my luck changed. I applied for, and got a job as Manager of a Branch of Milwards, the Shoe Retailers, and I am now settling down, and am extremely happy. My Branch is at Portslade, near Brighton, I have a good staff, and I feel my service life and training is standing me in good stead. If any of my old friends from the Surreys are down this way, I do hope they will call in and look me up. The shop is located in Station Road, Portslade, just outside the Station."

#### Ex-Queen's Surrey

We hear that ex-CSM John Partridge, who served in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) before returning to his native Australia, has started a new job as Records Officer for the New South Wales Government Archives at Sydney.

#### Good Shot

Bill Meaker, who is still working as an armourer at REME, Bordon, won the Veterans Trophy at the National Pistol Meeting at Bisley in 1974.

#### Director of Music

Mr Victor Slater (6090345 1/5 Queen's), son of Mr "Mick" Slater who was almost part of Stoughton Barracks between the Wars, leads a full life as this letter written last year shows:

"My year has been busier than ever. I am the Director of Music of a large boys' school in Horsham and I have built up a very useful Brass Band. We are in constant demand at various fêtes through the summer, and evening concerts in the winter. This year, we will be playing Carols at Westminster Abbey, the second time in three years.

"My teaching day is from 8.30 a.m. non-stop to 5.30 p.m., breaks given to choir or special instrumental coaching and lunch on a tray as I work with the band. In the evenings I try and catch up with marking.

"For the past 4 years I have been the UK Director of an International Music Festival, held during the summer holidays. I then tour as general 'uncle' and guest conductor to various American Youth Bands who tour through Europe. This year the tour covered England, Holland, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. This year I was honoured by the American Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus by being made an Honorary Member of the International Board for services to Youth and Music. This will give you some idea of the full life I live."

#### Kathie, come Home

The last News Letter reported news of a racehorse with Regimental connections. His Honour Commander L. K. A. Block, brother of the late Brigadier Allen Block, told us it was intended to name his wife's latest filly "Braganza".

Commander Block has now written as follows to Major General Ling:

"Dear General,

The filly has at last been named. The Jockey Club wouldn't have 'Braganza' as a horse of that name has not yet been dead for 10 years! 'Katherine of Braganza' has too many letters, so the result is, using the name of the filly's dam, 'Kathie of Braganza'. I hope you will not think that too flippant of an erstwhile Royal Personage.

Yours sincerely,  
David Block."

#### Third Battle of Ypres

1977 sees the 60th anniversary of the Third Battle of Ypres. To commemorate the occasion the BBC intend to broadcast a series of four documentary programmes, and a book on the operations by Lyn Macdonald will be published by Messrs Hutchinson in July 1977.

The BBC wish to record reminiscences, no matter how slight or trivial they might appear to be, of readers who served in the Ypres Sector between June and November 1917. Anyone willing to take part in these recordings, should contact Lyn Macdonald, Room 830, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA as soon as possible.

#### Shoulder titles

Major Charles Cowie, founder of Crown Imperial historical society, referring to the item in the last News Letter, writes:

Brass titles were worn as under:

#### Surreys

In straight bar. Apart from this title being worn by the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, I have seen a photograph of Sgt Hollick, Chertsey Company, 6th Battalion, taken in South Africa in 1900, wearing a brass title "Surreys".

#### E. Surrey

This was the title most commonly used in both Line battalions.

Two years ago I was given a pair of white metal titles with the letters E.S.R., but I fear that these were of the Egyptian State Railways!

## Pipe Smokers

A number of old soldiers remember permission being given for men to smoke pipes on the line of march, but no one seems to know how this custom originated. As recently as 1952 this paragraph appeared under "March Discipline" in the Regimental Standing Orders of The Queen's Royal Regiment:

"Smoking cigarettes on the line of march is forbidden, but pipes may be smoked after the first halt with the approval of the Commanding Officer."

The custom is also referred to in "Route Marchin'," one of Kipling's Barrack Room Ballads, published in 1892. The soldier describes the "regiment a-comin' down the Grand Trunk Road . . . An' every bloomin' campin' ground exactly like the last." Then, after striking camp and the start of the day's march—

"Oh, then it's open order, an' we lights our pipes an' sings."

A letter on this subject appears in the Correspondence section.

## Bugle Calls

"What are the bugles blowin' for?" said Files-on-Parade.

"To turn you out! To turn you out!" the Colour Sergeant said.

A few years ago we published an article on the bugle calls which used to regulate a soldier's day. We thought that this might prove an interesting topic for old soldiers, and invited our readers to send us the words associated with the more familiar bugle calls. Our optimism was somewhat misplaced, because out of 850 readers, one answered. However, our old correspondent, ex-Sgt C. S. A. Avis in South Africa has come to the rescue with some extracts from Ernest Partridge's book "The Long Trail". Here are some of them.

### Rouse

Get out of bed! Get out of bed!  
You lazy bastards.

There's one more day to serve the King.

### Quarter Dress

A quarter of an hour to do it in.

### Parade

Fall in A! Fall in B!  
Fall in all the Company.

### Guard Mounting

Come and do a picket, boys,  
Come and do a guard.  
Tisn't very easy, boys,  
Tisn't very hard.

### Alternative version

Come and do your duty, boys,  
Come and do your guard.  
You think it very easy, boys,  
You'll find it very hard.

### Sick Parade

Sixty-four, ninety-four!  
He'll never go sick no more.  
The poor blighter's dead.

Some of the words above have had to be watered down a bit for printing. Corrections and additions would be welcomed from our readers. Does anyone remember the words of the Officers Mess Dinner Call, beginning: "The officers' wives get puddens and pies", and what was the name of the meal-time call with the words, "Pick 'em up, pick 'em up, hot potatoes"?

## The Guildford Boys

In the last News Letter we asked for the words of the 5th Queen's pre-War marching song. We are indebted to Mr E. G. Woodward, who served with that battalion some 50 years ago, who remembered the words of the song and recalled that "Old Pongo" was Captain Ponsonby, OC C Coy at the time.

Another correspondent, Mr J. B. Homersham, MBE, writes: "I well remember the 5th Queen's marching song. I also remember Pongo. He was Major Lord Sysonby who was 2IC 5th Queen's when Colonel Palmer was CO. C(S) Coy, who were based at Sandfield Terrace, Guildford, and the Drill Hall at Haslemere, often carried out route marches on a Sunday to Blackheath, near Guildford. They usually arrived at the Volunteer Arms at lunch time, and haversack lunch was taken with several pints of ale. After lunch the Company returned to Guildford via Chilworth and Halfpenny Lane, where Colonel Wigan, a former CO of 5th Queen's lived and still does, at a house called 'Farthings'.

The Company would march on to the lawn where Colonel Wigan always supplied a barrel of beer. After drinking the beer and giving three cheers for the Colonel, the march would be resumed down Warren Road accompanied by the Band and Drums which had met them. The last part of the march was down York Road to the Drill Hall; and it was there the troops would burst into song, being by this time well oiled. The words of the song were as follows:

We are the Guildford Boys!  
We are the Guildford Boys!  
We know our manners, we spend our tanners,  
We're respected wherever we go.  
As we march down the old York Road  
Doors and windows open out.  
You could hear Old Pongo shout,  
'Put those bloody woodbines out!'  
We are the Guildford Boys!

Whilst this was going on, the order would come, "March to Attention", and Pongo would ride along on his horse shouting, "Put those bloody Woodbines out!"

Pongo came to France with us in 1939 and distinguished himself with the Carrier Platoon, winning the DSO. After Dunkirk he went to Commandos; and when the War was over lived in South Africa, where he died. He was a man's man and an inspiring leader.

Footnote: Another snippet I forgot to mention about Pongo is that he wore a monocle which I never saw him without—in bed or out of bed, in or out of action."

## Our Man in Saigon

Lt Colonel G. G. Strong, who was Military Attaché in Saigon, did not have to put on his running shoes before the fall of the capital. He was evacuated to Singapore at the time the British Embassy to South Vietnam was closed down, and is now back in the United Kingdom.

## Correspondence

From: Capt E. G. M. Roe  
Wembury  
Norwood Lane  
Meopham  
Kent DA13 0YE  
18 March, 1975

To: Editor  
Regimental Association News Letter

Dear Major Hill,  
*Beardies*

A reader inquires in News Letter No. 16 of November, 1974, if anyone remembers a bearded Pioneer Sergeant before the 1939-45 War. I have a photograph of one at home, taken in 1899 or 1900. Incidentally, I have a query: why is there no similar tradition for Farrier Sergeants in the Cavalry?

### The Pipe Man

The reason given for the pipe-smoker to be allowed to puff away on the march was that it left no identifiable trace of his passing; a cigarette end was likely to bear the manufacturer's name, and therefore provided useful evidence for enemy scouts. Cigarette smokers, after a halt, were expected to save their butts in a tin.

This was the reason given in print at the time of the Retreat from Mons. See an early issue of "The War Illustrated" referring to Queen Mary's gift of tobacco to each soldier.

Yours sincerely,  
E. G. M. Roe, Capt,  
late of The East Surrey Regiment.

From: Mr E. Bradish  
20 Alexandra Road  
Whitstable  
Kent CT5 4LR

To: Editor  
Regimental Association News Letter

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my subscription for the 1975 Regimental Association News Letter. It is well worth the cost: I enjoy it very much.

It interested me to hear about the reader who wanted to know about beards being worn by Pioneer Sgts. Sorry I can't help here, but it does recall to me another matter of a beard.

When I joined in 1912 my Company Commander was Capt Turner, and he wore a beard plus a monocle. He was a fine looking man with his elegant pointed beard. He was the only officer in the British Army

(excluding native regiments) allowed to wear a beard and he had a special dispensation from the King to do this. When he went to France in March 1915 I guess he little knew what awkward moments his beard would cause him—particularly in the line, when he came in contact with Regiments on our flanks at night, only to be taken for a German spy. It was also good to see the look on the faces of inspecting Generals and their staff when they came face to face with this phenomenon. Glad to say he survived and graced our reunions many times.

Yours sincerely,  
E. Bradish.

(Editor's note: Mr Bradish served in the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) from 1912 to 1919.)

From: Captain C. M. Estall, MC  
Woodlands  
Kingsford Hill  
Colchester, CO2 0HT.  
18 February, 1975.

To: Editor  
Regimental Association News Letter  
Dear Major Hill,

I thank you for the East Surrey Regiment Christmas card. As one of the originals of the 8th Battalion—I served with them from their formation in 1914 until disbandment in 1919—I examined the picture of the soldier playing the mouth organ, as it was known then, with a critical eye. I consider that it is near perfect—right down to the leather equipment which Service battalions were issued with in those days.

The only criticism I have is that we did not have brass titles, but a kind of cloth title that slipped over the shoulder strap. I can still remember those wretched leather pouches—a bandolier of 50 rounds and 10 loose in each pouch, which made it hang down in a most uncomfortable manner. I wonder what the young fellow is supposed to be playing—perhaps "Après la guerre fini" or one other of those dreadful parodies we used to sing. Dreadful, but also happy days.

Sincerely,  
C. Estall.

(Editor's note: "Tom" Estall was one of the few Warrant Officers to be awarded the Military Cross in the 1914-18 War. He later became RSM of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, and is now a member of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard.)

From: Mr Denis Borman  
1158 S.W. Royal Villa Drive  
Tigard  
Oregon  
USA 97223.  
8 March, 1975.

To: Editor  
Regimental Association News Letter  
Dear Sir,

I served in the 1st/7th Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1946, and in the 2nd Bn from 1946 to 1948. Upon termination of my service I emigrated

to the United States of America. I plan to return to England for a short visit in June of this year. I am most desirous of contacting other members of the 1st/7th who are still surviving, especially those who were at Dunkirk, the North African and Italian campaigns and Normandy. I am wondering if you could help me in this respect by supplying me with a list of names and recent addresses, or put me in touch with anyone who could, as this will be my last and only chance to see them again.

I remain

Yours respectfully,

Denis Borman

(Ex-Sgt 5439026 1st/7th QRR).

## Chapels and Memorials

### Regimental Chapels

#### The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

Last year a new altar frontal was installed in the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Chapel in Guildford Cathedral in time for the Regimental Association's Annual Service in the Cathedral.

#### The Queen's Royal Regiment

The altar kneeler in the Chapel of The Queen's Royal Regiment in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford has recently been refurbished and a new carpet has been provided.

#### The East Surrey Regiment

It is hoped towards the end of this year to instal in the East Surrey Regiment Chapel at Kingston upon Thames, memorial panels to the late Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, and Major A. L. Sutton, MC.

### Memorials

#### East Surrey Memorials in Jersey

Mr C. A. Smith, who joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1921, has sent the following note after a visit to Jersey.

"We paid a visit to St Peter's Church in St Peter's village. When troops were stationed in St Peter's Barracks, Jersey, this was the Garrison Church. Walking around the churchyard we found the graves of two men of the 1st Battalion who were stationed in Jersey in the early nineteen hundreds, and of Sgt J. Bates of the 2nd Battalion who was there from 1924 to 1927.

"I knew Jimmy Bates well and at one time was in his platoon. He was an excellent platoon sergeant and a strict disciplinarian, but was liked and respected by all ranks. His death was a blow to all of us who knew him."

#### The late Major A. L. Sutton, MC

The death of one of the great characters of The East Surrey Regiment, and almost certainly its most popular member, is reported elsewhere in this News Letter.

Major Sutton left instructions that there were to be no flowers at his funeral, but if anyone wished to make a donation, it should be to The East Surrey Regiment Charitable Fund. Such has been the response that over

£200 has been subscribed already.

If any reader missed the announcement in the papers of Major Sutton's death, and would have liked to have made a donation in his memory, remittances may be sent to the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

## Regimental Archives

### Historical Records of the Queen's Royal Regiment

Can any reader let us have for the Regimental archives a copy of "An Infantry Company in Arakan and Kohima" by Major M. A. Lowry, MC? Colonel Lowry, who commanded B Coy 1 Queen's during the campaign, recalls that there were copies of his book in the Officers Mess at Stoughton Barracks, but they do not appear to have been seen since the Amalgamation.

We will pay postage on any book sent in.

Mr Stedman, a keen student of the history of The Queen's Royal Regiment, wishes to buy Volume IX (1948-1959) of the Regimental History and old Queen's Regimental Journals. Anyone prepared to sell copies should get in touch with Mr I. Stedman, 12 The Mount, Cranleigh, Surrey, stating prices required.

### Regimental Journals of the East Surrey Regiment

The following issues of the Journal of The East Surrey Regiment are required for the Regimental archives:

Volume	No	Date
I	5	Aug 20
I	7	Feb 21
I	8	May 21
III	55	Feb 33
III	64	May 35
III	65	Aug 35
III	66	Nov 35
III	67	Feb 36
III	68	May 36
VII	2	May 56
VII	3	Nov 56

If anyone can spare some of these issues, we will be pleased to refund postage.

## Deaths

**Cornwall**—In April, 1974, Cpl Albert William Cornwall (6077302), aged 78. Served in The Dorset Regiment in the 1914-18 War and in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1926.

**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.

**White**—On 28th July, 1974, Major Daniel John White, aged 64. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1929 to 1939 and in 2/6th Queen's and 2/7th Queen's until 1949.

**Lee**—In September, 1974, Sgt Charles Lee, aged 90. "Jigger" Lee, who will be remembered as a cricketer, finished his service in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Rawalpindi in 1929 and started a new career in an oil company in the Persian Gulf.

**Howlett**—On 10th November, 1974, Pte Charles Harold Howlett (6083875), aged 62. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1953.

**Leavey**—On 16th November, 1974, RSM W. F. A. Leavey (6132066), aged 70. Bill Leavey served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1920 to 1953 and will be remembered as a fine boxer and trainer. After retirement, he served in the War Department Constabulary.

**Hurley**—On 17th November, 1974, Cpl Frederick Rowland Hurley (6134606), aged 71. Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1920 to 1924.

**Barrett**—On 20th November, 1974, Pte Joseph George Barrett (1317), aged 79. Served in the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1919 and was wounded at Le Cateau.

**Crafter**—On 20th November, 1974, Lt Col Francis William Crafter, aged 78. Frank Crafter served in the 12th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and was commissioned in 1918 after five years in the ranks. Between the Wars he was Adjutant of the 6th Surreys and then joined the 2nd Battalion in Malaya when he had the misfortune to become a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

**Julian**—On 29th November, 1974, Sgt C. H. Julian. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

**Bullen**—On 1st December, 1974, Pte Frederick Percy Bullen (674), aged 97. He joined the Volunteers in 1900 and transferred to the Regular Army on the outbreak of War. He served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1918 when he was discharged as unfit for further service. Fred Bullen died within three weeks of his 98th birthday and was probably our oldest soldier.

**Johnson**—On 8th December, 1974, Major John Harvey Johnson, MBE, TD, aged 54. He was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment from the HAC in 1939 and was posted to the 1/6th Battalion. He was wounded in the withdrawal from Belgium and was taken prisoner in the Casualty Clearing Station. See obituary.

**Coughlin**—On 21st December, 1974, Pte Frederick Arthur Edward Coughlin (6076620), aged 76. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1927.

**Sutton**—On 21st December, 1974, Major Arthur Louis Sutton, MC, aged 77. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1959. See obituary.

**Russell**—On 24th December, 1974, Lt R. H. L. Russell, MC, TD. Served in the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the 1939-45 War, and won his MC for bringing in a wounded man under fire at St. Valéry.

**Brand**—In January, 1975, Sgt Christopher John Brand (2169), aged 83. Enlisting on 5th August, 1914, he served in 1/5th Queen's in India and Mesopotamia and later in 128 Coy MGC. He was discharged in 1919, but served again in the 1939-45 War in 5th (Surrey) Bn, Home Guard.

**Cotterill**—On 5th January, 1975, L/Cpl Victor Howard Bruce Cotterill, aged 60. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and was severely wounded in France in May 1940.

**Comerford**—On 10th January, 1975, Pte George Gilbert Comerford (6084540), aged 63. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1944.

**Loch**—On 11th January, 1975, in Cyprus, Brigadier Douglas Gordon Loch, OBE, aged 63. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1931 to 1963. See obituary.

**Reynolds**—On 24th January, 1975, Pte Frank Thomas Reynolds (10438), aged 80. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1913-1919, and was wounded in France while serving in the 1st Battalion.

**Mollison**—On 27th January, 1975, Major T. H. R. Mollison, MBE, aged 61. Terence Mollison served in the 70th, 11th and re-formed 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War, and was awarded the MBE for his work on the Embarkation Staff (NW Europe) 1944-45.

**Secretan**—On 1st February, 1975, in South Africa, Captain Humphrey Basil Secretan, MC, aged 87. Served in the 2n Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1918. See obituary.

**Ashton**—On 5th February, 1975, Major Laurence Charles Ashton, MC, TD, aged 63. Served in the 23rd London Regiment and in the 42nd Royal Tank Regiment in the 1939-45 War.

**Wright**—On 10th February, 1975, CSM Charles John Wright (6083300). Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1926 to 1942. He will be remembered as a first rate boxer.

**Vesey**—On 19th February, 1975, General Sir Ivo Lucius Beresford Vesey, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, aged 98. Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939-1945. See obituary.

**Cross**—On 5th March, 1975, Sgt Albert Edward Cross, aged 54. After the 1939-45 War, Ted Cross served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment and as a PSI in 4th Queen's Surreys (TA).

**Wool-Lewis**—On 22nd March, 1975, Captain Cyril Eric Wool-Lewis, OBE, aged 68. Commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1927, he was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force in 1932. After a period as Assistant Commissioner of Police, Sierra Leone, he transferred to the Colonial Administration Service in 1936. He remained on the Regular Army Reserve of Officers until 1945.

**Flint**—On 26th March, 1975, Lt Colonel James Edwin Flint, TD, aged 66. During the 1939-45 War, Jimmy Flint served with the 2nd Queen's and was adjutant of the Queen's 22 Column in Burma. He joined the 6th Queen's (TA) as second in Command in 1947 and commanded the Battalion from 1950 to 1954.

**Cripps**—On 4th April, 1975, Sgt Leonard George Cripps, MM, (9821), aged 84. Served in the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1911 to 1919. He was twice wounded in the 1914-18 War and was awarded the Military Medal.

**Lancaster**—On 6th April, 1975, Brigadier Edmund Henry Lancaster, CB, aged 94. Served in the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1900 to 1903 when he transferred to the Indian Army. Brigadier Lancaster had been a generous supporter of the Regimental Association for 54 years.

**Mills**—On 8th April, 1975, Lt Colonel Alfred Frank Mills, OBE, MC. He served in The Devonshire Regiment in the 1914-18 War, and in The Royal Pioneer Corps in the 1939-45 War. Before and after the last War, Colonel Mills served in the 23rd London Regiment and was a Vice-President of their Old Comrades Association at the time of his death.

**Fry**—On 22nd April, 1975, Pte Albert Samuel Fry (6142062), aged 54. Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1937 to 1942, when he was discharged on medical grounds.

**Weller**—On 22nd April, 1975, Captain A. ("Sam") Weller, aged 68. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 to 1948.

**Born**—On 9th May, 1975, Pte Alfred William Norton Born (6692), aged 78. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1919. See obituary.

## Regimental Families

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

**Warner**—On 10th October, 1974, Mrs Margaret Venus Warner, wife of Captain A. E. Warner, late The Queen's Royal 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.

**Jennings**—On 23rd December, 1974, Mrs Jane Jennings, wife of Colonel M. T. N. Jennings, CBE, late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Tufnell**—On 12th January, 1975, Mrs Frances Mary Adelaide (Daisy) Tufnell, widow of Colonel A. W. Tufnell, CMG, The Queen's Royal Regiment, in her 100th year. Mrs. Tufnell was President of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion at Odiham for nearly 20 years, and resigned at the age of 98.

**Stone**—On 31st March, 1975, Mrs Beatrice Lilian Gordon Stone, wife of Lt Colonel C. J. Stone, late The East Surrey Regiment.

**Block**—On 18th April, 1975, Mrs Harriet Loveday Glanville Block, widow of Brigadier Allen Pritchard Block, CB, CBE, DSO, late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Obituaries

### Major J. H. Johnson, MBE, TD

I first met Johnnie as a Prisoner of War in our Camp at Laufen in Germany about July 1940. At that time he can only have been a little over eighteen years of age, and though there must have been something over ten years between us, we started a friendship that was to last for over thirty years.

Those early POW days were much more difficult for the younger man, because of the near starvation diet, yet Johnnie showed a maturity beyond his years: always in good spirits and making the best of life. I particularly remember that he had somehow managed to arrive in captivity with his silver East Surrey Regimental badges, and these were always sparkling. He spent five years as a POW moving to camps at Warburg in Central Germany, and finally Eichstätt near the Austrian frontier, and was released about May or June of 1945.

After the war Johnnie spent the minimum time in rehabilitation and soon got himself posted to the reformed 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment about August 1945, sailing for Palestine some three months later. He served as a Company Second in Command for between two and three years in both Palestine and at El Ballah in the Canal Zone.

He returned to civil life in June 1948, but the Regiment was always his great interest. He became an active member of the 6th (Territorial) Battalion and used to travel considerable distances for training and Regimental functions. He retired in 1970 after 30 years' service, and was awarded a well deserved MBE.

Johnnie's was a happy, cheerful nature—he much enjoyed

the company of his fellows and he was popular with all ranks. I am sure I am one of many who will miss him as a personal friend.

R.G.D.B.

### Major A. L. Sutton, MC

Arthur Louis Sutton was born in June 1897. Educated at Whitgift, where he was a member of the School XV, and commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst into The East Surrey Regiment, he joined the 3rd Bn at Dover in October 1915. It was there that his fresh complexion earned him the nickname "Rosie" by which he will be remembered by his countless friends who mourn his loss. In August 1916 he was posted to the 1st Bn in France where he served continuously until the end of hostilities, gaining the award of the Military Cross for gallantry in action in May 1918.

After the War he remained with the 1st Bn for the next six years, seeing service in North Russia, Egypt, Sudan and Hong Kong, until posted home as Adjutant of the Depot in October 1924, where his enthusiasm for cricket and hockey was afforded full scope. On completion of his tour of duty at the Depot, Rosie joined the 2nd Bn in Gibraltar and shortly afterwards was appointed Adjutant. It was during this period of his service that those of us who had not been privileged to serve with him before soon came to recognise in him those qualities which were to command the respect and affection of all ranks.

After a period of duty as Staff Captain of an Infantry Brigade, Rosie was appointed Adjutant of the 5th Surreys (TA) at Wimbledon, where, in a new environment, he established friendships which were to last throughout his lifetime. After further service as Coy Comd with the 2nd Bn in Colchester and the 1st Bn in the Sudan, Rosie retired from the Active List in June 1939 only to be recalled from the Reserve three months later.

He then assumed the appointment of Administrative Officer at the Regimental Depot and Secretary to the Colonel of the Regiment, a post he was to fill with unflagging zeal and efficiency for the ensuing twenty years, during which generations of Surreys came to know, to respect and love him.

When in 1959 the time came for final retirement from Regimental Duty, instead of taking the rest so well deserved, Rosie chose characteristically to seek out further opportunities of helping others by undertaking case work with the St John's and Red Cross Ex-Services War Disabled Help Department and as Assistant Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

To describe Rosie Sutton's life as having been dedicated to his Regiment is no over-statement. Possessed of a keen intellect and balanced judgment, reinforced by his absolute integrity and selflessness, he applied these qualities unspareingly to the benefit of his fellows regardless of age, sex or position, and with a sympathetic understanding that surmounted any barriers of shyness or reserve. Blessed with an unfailing cheerfulness and keen sense of fun, so readily expressed by the memorable "Rosie laugh", he radiated a joy of living which made its impact on all with whom he came in contact.

And so he remained to the end, this generous, warm-hearted, Christian man who possessed that rare gift of seeing only the good in his fellows. We give thanks for his life and all the happiness he brought to so many.

F.M.

Mr F. P. J. Glover, MC, who was Intelligence Officer of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1916 to 1918, writes, "I cannot refrain from putting on record the impact Rosie Sutton made on me from the Winter of 1916 onwards when, as a very young officer, I served with him in the 1st East Surreys for nearly two years in France and Italy. His background, as a wartime graduate from Sandhurst, far outshone my less august military antecedents as a Special Reserve Officer, but this never influenced our cheer-

ful relationship although I was always conscious of his complete dedication to his duties, whether in the line or out of it.

Particularly I remember him in the rain soaked October of 1917, when the Battalion was withering away in the holocaust around Polderhoek Chateau, north of the Menin Road and he was commanding the remnants of two East Surrey companies attempting to survive in waterlogged shellholes after supporting an unsuccessful attack by another battalion in our Brigade. He was outwardly undaunted then, as again later, on a Spring afternoon in the following May, when he was responsible for the resolute assault by his company of an enemy position north of the River Lys which resulted in much official eulogy and the award of his Military Cross.

Neither success nor the lack of it, ever appeared to cloud his single-minded devotion to the well-being of everything and anyone associated with the Regiment and, down the years, he seemed to become a guide, philosopher and friend to the countless East Surreys with whom he came into contact at the Depot and elsewhere. For many of the diminishing band of officers who served with him in the 1st Bn in the 14/18 War he initiated and organised annual dinners with exhilarating results for all participants: we shall all miss him very much but will, I am sure, continue to cherish the loyalties he so self-effacingly kept alive.

He never grew weary of well-doing and this is my rather inadequate tribute to his life and work for which I and so many others who served in the Regiment had cause to be grateful.

The Rev John Harriott, SJ, known for his religious broadcasts, and whose name will be familiar to many old East Surreys, writes,

"As you may well imagine I am deeply saddened by the news of Major Sutton's death. For as long as I can remember Major Sutton has seemed more like a favourite uncle than a friend and personally I felt a real veneration as well as affection for him. I cannot think of anyone I have known during the course of my life who had a greater natural instinct for the difference between right and wrong, the true and the false. It was utterly impossible to imagine him stooping to anything mean or commonplace, and in all truth whenever I hear the often abused word "integrity" I always think of him as its embodiment. I am not the least surprised to learn that his circle of friends and his influence were so wide. It was always a delight and an inspiration to be in his company."

*Footnote:* Rosie Sutton meant so much to so many people that it has not been possible to print all the tributes to his memory. Perhaps they are best summed up in the words of one of his friends in the Queen's: "He was one of the nicest and kindest men I ever knew."

### Brigadier D. G. Loch, OBE

F.J.C.P. writes:

As a friend, since he and I and four others joined the 2nd Bn of the old Queen's Royal Regiment in 1931, I would like to pay a tribute to one of the Regiment's best known officers. It was the opinion, certainly among the 2nd Lieutenants of those days, that Duggie Loch had the qualities which would take him further in the Army than any of us. But after a promising start in the War (he was GSO 3 in Monty's Division in France; and a student at the Staff College at Camberley), he was badly wounded as a battalion Second-in-Command in the 1st Army. His batman followed him to the Casualty Clearing Station with his mail, which included the news that he was to get immediate command of a battalion. This was, of course, cancelled; but after a long and painful period of recuperation from his wounds, he became more or less a professional Staff College Instructor, not only for the British

Army, but in Australia and in Greece. In these jobs he made many friends and had a great influence for good. Eventually he became Commander of a District in Cyprus, and when he retired in 1963 he bought a citrus farm and settled in Kyrenia.

He was in the centre of the Turkish invasion of 1974, and remained stoutly defending his property. In fact he became the de facto King of Karakoumi, the little village where he lived. At times, threatened by Turkish soldiers, by his personality alone (backed up by his gardener's mattock) he kept them off, and eventually finished with an officer's squad of Turkish Military Police protecting the Greek Cypriot women and children remaining in his care. For the whole time he was financially responsible for feeding some 50-60 people. He kept a Diary, which is now in England, and which he hoped to see published; the benefits he had earmarked for the villagers of Karakoumi. He and his wife Peggy remained until he died in the British Military Hospital in Dhekelia.

Those who knew him will remember a cheerful delightful companion, unabashed by any misfortune. They will extend their deepest sympathy to his wife, and to his brother, sister and 92 year old mother. He will be sadly missed, but not forgotten.

L.C.E. adds,

In the early thirties, when he joined the 2nd Battalion at Dover, Duggie was looked upon as an especially "bright boy", who would go far in the Army. This he undoubtedly would have done had he not been so seriously wounded in the War.

Ebullient and forceful are the terms, I suggest, that best describe his character. Nothing ever got him down. In a letter he wrote to me four days before he died, Duggie was planning for the future and considering how best to deal with the many and serious problems that beset them.

### Captain H. B. Secretan

Humphrey Secretan, who was born in 1888, was educated at Marlborough. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers and served in the 10th Bn at home and in France until November 1915, when he was recommended for a commission.

2nd Lt Secretan joined the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in France in May 1916 and was wounded at High Wood on the Somme two months later. For his gallantry in this action he was awarded the Military Cross. As a captain commanding D Company 2 Queen's he was severely wounded at Passchendaele in November 1917.

At the end of the War, Humphrey Secretan returned to his civilian occupation at Lloyds. He settled in South Africa four years ago.

### General Sir Ivo Vesey, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO

Ivo Lucius Beresford Vesey the Army's oldest General was born on 11th August, 1876, the son of Major General George Vesey, late Royal Artillery. Educated at Wellington and Sandhurst he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in February 1897, and served with them in South Africa from 1899 to 1901. It early fell to his lot to carry out the first reconnaissance to discover the fate of the armoured train which the Boers had captured, and from which the young Winston Churchill had been taken prisoner. He himself was subsequently severely wounded.

In 1911 Vesey went to the Staff College, Camberley, where, in the words of Earl Wavell, a fellow student and close friend, he was "the star turn of our term, the perfect staff officer, hard-working, accurate and sensible". Staff appointments of increasing importance followed at the War Office and GHQ of the British Expeditionary Force, and he finished the first World War as Deputy Director of Organisation at the War Office. In 1919 he became the

Director, achieving Major General's rank, albeit temporary, at the age of 43. In 1923 he was lent to the then five years old Royal Air Force, and was their Director of Organisation and Staff Duties at the War Office, and in 1935 sailed for India where he was successively GOC in C Southern and Western Commands, and finally Chief of the General Staff until retirement in June 1939.

In the Second World War he served in the Home Guard as a Battalion Commander and became Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Once he had handed over the Colonelcy of his Regiment to the late General Sir George Giffard, he retired to private life, but retained his interest in the Regiment until the end. When the new Queen's Regiment was formed, he gave his General Officer's Sword to the Regimental Headquarters, as a gesture of goodwill from the Senior ex-Colonel of any of the six former Regiments which comprised it. As he grew old and blindness overtook him, he and his wife went to live in Gosfield Hall, Essex, there he entertained his friends with fascinating talks on his experiences, which have been taped and preserved in the Regimental archives. He was a great man, modest and charming to all who knew him. He married in

1913, Geraldine, daughter of the late Vice-Admiral Foley, she and both their sons predeceased him.

A. W. Bo

Alfred Born joined The Queen's Royal Regiment on week after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. He was not yet 18. He served in the 3rd and 9th Battalions before being posted to the 6th Battalion at Aldershot in May 1915. He landed in France on the Glorious First of June 1915 and remained there until wounded the following year. On his return to France, Pte Born was posted to the 7th Queen's, and was again wounded in August 1917. When passed fit for active service, he was sent back to France and posted to the 1st Battalion being transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in March 1918. Soon after joining the 33rd Bn MGC, Pte Born was wounded for the third time and this brought to an end his active soldiering. When finally discharged in 1919, he was awarded the King's Certificate in addition to his campaign medals. Throughout his life, Mr. Born remained a very loyal Queensman and a keen supporter of the Regimental Association.