

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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



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

News Letter No. 18

November, 1975

Editorial

This issue contains the obituary of one of our most distinguished soldiers, Major General John Metcalfe. In it, Colonel Duncombe, after tracing the General's successful career, has paid tribute to his painstaking work as Chairman of the Amalgamation Committee which laid the foundations of the smooth transition from our two former Regiments into The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

For John Metcalfe was a perfectionist. As a serving soldier he set and demanded high standards of efficiency and soldierly smartness, and there was no detail of every subordinate's job that he did not know.

He took great pains to ensure the happy union of the Old Comrades Associations of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment and the members of our Regimental Association have reason to be grateful for his wise guidance and encouraging leadership at a time when some of our old soldiers were concerned about the continuance of the Regimental spirit.

Appointments—Officers

The following appointments have been announced.

Colonel B. A. M. Pielow

At present MA Belgrade to be Colonel GS (Co-ord) Berlin in April 1976.

Colonel G. G. Strong

Previously MA Saigon to be Chairman DAT Working Party to review Physical and Adventurous Training in the Army.

Lt. Col. F. B. Herd TD

To be Commanding Officer 6/7 Queens (V) in June 1976.

Regimental Association

Annual Reunion

Although the numbers attending the Reunion were rather fewer than last year, quite a lot of new faces made their appearance. We missed some of our old friends who have been regular attenders over the years. Among the real old soldiers there were few who joined before Mr. G. R. Aldridge who enlisted in the Surreys in 1910.

During the evening, the President of the Regimental Association, Major General R. S. N. Mans, hopped on a chair and after welcoming those present, said that next year the centenary of the Regiment's association with Guildford provided the excuse for a celebration. Accordingly, on the day of our annual Regimental Association service in Guildford Cathedral the Regimental tent would be pitched in Stoughton Barracks instead of outside the Cathedral, and there would be other activities to mark the 100 years of friendly association.

The General then paid a tribute to Captain W. A. Messenger who had died suddenly a few days earlier. Bill, he said, was a loyal supporter of all Regimental functions and he would have been here tonight. He asked his friends, when raising their glass, to think for a moment of Bill Messenger.

We were glad to have some representatives from 1st Queen's among our guests: the In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital were well represented and Joe Dennis mustered his usual contingent from 4th Queen's OCA, including Major Roger Nebel, the Secretary. There was a warm welcome for one of our CANLOAN officers, Lt. H. G. McDonald. Hugh had served with 1/6th Queen's in Normandy, and was wounded in the crossing of the Rhine with the 1/5th Battalion.

Once again, our thanks go to Mr. A. E. Evans who ran the raffle and to our members who supported him so generously. "Chick" turned in a record £20 this year which was a real life-saver for the Reunion accounts. As the buffet supper cost 45p a head, members will see it is not easy to break even when the charge for the Reunion tickets is only 50p. With rising costs there will be no alternative but to charge more for the Reunion next year.

Christmas Cards

The Regimental Association Christmas card is the same as in previous years. The price is 80p a dozen, post free. Cards may be ordered on the enclosed order form.

News of the Associations

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

The annual reunion was held again on board HMS President by kind permission of the Captain, on 27th September, 1975. Once again it was organised by Frank

Forecast of Events 1976 Queen's Surreys Office and Regimental Association

Date	Place	Function
Sat. 7 Feb.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Sobraon Dance
Thurs. 6 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting
Sat. 8 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association AGM and Annual Dinner
Fri. 21 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines
Mon. 7 June to Sat. 12 June	Guildford	Centenary Celebrations of Regiment's Association with the town of Guildford and Stoughton Barracks
Sat. 12 June	Guildford	Queen's Surreys Officers Club
Sun. 13 June	Guildford	Regimental Association
Sat. 2 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association
Thurs. 7 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Fri. 8 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting
Sat. 9 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Ladies Night—Dance and Buffet Supper
Sun. 14 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades

Pearl to whom this work has become over the years a labour of love.

On this occasion he and his wife organised the buffet in addition to all the other necessary organisation.

There were 81 present, and our numbers seem not to decrease over the years. We were pleased to see after a long interval of exile on Elba, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Taylor who has now settled down again in Essex. We were also happy to see Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis who has greatly advanced since he underwent his baptism of fire as a second lieutenant on Point 210 at Salerno, his feet clad only in plimsolls. Most of our other stalwarts were present, including Colonels Kealy and Bolton, Sid Pratten, Bert Troster, Wally Lake, Togo Hearnden and so many others. We were saddened that Doc Hogan was unable to come from Dublin as he is not at all well.

We have one old comrade, Arthur Lawrence, in the Star and Garter, who is visited regularly by, as you may guess, Frank, Togo and Sid Pratten. Those who visit are much moved by what is being done for the unfortunate sick old soldiers, and a collection was made for the Home which realised the magnificent sum of £50 which has been presented to the Matron.

Once again we had a most enjoyable time. The words "Do you remember . . ." seemed to be passing around throughout the evening. We look forward to September 1976.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

The contribution being received too late for publication in this issue, it is hoped to print excerpts from the October 1975 number of "The Pascal Lamb" in our next News Letter.

Regimental Museum

The Swords of the Khans of Khelat

A story of battle, murder and sudden death in Afghanistan is recalled by two curved Oriental swords in the Regimental Museum.

In the summer of 1839 Mehrah Khan occupied Khelat, 113 miles north of Quetta, and deposed the ruling Khan. He then murdered his predecessor and presented his sword to his own Shakyasee or Adjutant General. Mehrah Khan then assumed the title of Khan of Khelat.

A British force, including the Queen's, was ordered to recapture Khelat. Terms were offered but were rejected by Mehrah Khan who swore he would die with his sword in his hand rather than surrender. He then sent away his harem and family and prepared himself and his garrison for battle. The women and children of the Shakyasee were not so fortunate, all

the females having their throats cut rather than to be allowed to fall into the hands of the British.

The British column stormed Khelat on 13th November, 1839 and some desperate hand to hand fighting ensued before the citadel was captured. Mehrah Khan himself was killed, sword in hand as he had promised, shot by Pte. Michael Maxwell of the Queen's. The Adjutant of the Queen's, Lt. James Egbert Simmons was personally engaged with the Shakyasee. Lt. Simmons himself was severely wounded and his adversary killed.

After the fighting was over, the Shakyasee's sword was placed with the rest of the loot. It was bought by the officers of the Queen's and presented to Lt. Simmons in remembrance of his gallant fight with its former owner. The sword, reputed then to be worth 1,000 rupees, is serrated on the leading edge of the blade. One wonders if it was used to despatch the owner's unfortunate womenfolk.

Mehrah Khan's own sword, by contrast, is of less formidable appearance, though somewhat longer. These weapons, captured on the field of battle by members of the Regiment, recall a story of gallantry and determination on both sides.

(Reproduced with permission from the Bulletin of The Military Historical Society)

Medals presented to the Museum

The daughter of the late Lt. Colonel H. W. Bolton has presented her father's medals to the Museum. They are an exceptionally fine set spanning three wars.

Herbert William Bolton enlisted in The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1900 and served in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion. In the 1914-18 War he served in the 1st Battalion until commissioned into the Machine Gun Corps in 1915. He commanded the 55th Bn. MGC and was awarded the DSO. Colonel Bolton retired from the Regular Army in 1922, but six years later he rejoined the Queen's as Quartermaster of the 4th (Territorial) Battalion. He was awarded the MBE in 1938. During the 1939-45 War, he served in The Royal Pioneer Corps.

The medals are: DSO, MBE, Queen's South African, King's South African, British War, Victory, Defence, War Medal 1939-45 and King George V Silver Jubilee Medal.

Golf Society

Spring Meeting 8 May, 1975

Stableford Bogey

Heales Trophy	Brigadier M. J. A. Clarke 28½ points
Senior Division	Major Gen. G. A. White 28 points
Veterans Halo	Major Gen. G. A. White
Stableford Greensomes	Major F. V. Sheppard

Medal

Challenge Cup	Major W. G. F. Sutton 78 points
Dodgson Cup	Major P. J. Collman 71 points
Last 9 holes	Colonel J. W. Sewell

Stableford Greensomes

Major W. G. F. Sutton and Colonel J. W. Sewell.

Sweep Winners

1st—F. T. A. Hole; 2nd—Major K. G. Grierson; 3rd—Captain P. A. C. K. Bruckmann.

Annual Match v Royal Marines Golf Society

The annual match took place at Sudbrook Park on 23rd May, 1975. Unfortunately the Society was a little short on strength with the 1st Battalion not yet back from Ireland, and a number of the other stalwarts not being available. Nevertheless it was a good day with the results generally closer than the score suggests, and it is noteworthy that three of the foursomes went to the 18th green while the other finished at the 17th. With a little more port or kummel at lunch for one side or the other the match might still have been won.

Details

AM—SINGLES

M. J. Power beat F. R. Blackah	4 & 3
W. J. F. Sutton beat D. G. R. Hunt	6 & 4
J. W. Sewell lost to S. D. Smith	2 & 1
C. G. Reeves halved with P. J. Saunders	—
B. A. Crutchfield lost to R. R. G. Hoare	1 Hole
A. B. Daly lost to J. D. G. McCrae	8 & 7
P. G. F. M. Roupell lost to C. J. D. Judd	4 & 2

PM—FOURSOMES

Power and Reeves halved with Hunt and McCrae	—
Sutton and Sewell lost to Blackah and Saunders	1 Hole
H. P. Mason and Roupell lost to Smith and Hoare	2 & 1
Crutchfield and Daly lost to P. H. Scarf and Judd	1 Hole
Result: Queen's Surreys 3 Royal Marines 8	

Autumn Meeting 9/10 October, 1975

Heales Trophy	Brigadier M. J. A. Clarke 35 points
Senior Division	Lt. Col. J. B. C. Palmer 31 points
Veterans Halo	A. Mason Esq. 34 points
Stableford Greensomes	Lt. Col. J. G. W. Davidson 40 points
Autumn Bowl	A. B. Daly Esq. 72 points
Glasgow Greys Cup	Lt. Col. J. G. W. Davidson 71 points
Best last 9 holes	Colonel J. W. Sewell
9 Hidden holes	Capt. J. C. Acworth
Petri Plate	Major W. J. F. Sutton 145 points
Bogey Foursomes	Lt. Col. J. G. W. Davidson 2 down
	Col. J. W. Sewell

Sweep Winners

1st—Major F. V. Sheppard
2nd—Major General R. S. N. Mans
3rd—Major H. E. P. Spearing

The Queen's Regiment

Laying Up of the old Colours of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

On 15th June, 1975 the old Colours of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment were laid up in Guildford Cathedral by the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment during the Annual Church Service of the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. These Colours were presented by Field Marshal HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG, at Bury St. Edmunds on 23rd April, 1960 at the Amalgamation Parade of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and The East Surrey Regiment. Since 1st January, 1967 they have been carried by the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment and were trooped for the last time at Armoury House, London, on 4th May, 1974 in the presence of HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Allied Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Regiment, when Her Majesty presented new Colours to the Regiment.

Lt. Col. John Davidson, Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment delivered the old Colours to the Dean of Guildford, the right Reverend A. C. Bridge, for safe custody within the walls of Guildford Cathedral, in the presence of Major General Fergus Ling, Colonel, The Queen's Regiment; Major General Rowley Mans, Deputy Colonel (Surrey), The Queen's Regiment; serving and former members of the Regiment; and many distinguished friends and guests of the Regiment including The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, HM Lieutenant of and in the County of Surrey; Mrs. W. M. M. Du Buisson, High Sheriff of Surrey; The Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford, Councillor and Mrs. C. J. K. Boyce; The Mayor and Mayoress of The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor and Mrs. Frank Gaisford; The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor R. V. Stephenson; and the Chief Constable of Surrey, Mr. P. J. Matthews.

There was an exceptionally good attendance of our old soldiers and their families, many of whom had come great distances, and the Cathedral was nearly full. The actual ceremony of laying up the Colours was short, but impressive. A very few of those present could have served under those Colours, many had never even seen them before, but the spectacle of uncased Colours cast its traditional spell on all those present.

The dignified advance of the Colour Party up the aisle in slow time to Lord Charles Montague's Huntingdonshire March, played by the Band of the 1st Battalion, was not only impressive as a military spectacle, but moving. For this was a farewell in that we were saying goodbye to the traditional symbols of a Regiment's honour, loyalty and service, now retired and superseded by a new stand of Colours.

These Colours, the first and only stand of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, had only been carried since 1960, but they in their turn were carrying forward the traditions of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, whose Colours they replaced. Now the time had come for this stand, their duty done, to pass into honourable retirement. In the words of the

Dean of Guildford, "No more fitting place could be found wherein to deposit these emblems of duty and service than the house of God."

The Colours, duly handed over to the Dean, were laid on the altar and the service proceeded. Before reading the Lesson, Major General Mans paid tribute to two former Colonels of the Regiment who had recently died—General Sir Ivo Vesey, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment throughout the 1939-45 War and Major General John Metcalfe. The latter, said General Mans, was virtually the architect of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. He had been Chairman of the Amalgamation Committee whose patient deliberations and thorough work had ensured the exceptionally happy union of our two former Regiments. It was fitting that General Metcalfe who had commanded battalions in both the Queen's and the Surreys should be the first Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

After the service the Band played on the green outside the refreshment tent, ably manned by Lt. Colonel Ronnie Pound and cadets from the Surrey County Cadet Force.

Presentation of New Colours to The Queen's Regiment, 4th May, 1974

A coloured print of Terence Cuneo's painting of the Presentation of Colours to the Queen's Regiment by Queen Margrethe of Denmark is available from Regimental Headquarters. Full particulars are in the pro forma enclosed with this News Letter.

The Regiment and Guildford

Interest next year focuses on Guildford where the centenary of the Regiment's association with the Borough is being celebrated. The connection of both former Regiments with Guildford is described below, together with an outline of the projected events. Further details will appear in our May 1976 issue.

In the final Report of the Committee on the Localization of the Army published in 1875, it was recommended that Regiments be linked to Districts. The outcome of the Report was published in the Army List of November 1876 which showed in Sub-District No. 47 (County of Surrey), the 31st and 70th Regiments of Foot, and in No. 48 Sub-District (County of Surrey) (later to be redesignated No. 2 Sub-District), the 2nd Regiment of Foot The Queen's.

Barracks had been completed at Kingston in 1875 and at Stoughton, near Guildford, in 1876; the former eventually to be occupied by the forebears of The East Surrey Regiment, and the latter by The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). Regrettably, Kingston Barracks (apart from the Keep) were demolished in 1964, but Stoughton Barracks, although originally scheduled in 1959 for demolition, were retained as an Army station, and today are fully occupied, including elements of The Queen's Regiment. Stoughton Barracks were first occupied on 10 October 1876 by Depots of the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 2nd Foot.

In 1881, when the 31st and 70th Regiments amalgamated to form The East Surrey Regiment, the badge

adopted for the new regiment consisted basically of the Arms of Guildford superimposed on an eight pointed star. These were the badges of the 1st and 3rd Royal Surrey Militia with which the Regular regiments were closely associated.

In 1944, the Borough of Guildford conferred upon The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) "the title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with Bayonets fixed, Colours flying and Bands playing". This honour was extended to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment early in 1960 and six years later to the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) on the formation of the Large Regiment. Finally, in July 1969, the Borough Council decided that the Freedom of Entry originally granted to our 1st Battalion should devolve upon the new Regiment as a whole.

To mark the occasion of the Regiment's one hundred years of association with Guildford, the Mayor and Corporation have agreed to a week of civic and military celebrations to take place between 7th and 13th June, 1976. During the week there will be a Regimental Static Exhibition and military shop window displays in the town. On Thursday 10th June there is to be a band concert in Castle Gardens, followed the next day by the ceremony of Beating Retreat.

On the morning of Saturday, 12th June, 3rd Queens with detachments of 5th and 6/7th Volunteer Battalions will exercise the Regimental privilege of marching through the Borough. Later in the day it is hoped there will be a centenary carnival procession.

The annual Regimental Association service will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 13th June. There will be a bar in the Regimental marquee which will be erected in Stoughton Barracks on this occasion, and not outside the Cathedral. Owing to catering difficulties, it will not be possible to supply meals in barracks, so those who wish to stay are advised to bring a picnic lunch with them.

Stoughton Barracks—A Nostalgic Visit

by Tommy Atkins, ex-1st and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment

I used a query with the Army Pensions Office as an excuse to visit Stoughton Barracks. The query suitably disposed of, permission given in true military fashion, off I went in circle from the left. As may be expected, the memories came pinging back like an Asdic contact.

The Keep was still standing, looking as strong as ever, despite Buzz Waspe's oft-repeated threat to have it BLR'd. That sacred piece of green between the Officers Mess and the Parade Ground was still there. Heaven help anyone trespassing on it except for the Annual Garden Party or an occasional PT display. The lawn, alas, no longer has its former glory.

Passing around Peterborough and Tangier Blocks, now converted into offices, I remembered as a recruit

flying up the stairs to change from FSMO into PT kit in two minutes flat, then flying down again only to receive a slanging from Sgt. ("Mad Jack") Dennis for taking too long to change. One didn't hang about when Jack had his rag out.

And, of course, there was CSM Foster, known, behind his back as "Brickdust". He was a fearsome little man to us recruits. His opening gambit on muster parade between the blocks was, "Now.....Keep your wits about.....t you!" I then looked towards the RSM's quarter on the corner, and I remember as a recruit seeing RSM Osborne come out, dressed as RSM's were in those days in long puttees and tunic fastened up to the neck. I wondered then if I would ever reach that exalted position. I did—some 19 years later—and lived in the same house. I doubt very much if I impressed the young soldiers as he did us. And couldn't that house tell some stories, if only it could speak—perhaps it's just as well it can't, come to think of it.

On past the old NAAFI and it is impossible to pass that place without the image of "Chuck" Sheffield. There he would be at crack of dawn, windows wide open to let out the beer fumes and hard at work long before most other people. Before that he used to look after the ablutions, etc., in the Depot. I think Chuck must have had the record of being the longest continuous serving soldier at the Depot, as he was there from 1928 to 1951. He continued to serve as a civilian employee until the Depot finally closed down in 1959.

On to more modern times—1946-1947. I swear as I stood by the old Sergeants Mess I could hear the refrain of a song:

"Don't send my boy to prison
It's the first crime what 'e's done.
'E never knew no better
Nor no voice of conscience 'eard."

No prizes for that guess to the old and bold. It could only have been Fred Harcup, of course. Alas, that building, like the NAAFI looks "sad and lonely".

Progressing in time, a peep at what was the new dining room—1956(?). The two large murals of The Glorious First of June no longer adorn the walls, no doubt covered with paint. A pity. The building was empty and deserted.

And finally out past the guard room, that holy of holies. Gone are the burnished fire axes, shovels GS and picks, and gone the fresh paintwork. In their place a wooden civilian watchman's hut stands on the verandah. Oh dear!

For those old and bold living too far away, but who nurse the idea of a visit to the old place, I would say the revival of memories was worthwhile, but sadness creeps in at what one sees. Perhaps it is the price of progress and growing old.

Editor's Note: The writer's pseudonym conceals the identity of ex-RSM H. Atkins who will be remembered by many Queensmen.

From Here and There

Donations

We say thank you to the following members who have made donations to the Regimental Association since our last issue: C. S. A. Avis, F. T. Bardill, H. F. Clayton, Brig. T. Hart-Dyke, A. H. Inskip, L. S. Lindfield, J. A. Luxford, A. D. Moody, T. G. Powell, H. A. W. Roseman and G. Vaughan (two donations).

On the death of Lt. Col. N. J. P. Hawken, whose obituary appears in this issue, his family asked for donations to be sent to the Regimental Association in his memory. The total of £217 received by the Association is an indication of the high regard in which Ninian Hawken was held.

Every November, Mrs. Sloan sends us a donation in memory of her son, Geoffrey. Captain Sloan was killed in action when the 1/6th Surreys entered Cassino on 18th May, 1944. This year, in addition to a generous contribution to our funds, Mrs. Sloan has sent us a picture of the badge of The East Surrey Regiment which she has worked in tapestry. The badge is beautifully executed in coloured silks on canvas, and is correct right down to the key on the portcullis. What is so remarkable about Mrs. Sloan's handiwork is that she is 85.

Christmas Card Pictures

Occasionally one gets a Christmas card worth framing, and last year there were two of Regimental interest. One was a charming coloured photograph of Queen Margrethe of Denmark presenting new Colours to The Queen's Regiment at Armoury House on 4th May, 1974.

The other was a water colour picture of a 1914 East Surrey soldier. It was painted by Percy Syer of the 8th Surreys, and the Regimental badge is clearly recognizable.

These cards in a plain black or Hogarth frame make attractive little pictures. We have a few of each and can supply them at 15p each, post free.

Soldier Artist

As recorded in News Letter No. 16, last year's Army Benevolent Fund's Christmas card of a 1914-18 War soldier was painted by L/Cpl. Syer of the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. The publication of this item has prompted a reminiscence from Mr. L. M. Baldwin, MM, who served in the 8th Surreys Orderly Room with Peter Syer.

The latter was an accomplished artist and a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, who recorded war time scenes vividly and with feeling. Among the pictures Peter Syer is known to have painted are "Tommy Atkins 1914" (mentioned above), "The Stretcher Bearer" and portraits of Colonel Irwin, the Commanding Officer, and of Pte. Baldwin wearing his MM ribbon.

Bugle Calls

Some correspondents have supplied the words of more bugle calls, including "Charlie, Charlie, get up and dress yourself" of the Long Reveille, "Letters from Lousy Lou, boys" of the Mail Call and "Come for Orders" of the Battalion Orders call. There were several versions of the Officers Mess call, the most popular being:

'The Officers' wives get puddens and pies.
A sergeant's wife gets skilly.
A private's wife gets nothing at all
To fill her empty belly.'

However, officers were not always favoured, as the Officers Call reminds us—

'Officers come and be damned,
Officers come and be damned,
Officers come and be damned,
Damned, damned, damned.'

It is a pretty safe bet to assert that no officer recognised this call anyway, and he was invariably alerted by the Company Sergeant Major.

Marches

Mr. L. C. A. Moxon writes, "Whilst on the subject of unofficial words, I believe the Regimental March words start with:

'Here we come. Here we come.
Bloody good soldiers every one.'

I'd like to hear of any more unofficial march words".

Does any old Queensman remember if there were any further words to the refrain of "Braganza"?

There were of course words to some of the more popular marches the Band used to play on the line of march. That unfortunate experience with a rat trap in "National Emblem" springs to mind, and every pre-War soldier will remember "Roll on my Seven and Five" of (was it?) "Blazeaway". Perhaps the less said about "Colonel Bogey" the better.

Gunfire

Ask any soldier what "Gunfire" is, and he will tell you it is the early morning cup of tea and biscuits when there is a parade before breakfast. The idea, of course, was to give the soldier something inside him to avoid doing PT or some other parade on an empty stomach.

The origin of the term has been exercising the minds of correspondents to the Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research. There is no doubt it derives from the ancient practice of firing a gun at Reveille in overseas stations. One correspondent suggests the day started with the European being brought tea by his native servant at the time the gun was fired. Another, more realistic, writes that when the gun was fired, the cooks brewed up and issued the tea.

Night Ops

The story is told of a battalion in peace time commanded by Lt. Col. J. F. Metcalfe practising a night march to a forming up area.

The IO had reconnoitred the route and confidently led

the column, the CO at the head, into the dark. After a considerable time, the Commanding Officer felt certain misgivings and asked the IO if he was sure he was on the right route. "Oh, yes, Sir," replied the IO, "The guides are just ahead of us."

After a little more marching the Battalion made contact—unfortunately not with the guides, but with the tail of its own column. A pregnant silence ensued, during which Colonel Metcalfe was heard to observe in a strained voice between gritted teeth, "One day I will see the funny side of this—BUT NOT TONIGHT!"

Tunisia revisited

During his holiday in Tunisia this year, Mr. K. F. Page took the opportunity of visiting some of the places familiar to 1st Surreys in 1943. In a colourful postcard from Sousse, he writes,

"Hired a car and saw British war cemeteries at Medjez and Massicault and Morgania (German). Also visited Toukabour, Tebourba, El Batha, Djebel Ang and Longstop. Last week we found Sidi Nsir and the station is exactly as if we had walked out yesterday. The village on the left of the railway line towards Bizerta is still there and just the same".

Ken Page served in the Signal Platoon from Marwell Hall onwards and was wounded at Longstop.

Visitor to Malaya

Mr. J. F. Gallagher, 13 Wellmeadow Road, Lewisham, SE13, who was bandmaster of the 9th and 10th Surreys and later of the re-formed 2nd Battalion during the 1939-45 War is revisiting Malaya in December.

While in Malaya, Mr. Gallagher, himself an ex-Royal Leicester, would be happy to undertake any small mission or visit on behalf of former members of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment or their families.

The Old and Bold

Mr. W. G. Bartholomew, an ex-RQMS of The East Surrey Regiment, writing from Jersey, says,

"Mr. H. W. Smith (9474), writing in the May News Letter, wonders if he is the oldest old sweat. Not at the moment! Nevertheless, if he keeps his socks pulled up, his turn will surely come."

But for the present, Mr. W. G. Bartholomew (7990), now in his 90th year, who joined The East Surrey Regiment in August 1903, is still in the land of the living. Incidentally, Mr. Bartholomew poses the same question: is he himself the Oldest Old Sweat?"

Editor's Note

Mr. Bartholomew was born in October 1885, so by the time this News Letter is published, he will have made his four score years and ten. We offer our congratulations to this fine old soldier.

When the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment was posted to Jersey in 1905, Bill Bartholomew, like many another Surrey, married a Jersey girl and has lived in the Island since his retirement. He contributed an

interesting article on the Defence of Hill 60 by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment to the News Letter of November 1971.

Once a Bandsman . . .

Mr. John Fownes (10320) joined the Band of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment as a boy in 1911. He was too young to go to France with the Battalion in 1914, but joined them in 1916 when he came on man's service. For the rest of the War he served as a stretcher bearer on the Western Front and in North Russia.

Mr. Fownes, who has recently presented a 1914-18 German side drum to the Regimental Museum, is still on parade. A hale and hearty 79, he plays the cornet in the Croydon Band which he joined in 1921 after his discharge from the Regiment.

Where are they now?

Mr. F. S. Lindfield (6140088), of 70 Abbotsbury, Great Hollands, Bracknell, Berks., asks for news of the under-mentioned men who served with him in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya, and who, like him, became Prisoners of War of the Japanese.

6140694	Pte. Harry Boland	C
5932391	Sgt. Charles Challice	R
6150129	Cpl. George Harmer	A
6140908	Cpl. William Riley	C
844658	L/c. John Seymour	A
6141340	Pte. Robert Thompson	A

Mr. W. A. Ward (23760295), 161 Ann Street, Plumstead, SE18 7LT, would like to hear from friends he served with in 1st Queen's Surreys from 1960 to 1962.

Meeting after 35 years

Mr. J. W. Clark (ex-CSM 1/6th Surreys), who called on his old Quartermaster, Mr. C. A. Smith, in August, writes,

"I went down to Gossops Green and directly he saw me his first words were, "My God! Nobby Clark!" I replied, "Yes, Smithy Boy. Where are those sniper rifles you borrowed from me at Dunkirk?" This was the first time I had seen or heard of Mr. Smith since that day during the evacuation of Dunkirk, on 30th May, 1940."

The old warriors spent a great afternoon together, fighting their battles over again.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The latest "recruit" to the ranks of the In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea is ex-Cpl. Ernest James Lemoigne. After seven years service in the Royal Hampshire Regiment, he served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1938 to 1947. He rounded off his service with a further five years in the Royal Pioneer Corps.

Still on Parade

Mr. W. H. Green (News Letter No. 17, page 7) writes that he has been appointed a Sergeant Instructor with the 13th (Shoreham) Indep. Cadet Pl., The Queen's

Regiment. So, after an interval of 14 years in RASC and RAOC, Bill Green is once more wearing a Regimental cap badge.

Antique Weapons

An expert on antique firearms, Mr. Gary Kraidman, has offered his services free of charge to any reader who would like help in identifying weapons in their collections.

Mr. Kraidman, who contributed an article on the English Short Land Musket to the November 1974 News Letter, lives at 296 Carlton Club Drive, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, U.S.A.

News from "Down Under"

Australia

Mr. W. W. W. Cribbes, who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1945, and who emigrated to Australia in 1966, has notified his new address as 54 R.S.L. Village, 60 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham, VIC. 3192, Australia. Mr. Cribbes writes, "The village is set in a small 'park' (beautifully kept by two gardeners) and comprises 76 Darby and Joan units. Each has one bedroom with bathroom, etc., adjoining, large living room, kitchen with plenty of cupboard space and a covered porch at back and front, with a large concrete terrace at the front door—splendid for sun bathing, but not so at the moment! We have two small borders in which to exercise our horticultural talents, or to plant native shrubs which need little attention.

There is plenty of social activity—bowls club, with indoor bowls in winter, afternoon card party, good billiards hall, library and, once a month, an "Old Time Night" for which my wife plays the piano. She is now trying to re-organise a choir which fell apart two or three years ago when the last pianist left the village. Our only grouse is the rate of exchange, but when we hear of conditions in England, we are ashamed to grumble!"

Colin Bloomfield, who served in the Band of The East Surrey Regiment from 1949 to 1959, inquires if there are any old East Surreys living in South Australia. If so, he would like to hear from them. His address is: Mr. A. C. Bloomfield, 66 Woodville Road, Woodville, Adelaide, South Australia 5011.

County Titles

In the year 1782, county titles were introduced for regiments of infantry. The Thirty First was, in the words of Cannon's Historical Record, 'directed to assume the name of the Huntingdonshire Regiment' while the Seventieth was designated the Seventieth (Surrey) Regiment. This measure was introduced to

provide regiments with a defined area from which they could draw their recruits.

This decree was not to the taste of The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot, and the following letter was sent by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel William Dalrymple, to the Adjutant General.

"As the Queen's Regiment of Foot has a very marked and honourable appellation, General Jones does not wish it to bear the name of any particular county; but it is particularly attached to that part of Yorkshire about Halifax, Bradford and Wakefield, having at this time recruiting parties in those districts and upwards of 250 men from that part of the country now in the Regiment."

General Daniel Jones, Colonel of the Regiment and formerly of the 3rd Foot Guards, had his way, and the Queen's did not assume a county title until nearly 100 years later.

The intention to connect regiment and county does not appear to have been particularly effective. The Thirty First were never stationed in Huntingdonshire and, apart from laying up their Colours in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon, in 1867 prior to embarking for Malta, the Regiment had little connection with the county whose name they bore. Throughout the Regimental History, the Thirty First and Seventieth are invariably referred to as such, with no reference to the county titles allocated to them in 1782.

However, the liaison of the Seventieth with the county of Surrey was rather better observed. They detached a company for recruiting purposes which was stationed at Kingston on Thames and which did in fact recruit men of the county for the Regiment. When the Thirty First was linked with the Seventieth in 1873, it was at Kingston that the Depot was established. Eight years later the two regiments amalgamated to form The East Surrey Regiment. Thus, a county title took the place of the numbers by which our old Regiments had been known and had borne with such distinction for 167 and 123 years respectively. The abolition of the regimental numbers and the destruction of cherished traditions were bitterly resented. As a small concession, the former numbers were allowed to appear after the Regimental title in the Army List, but they were not (officially, at any rate) used again.

Under the reorganisation of infantry of 1881, the Queen's accepted, apparently without demur, the title of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, and bore it until 1921 when the name was changed to The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). Here again, the county name took second place to the ancient Regimental title.

The two Regiments of Surrey had their own recruiting areas and depots and maintained friendly relations with each other. Regular and Territorial battalions were brigaded together in peace and war, which no doubt gave rise to the familiar couplet:

The Star of the East and the Lamb of the West,
Put them together and to Hell with the rest!
However, an even closer union was on the way and in

October 1959 the two Regiments of Surrey amalgamated to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Now, overtaken by events, that Regiment too has gone, and our former Regiments find themselves part of The Queen's Regiment of today, a regiment which, be it noted, has no mention of county in its title.

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Lamb of The Queen's Royal Regiment

The following is an extract from the History of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

"The Paschal Lamb was the chief emblem in the Regimental Insignia. The origin of its adoption is obscure, but since early days it has been identified with the Regiment.

Some authorities, including Macaulay, have suggested that as the Regiment was formed in 1661 to garrison Tangier—part of the dowry brought by Catherine of Braganza on her marriage to King Charles II—the badge was taken as a Christian emblem in the struggle against the infidel Moors".

Lt. Col. E. G. Hollist, Regimental Secretary, The Queen's Regiment, Royal Sussex Office, writes:

"I think I can enlarge on this and possibly suggest a more definite reason for the adoption of the Lamb and pennon though I would certainly not wish to lay claim to knowing the origin of The Queen's Royal Regiment badge.

However, it is a fact that during the Crusades King Richard placed his troops under the protection of St. George whose escutcheon was a red cross on a white background and in mythology it was he who rescued the maiden and her lamb from the dragon.

I have recently completed an article on the history of St. George, which deals with the matter more fully, and as a result I personally feel that The Queen's Royal Regiment Crest originates from this story".

We are grateful to Colonel Hollist for his letter and wonder if any of our readers have any views on his interesting theory.

Desert Rats

All those Desert Rats and their families who lent their personal mementos and photographs for use in George Forty's illustrated history of the Desert Rats at war will be interested to know that their generous response has produced enough material for not one book as originally planned, but three!

The first, "Desert Rats at War: North Africa", which covers the war in the Western Desert from 1940-43, will be published during the first week in December, and all material relating to this subject will be returned as soon as possible after that date.

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

"The Young Buffs"

History relates that during the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, King George II, mistaking the facings of the Thirty First Regiment for those of the Buffs, called out, "Bravo the Buffs"! On learning the Regiment was the Thirty First, the King rejoined, "Then bravo the Young Buffs"!

Although the nickname was proudly adopted by the Thirty First and the record of its origin handed down for over 200 years, there is no record of the title "The Young Buffs" being used.

Now, Mr. Herbert Heather of Leicester has recently discovered in the archives of the Derby Mercury a despatch from Hon. Thomas Erskine, Captain of HMS *Tartar*, written from Pensacola, Florida, on 8th September, 1765 in which he mentions, "The Young Buffs, lately arrived, having already lost 120 men, a great Part whereof were destroyed by the Scurvy".

The fact that the title "The Young Buffs" was mentioned in a formal naval despatch indicates that it was generally known in the Services some twenty years after it had been coined by the Sovereign.

Fort McGregor

The odd thing about Fort McGregor was that it was not a fort. The name was given to a prominent isolated hill on the Goubellat Plain in front of 1st Surreys' position in Tunisia. Here, on 26th February, 1943, the Germans overran the hill and wiped out the whole of D Company who were defending it.

Among those killed were its gallant commander, Major John Brooke-Fox and his 2IC, Capt. Ronald Lindsay. Those not killed, estimated by Lt. R. F. Kinden, a platoon commander, as "about twelve and mostly walking wounded", were made to carry the wounded Germans to a wadi below the hill.

It was while this was going on that the 1st Battalion's counter-attack was delivered, and in the confusion Pte. A. Fielder managed to slip away and get back to B Coy lines. Mr. Fielder of 16A Bell House, Hounslow, Middlesex, would like to hear from anyone who was in this action.

The History of The East Surrey Regiment records, "The fighting of D Company of the 1st Battalion at Fort McGregor on 26th February, 1943, was as heroic as any incident in the long history of the Regiment".

"Tiger in Irons"

In the May 1974 News Letter Mr. Stephen Abbott, OBE, who served as a subaltern in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya, contributed a reminiscence of his return to that country over 30 years later.

Mr. Abbott has now completed the manuscript of his book on his experiences in the Malayan Campaign and

as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese. Its title will be recognised by every East Surrey and Leicester who fought in "The British Battalion" in Malaya.

The narrative records the unpreparedness of our forces in Malaya, the good account of themselves put up by the 2nd Surreys in the short campaign and the sickening cruelty of the Japanese towards our Prisoners of War. It is hoped to publish excerpts in later News Letters, but here, for the time being, is an extract from a light hearted account of the visit of General Percival, the GOC Malaya, to the Surreys Camp, entitled "A Subaltern's Nightmare".

2nd/Lt. Abbott, who had sprained his ankle, had been left in charge of the camp while the Battalion took part in a large scale exercise in North Malaya. The Battalion Headquarter Guard was composed of men excused duty by the Medical Officer. 2nd/Lt. Abbott records the Guard Mounting.

"Here I received the first shock of this terrible day. Confronting me was not the usual squad of immaculately turned out soldiers, but as scruffy a group of individuals as I had ever seen. Half were clad in oily fatigue overalls and the majority wore dirty PT shoes. The Commander of this anomalous body was none other than the Sergeants Mess Caterer—a barrel of a man I had never before seen in uniform. As I stood there, aghast, he waddled up to me, saluted clumsily and whispered that this was his first guard duty for twenty years. The way he handled his rifle—as if it were a rolling pin—supported this evidence. I conducted a mockery of an "inspection", dismissed the parade, and with much misgiving watched it shuffle towards the Guard Room".

Skipping Mr. Abbott's description of the unexpected arrival of the GOC, the Corps Commander, the Divisional Commander and their entourage, we continue the story with the General's visit to the Battalion Headquarter Guard.

"As luck would have it the Guard had chosen that moment to have their lunch. As we drew near I could see their hunched figures through the open window. I also saw the sentry outside—leaning, arms folded, against a rubber-tree, his back towards us, his rifle on the ground. I cried out to the sergeant by name. Heads turned in our direction. Then the sentry acted. Grabbing his rifle from the ground and flinging it on his shoulder, he shouted, 'Guard . . . Turn Out! The sergeant then leapt to his feet with the others and the entrance to the guard-room was jammed for a moment with struggling figures, rifles and helmets. It was a farcical scene—but I certainly saw nothing funny about it at the time. When, at some length, the Sergeant heaved his massive bulk through the doorway he tripped and fell in the mud outside. As he regained his feet he realised that he'd forgotten his rifle and there was a further agonising delay as he thundered around the guard-room looking for it. He must have tripped again: a heavy thud was followed by the clatter of breaking crockery and a clearly distinguishable oath before he finally emerged and lined up at the side of his bedraggled squad.

All this had been watched in stunned silence by our distinguished visitors: but now General Percival stepped forward alone to receive the courtesy of a "General Salute". Nothing happened. The Guard just stood there—panting, perspiring, and in varying degree of undress—while their mud-spattered Commander wrestled with his memory as to the next move. Then suddenly, from the second rank, a recently-appointed lance-corporal gave a husky squeak:

'General Salute . . . Preee . . . sent Arms!'

For a moment the squad—taken aback—remained motionless. Then each man, acting independently, brought his rifle to the saluting position. It was a terrible sight: far worse, however, was the performance of the bugler. In the scramble to parade (I learned later) the unfortunate man had been unable to dispose of a mouthful of tough army mutton. Thus impeded, he delivered a succession of discordant groans which might, with imagination, have been taken for the cook-house call but bore no possible resemblance to the 'General Salute'.

When I opened my eyes I was astonished to see General Percival standing there, erect, and calmly acknowledging this outrageous tribute to his rank. To all outward appearances he might have been participating in any normal, routine ceremony. It was too much, however, for several members of his staff—who retired speedily behind the building, coughing vigorously into their handkerchiefs. Still unperturbed, the GOC then conducted (myself in quaking attendance) a formal inspection of the Guard, toured the shambles inside the Guard-room with slow deliberation and politely gave the order to dismiss. The Sergeant and his wretched men returned to their quarters with audible groans of relief".

The British Army: A Concise History

This is the title given by Jock Haswell to his latest book which has been attracting favourable reviews in the National Press. It is published by Thames & Hudson at £4.50. Major Haswell was a pre-War Regular officer in the Queen's and retired in 1960. Many of our readers will already have his admirable short history of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Famous Regiments series.

All the critics pay tribute to the writer's skill in producing in less than 200 pages this short history of the Army from the 17th Century to the present day. Jock Haswell himself says, "the book had to be condensed down to practically nothing—only 40,000 words—and was hell to write for that reason". The following are brief extracts from the critics' reviews.

Daily Telegraph

" . . . a model of its kind, by far the best written and illustrated short account now in print. . . A proud story, Major Haswell tells it well".

Surrey Daily Advertiser

"For the dedicated student of Army history there are immense tomes. This single volume is for Everyman—the same Everyman who has formed the backbone of the British Army. Its author says modestly of it that it is 'only a single brushline painted across the huge canvas of military history'. True, but a single brushline can often achieve a startling clarity and vividness. And this one does".

The Universe

"The words 'Concise history' usually warn of a sketchy work but 'The British Army' is no mean sketch. The author, a former soldier, knows his subject, pulls no punches and whitewashes nobody . . . A splendid book, beautifully illustrated".

Incidentally, copies of Major Haswell's earlier book, the short history of The Queen's Royal Regiment are available from the Queen's Surreys Office for £2.75.

Chapels and Memorials

The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Queen's Royal Regiment War Memorial of the 1914-18 War and the 1939-45 War in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, has recently been refurbished at Regimental expense.

The East Surrey Regiment

On Saturday 13th September, 1975 the Regimental Chapel in All Saints Parish Church, Kingston upon Thames, was filled with relations and Regimental friends of Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, and of Major A. L. Sutton, MC. The occasion was the dedication of their memorial panels in the Regimental Chapel and the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. John Martin, MA.

In his address, the Vicar spoke of the "two distinguished and well loved officers of the Regiment" whose memorial panels were being dedicated. Both decorated for gallantry in the 1914-18 War, the two were close friends and had much in common. Their examples of service, loyalty, leadership and devotion to the Regimental family had been an inspiration to those who served with them. George Roupell and Arthur Sutton were simple, unassuming and delightful companions who enjoyed the company of friends of all ages. Both had very much at heart the welfare of the old soldier, and their concern found practical and generous expression. In conclusion, the Vicar said no Regiment could have been better served. He then dedicated each memorial panel in turn.

On this predominantly East Surrey occasion, a warm welcome was extended to Major General F. A. H. Ling, Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, to Major General R. S. N. Mans, Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment and to the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Major General F. J. C. Piggott. Col-

onel H. G. Duncombe was unfortunately prevented from coming owing to transport difficulties at the last moment, but Colonel J. W. Sewell, a former Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, was able to attend.

The Surreys present included Brigadier Armstrong, Major Brown, Mr. Glover, Lt. Col. Kennedy, Lt. Col. Lasbrey, Mr. A. Mason and Capt. G. Mason, all of whom had served in the Regiment in the 1914-18 War. Tribute has been paid in previous issues of the Regimental Journal and the Regimental Association News Letter to George Roupell and "Rosie" Sutton. Outstanding in their different ways, they will be remembered as long as there are any Surreys remaining. There can be few officers or men of The East Surrey Regiment who have not, at one time or another, been inspired or encouraged by these two great Regimental personalities.

The Star and Garter Home

The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, provides a home and nursing care for some 200 men disabled in the service of their country. Some are veterans of the 1914-18 War and the 1939-45 War, some have been wounded in the Korean War and in campaigns since the last War and some are the victims of the violence in Northern Ireland.

The Star and Garter is a true home, and the rooms in which the patients live mean much to them. Now after more than 50 years there is urgent need of modernisation. This year the Chairman of the Governors, General Sir Charles Harington, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, has launched an appeal for £500,000 for the work of redesigning and improving the wards. These men deserve the best, just as in their time they gave the best.

The Star and Garter has been a home to a number of old Queen's and Surreys, and we are still represented in the list of patients. Donations, great or small, will be gratefully received and should be sent to the:

Chairman of the Governors
The Star and Garter Home
Richmond
Surrey

Cheques and postal orders should be made out to the Star and Garter Home.

Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

The Royal Cambridge Home at East Molesey, Surrey is primarily intended for the widows of soldiers of the Regular Army, married while their husbands were serving. The Home will accept also a number of other widows in the following order of priority.

1. The widow of a Regular soldier who married after he left the Army.
2. The widow of a soldier (non-Regular) who served during either of the two Great Wars.
3. The widow of an officer who spent the greater part of his service in the ranks of the Regular Army or in the ranks during either of the two Great Wars.

The Home consists of two adjoining houses in their own garden at East Molesey. Each widow has her own room with wash-basin, radiator, electric fire and boiling ring.

To be eligible to enter the Home, the widow must be at least 60 years of age and capable of looking after herself. Widows contribute towards their maintenance according to their pension, retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

Further information may be obtained from The Secretary, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey.

Employment

There are general vacancies in London with the Corps of Commissionaires. Inquiries should be sent to Corps of Commissionaires, Exchange Court, 419a Strand, London, WC2R 0PX. Telephone: 01-836 6453.

Deaths

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

Rutgers—On 25th November, 1974, Pte Barand Arthur Rutgers, (6085132), aged 61. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1932 to 1946.

Stone—On 10th April, 1975, Sgt Arthur John Stone, (14564688), aged 62. Served in the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1943 to 1946.

Hyson—On 12th May, 1975, Cpl Leonard James Hyson, (6081651), aged 68. Served in the Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1923 to 1935.

Chidson—On the 25th May, 1975, Major Richard Allan Chidson, aged 75. Commissioned in August 1918, "Chid" served in The East Surrey Regiment until 1948. He was a Prisoner of War of the Japanese for three years, and prior to retirement commanded the Regimental Depot.

Hurd—In June, 1975, Cpl George Alfred Hurd, (6952), aged 77. Served in the 7th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry on a raid in the Monchy sector in August 1917.

Sanger—On 3rd June, 1975, Sgt T. Sanger, aged 75. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War and subsequently.

Hurley—On 10th June, 1974, Captain Christopher Robert Hurley, aged 64. He joined the 5th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1930 and later served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions in India. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and retired on medical grounds in 1945.

Metcalfe—On 11th June, 1975, Major General John Francis Metcalfe, CB, CBE, aged 66. Commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1928, he became the first Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and retired in 1963. See obituary.

Farrup—On 11th June, 1975, Captain Roy Farrup, aged 54. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Moore—On 14th June, 1975, Pte R. Moore, (6078713), aged 72. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1922 to 1927, and in the Royal Artillery in the 1939-45 War. Dick Moore had been a life member of the Regimental Association for over 50 years.

Giles—On 30th June, 1975, Major Basil Francis Giles, aged 76. Served with the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Passchendaele and in Italy in the 1914-18 War. Recalled in 1939, he served throughout the Second World War. He was evacuated from Bordeaux in 1940 while serving with the Royal Military Police.

Evans—On 30th June, 1975, in a car accident, Sgt Robert Caspar Evans, (6137625). Served in the Band of The East Surrey Regiment from 1928 to 1946. See obituary.

Hicks—On 4th July, 1975, Captain John Anthony Hicks, aged 50. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1943 to 1948.

Hawken—On 4th July, 1975, Lt Colonel Ninian John Patrick Hawken, MC, aged 64. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1951, his war time service being with the 1/7th Queen's. Awarded the MC in France in 1940, he was wounded at Alamein in October 1942 and again in Italy in September 1944. See obituary.

Towning—On 8th July, 1975, Lieut. Edward Alfred Towning, aged 87. He joined the 5th Queen's (TA) in 1910 and was commissioned in the field soon after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. The remainder of his service was in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Stewart—On 31st July, 1975, L/Cpl S. H. Stewart, (6097062), aged 60. Served in the 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1944 when he was invalided on account of wounds sustained in Normandy in August 1944.

Shonfeld—On 14th August, 1975, Cpl Charles George Alfred Shonfeld, aged 74. After service as a Regular soldier in the Royal Artillery, he served in the 4th Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) and its successors from 1929 to 1946. During the 1939-45 War he served at sea in liners taking German prisoners to USA, returning with American troops for Europe.

Cain—On 21st August, 1975, CSM Thomas Cain, (10030), aged 83. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1908 to 1915 and for the remainder of the War, in which he was twice wounded, in the Machine Gun Corps. After discharge from the Regular Army, "Rachel" Cain was a professional footballer with Queen's Park Rangers for a number of years.

Mills—On 24th August, 1975, Pte William Charles Mills, (6082626), aged 68. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1925 to 1938.

Cording—On 7th September, 1975, Pte Douglas Haig Cording, (6089043), aged 57. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1939-45 War.

Taylor—On 13th September, 1975, Lt. Colonel James Wingate Taylor, aged 70. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1936 to 1946. See obituary.

Fisher—On 15th September, 1975, Sgt William George Fisher, (6080487), aged 71. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1922 to 1929 and in the Royal Pioneer Corps in the 1939-45 War. Bill Fisher, a life member of the Regimental Association for 45 years, was a familiar sight in his wheel chair at the Regimental Association Annual Service in Guildford Cathedral.

Lady Sutherland-Harris writes,

"Bill Fisher was a very devoted member of the Regiment—a man of great character, and for me a valued friend I shall miss very much".

Drake-Brockman—On 19th September, 1975, Lt. Colonel Paris Hilary Drake-Brockman, aged 79. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1947. See obituary.

Messenger—On 29th September, 1975, Captain William Arthur Messenger, aged 63. Joining the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) in 1931, Bill Messenger served as a sergeant in the 1/6th Surreys throughout the 1939-45 War. He was commissioned Lieutenant (QM) in 1960 and finished his long service in the Regiment in March 1967.

Langridge—On 6th October, 1975 at the Harestone Nursing Home, Caterham, Sgt William Langridge (6078263). Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1937 and from 1939 to 1945. Spent 6 years in India with the 2nd Battalion between the Wars and joined the 50th Holding Battalion at Caterham in June 1940.

Wyatt—On 28th October, 1975, Sgt Pat Wyatt, aged 56. Served in the 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1939-45 War.

Wilkins—On October 7th, 1975, at Durban, South Africa, Beryl Kathleen Irene, formerly of Exmouth, aged 92, widow of Lt-Col H. St. Clair Wilkins, Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).

Obituaries

Major-General J. F. Metcalfe, CB, CBE

John Francis Metcalfe was educated at Radley and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Gazetted to The Queen's Royal Regiment, as Second-Lieutenant, in 1928, and posted to the 1st Battalion, he served in that unit for the next five years, in Malta and North China. In 1935 he returned to the United Kingdom on appointment as Adjutant of the Regimental Depot at Guildford. His next appointment, in May 1937, was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, in India.

Soon after the outbreak of war in 1939, he attended the Staff College, Quetta, and on conclusion of the Course, having shown outstanding potentiality as an instructor, he was retained at the College on the Instructional Staff. In September, 1943, he again joined the 1st Battalion The Queen's as Second-in-Command, as it was about to enter the Burma front in the Arakan, and remained with the Battalion during its early encounters with the Japanese, leaving the Battalion on appointment as Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion The Queen's early in December of that year. The 2nd Battalion was then in 16 Brigade, a part of General Orde Wingate's Special Force, the "Chindits", which was entering the final stages of its training and preparation for the second Long Range Penetration operation into Burma. Lieut-Colonel John Metcalfe commanded No. 21 Column, accompanying the Brigade Commander on several air reconnaissances. The march-in began on 5th February 1944, and in a hand-to-hand encounter with the enemy, on 5th March, he was severely wounded in the right hand as he was taking aim with his pistol at a Japanese, but he remained with the Column until 13th April when he was flown out to India with other battle casualties.

In August, 1949, he was transferred from The Queen's Royal Regiment and appointed to command the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment joining that Battalion in Greece. He remained in command of the Battalion during its service in East Africa, with Battalion Headquarters in Mogadishu, until its return to the United Kingdom. In August, 1951, he left the Battalion on promotion to Brigadier on the General Staff of Western Command. He was made a Commander of the Order of The British Empire in 1954. Commanding the 2nd Federation Infantry Brigade in Malaya, from 1955-1957, he was Mentioned in Despatches. From 1958 to 1961 he was Director of Personnel Administration at the War Office, becoming a Companion of the Order of The Bath in 1960. His last appointment on the active list was General Officer Commanding, Aldershot District, which he held until his retirement from the Army in 1963.

When, in 1959, The Queen's and The Surreys were amalgamated to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Major-General Metcalfe was appointed Colonel of the Regiment. Having been Chairman of the Regimental Amalgamation Committee, he was particularly well-suited for this appointment, with his wide experience and knowledge of military administration and by virtue of the fact that he had the almost unique experience of having commanded Regular Battalions of both The Queen's and The Surreys. Under his Chairmanship, and with his valuable advice and cheerful guidance, the Amalgamation Com-

mittee had worked very happily in its task of sorting out the many intricate details involved. The result was a very successful amalgamation, and a smooth-running and efficient Regimental Headquarters which has looked after our affairs so well for the last sixteen years.

Under its first Colonel the newly formed Regiment immediately became welded into a well-co-ordinated, contented, and efficient military formation, serving the country well, both on ceremonial occasions and in the testing field of active service.

In 1930, during service with The Queen's Detachment providing the British Legation Guard in Peking, John Metcalfe met Natalia Eleanor Margetts, daughter of Colonel Margetts, American Military Attaché to China. Later they married, and had one daughter, Felicity. Mrs. Metcalfe, "Buddy" as she is affectionately known, is very popular with everyone, particularly with the Regiment's families.

General John Metcalfe will long be remembered by all of us who knew him and enjoyed serving with or under him; for his military bearing; his outstanding qualities of leadership, and most of all for his kindly advice and guidance, readily given, to the younger members of the Regiment.

H.G.D.

R. Evans

Mr. W. G. Attewell, DCM, of The East Surrey Band Association, writes,

"Bob ('Shindy') Evans, who was killed with his wife in a most tragic road accident in June, joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in India as a band boy in 1928. He quickly established himself as an athlete and on attaining man service, besides being a very proficient tenor saxophone player, distinguished himself in the Battalion hockey and football teams, in addition to becoming the Battalion sprint champion.

He was a leading member of the Battalion dance band in Khartoum in 1938, and when the band visited Wad Medani, he met Captain Fleming-Sandes, one of the Regimental VCs. Bob Evans was until his death still very active in the music world and playing in the local dance band. He and his wife, Marie, were always present at functions of The East Surrey Band Association and helped considerably in raising funds. All members of the Association wish to offer their condolences to the family remaining".

Lieut. Colonel N. J. P. Hawken, MC, TD

It was saddening to hear that "Nin", as he was affectionately known to members of the 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, had died after a long illness, on the 4th July 1975.

He was commissioned in the Queen's in May, 1939 and served with the 1/7th in France and Belgium 1940, being awarded the MC for his part in destroying 250 barges on the La Bassée canal, under fire, to delay the German advance on Dunkirk. On returning to England he re-formed the Battalion transport, and his scrupulous arrangements (a feature of all his work) were especially appreciated. Intellectually he was so outstanding that he was obviously destined for higher appointments, and was a most successful adjutant.

In North Africa he formed up with the Battalion for the historic attack at Alamein, and with great courage

advanced through the enemy defensive artillery, mortar and machine gun-fire, to gain the objectives on the enemy side of the "January" minefield. The CO was killed and all Company Commanders and Nin were wounded; in addition there were serious casualties to the Battalion and its communications on the 23rd October 1942.

At Base Hospital in Egypt Nin signed his own medical certificate to say he was fit for action, and re-joined the 1/7th Queen's as HQ Company Commander in the battles for the clearance of the enemy from North Africa. Typical of Nin he insisted on taking part in the long route marches, when he could have remained in "B" Echelon. Consequently not being fully recovered from his wounds he suffered from sore feet, and like many others, desert sores. Although he was in at the capture of Tunis, he was bitterly disappointed to have been in hospital when the Battalion embarked for the landings at Salerno in Italy in September, 1943.

Nin's qualities and excellence at Staff Duties were recognised by an appointment as Staff Captain in the Canal Zone, but he was restless to get back into action. He joined the 2/5th Leicesters as a Company Commander for the attack on the Gothic Line in Italy in 1944, where he was very badly wounded in the chest, and became a long term casualty of the war. After the war when the 1/7th Queen's was reformed as 622 HAA Regiment (Queen's) RA TA, he answered the call to re-join, and was appointed successively Battery Commander, 2IC and CO.

Lt. Col. Hawken held command from May 1949, until May 1951, at a most difficult period for recruiting and training of TA Volunteers. Only the highest quality of officer could have organised its conversion, training and administration. He was the right one for this task.

He was always deeply attached to the Queen's and it was his permanent regret that, due to the undermining of his health from his chest wounds, he was unable to take part in as many Regimental activities and Old Comrades Reunions as he would have wished, which was fully appreciated by former members who admired his fortitude. Our condolences go to Elizabeth, his wife, who nursed him during his long illness.

W.D.G.

Lt. Colonel J. W. Taylor

James Taylor was educated at Worksop College and at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and was commissioned in the Territorial Army in 1928. From 1935 to 1939 he was a lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and at the same time serving in the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's), later the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was thus well qualified to be selected for the 1st War Course at the Staff College, Camberley in December 1939.

A number of "T" staff appointments followed, including GSO 2 (!) HQ First Army in Tunisia from November 1942 to July 1943. Colonel Taylor's administrative ability was recognised by his appointment as Senior Civil Affairs Officer (and Acting Government Secretary) in Jersey from May 1945 to April 1946. He then returned to the academic world of the RMA Sandhurst retiring as Director of Studies in 1965. There can be few non-Regular officers with such an extensive knowledge of the Army in peace and in war.

"D-B"

Paris Hilary Drake-Brockman was born in 1896, educated at Dover College and commissioned in May 1915. He was a classic example of those popular people whose Christian name is hardly known by even their closest

friends: to everyone he was "D-B". From 1915 to 1918 he served in France in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment and was wounded three times. He was employed under the Air Ministry from April 1918 until July 1919 and with The Royal West African Frontier Force for four years from September 1932. Otherwise he was at Regimental Duty with the 1st or 2nd Bn until November 1936 when he started three happy years as Adjutant of 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA). During that period the unit was converted to become 57th Anti Tank Regt R.A.

A proud moment came in June 1940 when he was appointed to command 50th Bn The East Surrey Regiment which soon became the 11th Bn. He was given 600 absolutely raw recruits with a junior nucleus staff. Company commanders had to be found from lieutenants or second lieutenants; warrant officers mostly promoted from sergeants, and so on. Under D-B's benevolent and inspired leadership was created an excellent and happy battalion. The soldiers paid him tribute by calling themselves "Drake's Men". His seniors paid him tribute by selecting his battalion to become the reconstituted Regular 2nd Battalion. In 1942 he was told that he was too old to command a battalion in action and he experienced personal tragedy in the untimely death of his first wife. At that time, it was decided to raise a new battalion in the Leeward Isles. General (as he then was) Montgomery told the War Office that D-B was the best possible choice for this task and that he needed a complete change. And it so proved, for he again raised, trained and commanded a battalion this time of Colonial Forces. He retired from the Army in December 1947. Our sympathies go to Margaret and to his three sons but they can be proud to know that D-B was the finest type of Regimental Officer who inspired great affection among all who knew him.

BH

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