



# THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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

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Regimental Association  
News Letter

## Editorial

I confess to butterflies in my stomach when writing this preface to my first publication of the Newsletter. It has been produced in an atmosphere of optimism based on enthusiastic ignorance. I appreciate the support and encouragement given to me. Having enjoyed Peter Hill's efforts for so long I can but try to emulate them.

I can best define the "official" editorial policy by quoting the words of welcome given me by a Sikh Colonel when visiting his unit in India recently – "In my country old soldiers are as gold"!

The new heading resulted from consultations with the printer and designer colleagues of mine. I hope you like it. I anticipate a little difficulty in controlling the allocation of space until I establish my own standards of measurement based on actual experience. I also must try to keep within the budget.

It will be most sincerely appreciated if contributions are sent to me already typed with double spacing. My typing facilities, i.e. my wife, are limited. If this is impossible then please write clearly so that I cannot misinterpret your efforts. It has been pointed out to me that dates of service, or death and battalions involved are of great interest to other members when reading the news items.

Copy for the November issue should be sent to me at:-  
"Gables", Oaklands Way, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3FJ  
by 30 September.

## President's Notes

I mentioned in my last Notes that the Office at Kingston would close around the end of 1978. For various reasons that date is likely to be moved forward to some time in the earlier part of that year. Full details of the changes involved will be given in the November News Letter.

In the meantime I would like to repeat what I said in the previous Notes that there is no question of cutting any of our important links with Old Associations. On the contrary the Colonel of the Queen's Regiment made a point of stressing the vital need for maintaining these in his Christmas message to the Regiment.

Last November I appealed for volunteers to take over as

many of the duties as possible that are now run for us at Kingston. The first fruits of this are in this edition of the News Letter which is now edited by Captain Ken Brooks. I am personally delighted that he has entered upon his office by making the Old Badge larger than ever! We still have a need for more volunteers to take on the job of Secretary of the Officers Club, and also a Secretary for the Queen's Surreys Regimental Association – in the latter case particularly for organising reunions. So Fall In!

One of the biggest problems of the move from Kingston to Canterbury is to find a home for the Museum. After a long search we have been invited by the National Trust to put it into Clandon House, just outside Guildford. This is an ideal location for not only does it get over 30,000 visitors a year but also we shall be in the ancestral home of the Onslow family who have historical links with the Regiment. The snag as always is money. We have to find a total of about £10,000 to set up our museum at Clandon in a way befitting our valuable relics and records. We are establishing a Board of Trustees to oversee museum affairs and no doubt they will be thinking of ways and means of raising the cash but in the meantime if anyone would like to help with a donation we should be naturally delighted to receive it. Donations should be sent to: Major F J Reed at the County Office at Kingston and made payable to the "Museum Fund". I believe we are on to a winner at Clandon for not only will it give us an excellent site for our Museum which can then be seen by the public at large but the spacious grounds supported by first class catering services could well provide a venue for some of our future gatherings.

I have continued to attend as many reunions as possible and recently I was delighted to be with The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association at their Annual Dinner at the Union Jack Club. Once again I met many old friends; among them Mr Groves my old RSM from the days in Bermondsey. Like all old Queen's Surreys he does not seem to have changed a bit over the years.

I hope we will have a record turn out for the Church Service at Kingston on 12 June next. Here is an opportunity for those who sometimes tell me that Guildford is too far from London to get mobile and form up with their old Comrades.

RSNM

## Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock

Others who knew General Dick Craddock on the Active List of the Army will have written about his very distinguished military career. For my part I did not meet him until he had retired and become the first Colonel of the Queen's Regiment. It was in 1969 when I had just taken over as the Deputy Commander of South East District and as such was responsible for supervising the training of the TAVR in the District. General Dick, as he was affectionately known throughout the Regiment, had come half way across Southern England to attend a weekend exercise of 5 Queen's and we found ourselves together one Saturday afternoon in an otherwise deserted Mess at Shorncliffe. What had started for me as an ordinary run of the mill weekend became one which I shall always remember. General Dick related an endless series of anecdotes about his life in the Army from his earliest days as a subaltern in the Buffs to his times in high command. That afternoon revealed to me a man of great character possessing a wealth of knowledge of human nature and, underlying it all, a twinkling sense of humour. From that day we became firm friends and I knew that I could turn to him at any time for wise advice.

General Dick's part in creating the Queen's Regiment will be his lasting memorial in our Regimental Family. Not only did he enthuse the Regular Battalions with the challenge of our coming together from so many differing origins, but equally he impressed this upon all the other elements involved; Volunteers, Cadets and Old Comrades alike. We owe him a debt beyond valuation. To me, and I believe to many others, it was a most moving moment when the Regiment demonstrated the love and esteem for General Dick when, at that memorable Presentation of Colours in 1974, the whole parade presented arms to him.

Writing on the death of President Roosevelt in 1945, Walter Lippmann said that the final test of a leader is that he leaves to other men the conviction and the will to carry on. Dick Craddock bequeathed these to the Queen's Regiment in full measure.

R.S.N.M.

## Annual Regimental Church Service 1977

In 1977 the Church Service of the Regimental Association will NOT be held in Guildford Cathedral. The date of Sunday, 12th June 1977 had been booked but unfortunately the same date was required by the Surrey County Council for a Service in connection with the Silver Jubilee of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. No other Sundays in June are available.

Therefore the Service will be held on 12th June 1977 commencing at 11.15 am in All Saints Parish Church, Market Place, Kingston upon Thames, and will be conducted by the Vicar, the Reverend John T. Martin, MA, who will also preach the Sermon. All Saints has a very fine choir and organist. It is an old and very large Church which houses the Regimental Chapel of The East Surrey Regiment; the main body of the Church also contains many relics of the Regiment, including the Colours of the 31st and 70th Regiments. The entrance from the Market Place is through the wrought iron gates bearing the badge of The East Surrey Regiment and dedicated as the Memorial to the fallen of that Regiment in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars.

There is ample free car-parking on a Sunday at the following places, all of which are less than five minutes walk from the Church:

- (a) Thames Street Euro Carpark—1 minute.
- (b) Wood Street Corporation Car Park (opposite Bentsalls Store)—2 minutes.
- (c) Kingston Hall Road (off High Street) Corporation Car Park and Euro Car Park—3-5 minutes.
- (d) All meter sites are free of charge on a Sunday.

After the Service a cash bar will be run in the Hall of the TAVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames (seven minutes walk from the Church) from 12 noon to 2 pm. It is advisable to leave vehicles in car parks at Kingston as parking at the TAVR Centre is limited.

**Restaurants.** There are several small restaurants open in the vicinity of the Market Place and High Street; a large and very good BERNI Restaurant in the Market Place (12 noon to 2.30 pm) and The London Steak House in High Street (12.30 pm to 3pm). High Street runs from the Market Place to Portsmouth Road. There are also several inns around the Market place and also on the Middlesex side of Kingston Bridge.

For those who wish to bring a picnic lunch, Richmond Park and Bushy Park are within ten minutes drive of the centre of Kingston. Both these Royal Parks contain beautiful plantations of azalea, and also large herds of deer. There is also Hampton Court Palace and its Home Park, again within ten minutes drive or bus ride. Motor launches on the Thames operate from a stage near the TAVR Centre and run trips to Hampton Court.

Medals should be worn.

## One Hundred Years of Association —

### The Queen's Regiment and the Borough of Guildford

To mark the Centenary of Association, and as a culmination of the parades and celebrations held in Guildford during June 1976, Major General Rowley Mans, as Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment, on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November 1976, presented to the Mayor of Guildford on behalf of the Regiment, a silver rose bowl bearing the engraved badge of The Queen's Regiment and the following inscription:

"Presented to the Borough of Guildford"

10th October 1976

One hundred years association with  
The Queen's Regiment"

It was on 10th October 1876 that The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot first occupied Stoughton Barracks, Guildford. It was considered that Remembrance Sunday 1976 was a most suitable occasion on which to make the presentation.

## Your Rights

Older members of the Regimental Association may be interested in an excellent little booklet called *Your Rights* published in November 1976 by Age Concern England, a registered charity founded in 1940 to promote the welfare of elderly people.

The aim of the booklet is to see that all retired people in Britain are aware of *every* benefit that the state provides for them, and how to obtain such benefits.

The booklet costs 25p plus 10p postage and can be obtained from:-

YOUR RIGHTS

PO 266

Manchester M23 9PB

## Forecast of Events 1977 — Surrey Office and Regimental Association

Date	Place	Function	
Fri. 13 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match v Royal Marines
Sat. 14 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	AGM and Annual Dinner
Fri. 10 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club	Cocktail Party
Sun. 12 June	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Church Service at 11.15 am in All Saints Parish Church, Market Place, Kingston-upon-Thames.	
Sat. 1 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association	Annual Reunion
Thurs. 6 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Autumn Meeting
Fri. 7 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Autumn Meeting
Sat. 15 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	Ladies Night — Dinner Dance
Sun. 13 Nov.	Kingston & Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades	
Sat. 3 Dec.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	Christmas Draw and Dance

### Notice of Silver Sale

1. The Trustees of the Queen's Surreys (Territorials) Charities plan to sell surplus silver and plate.
2. The sale will be of items valued at less than £100 each.
3. Admission to the sale will be by catalogue obtainable by sending stamped addressed foolscap envelope to Col T A Buchanan, White Lodge, Spring Lane, Marham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9HY.
4. The date, time and place of sale will be sent to applicants with the catalogue.
5. The sale is expected to be held on a Sunday morning in late summer at one of the old Surrey Drill Halls.
6. Although the sale will be in late summer application for sale catalogues must be made before the end of June 1977.
7. Sealed bids must be made before the close of the sale. A list of successful bidders will be published as soon as possible after the end of the sale. Bought items must be paid for and collected within 30 minutes of publication of the list.
8. There are a few items valued at over £100, mainly cups and trophies, but these will NOT be brought to the TAVR Centre. Anyone interested should inform Col Buchanan when sending for the catalogue and separate arrangements will be made for viewing.

### The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

This home is primarily intended for 30 elderly widows of W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and soldiers of the Regular Army, married whilst their husbands were serving, but it will accept a number of other soldiers' widows when vacancies permit. Officers' wives are eligible for admission provided the greater part of their husband's service was before being commissioned.

To be eligible to enter the home the widow must be at least 60 years of age and be passed by the Home's Medical Officer as capable of looking after her room.

The Home is at East Molesey, Surrey and consists of two adjoining houses with a connecting wing and gardens. They have lifts, are centrally heated and each has its own dining room and sitting room with television.

Each widow has a furnished bed-sitting room with radiator, electric fire, boiling ring and fitted basin with hot and cold water.

There are Sick Wards with trained nurses in charge, and therefore widows need not leave the Home when ill or in-

firm.

The Home inspires a feeling of being a well-run establishment offering a sheltered and happy environment for eligible widows, who contribute towards their maintenance according to their Pension while retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

It is understood that at present there is no waiting list. For further information, application should be made to:- The Secretary/Superintendent, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AH, Telephone 01-979 3788.

### British War-Time Mission to Mihailovich

Brigadier C D Armstrong CB DSO MC served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1948. His letter was printed in the "Daily Telegraph" on 24 January 1977, and is thought to be of interest to members.

*From Brig. C. D. ARMSTRONG. SIR—*May I add a few comments to the correspondence (Jan. 11) with reference to the tragic fate of Gen. Mihailovich?

After the surrender of the Royal Yugoslav Army to the Germans, Mihailovich, then a staff officer, escaped to the mountains and called on all Serbs who could do so to join him at Ravna Gora. There he organised the resistance movement.

Eventually contact was made by a British officer who landed from a submarine. He was followed by officers and wireless operators who all volunteered to parachute in to help; these formed sub-missions located throughout Serbia.

Difficulties immediately arose from lack of arms and apparent inability of HQ in Egypt to make good this deficiency. Support could only be given by air-drops.

By September 1943 a British MP and a well-known public figure and journalist had arrived at Tito's HQ followed in December by Randolph Churchill.

I had also arrived at Mihailovich's HQ but not accompanied by any notable. It was soon apparent that it was not intended to supply arms.

Sir Winston Churchill made this clear when he said: "We support those who fight for us." Poor Mihailovich had not got the weapons to fight the Germans with all their modern weapons; his supply depended on what his forces could capture. I remember particularly two air-drops at my HQ, one consisted mainly of gumboots the other of office equipment!



In May 1944 HQ Middle East decided to close down my mission.

I wonder how many people know that the night I arrived back in Bari Tito had also landed very secretly at the other end of the same runway. His HQ was at that time under strong attack from the Germans.

He returned very quickly, and assisted by missions from the British, Americans and Russians eventually drove the Germans out of Yugoslavia. If Mihailovich had had similar support perhaps the political situation in the Balkans today would be very different.

C. D. ARMSTRONG

Commander, British Military Mission to Gen. Mihailovich  
1943-44. Camberley, Surrey.

### For You the War is Ended

The Diaries of Captain John Mansel, Prisoner-of-war and camp forger - in Germany 1940 - 45 with 16 illustrations and 2 maps. Foreword by Airey Neave, DSO, MC, MP, edited by E.G.C. Beckwith.

These diaries record, brilliantly and movingly, the reactions to capture and imprisonment over a period of five years of a British Officer Prisoner in Germany. The diarist in this case, however, behind the facade of an "ordinary" internee, spent the bulk of his waking hours over those five years in forging passes and other necessary documents to aid would-be escapers. His real activities can only be hinted at for fear of discovery. The reader can easily guess at the constant strain and concentration which the forger's work demanded, over and above the frustrations and discomforts of his surroundings.

Copies obtainable from bookshops, or in case of difficulty, direct from the publishers: Five Oceans Press, Wildwood House, 29 King Street, London, W.C.2. The price will be £4.50.

*Editor's Note:* Captain John Mansel of 2/5th Queen's was taken prisoner in May 1940 during the withdrawal to the Somme.

### A Pioneer Motorist

Lt. Col. E.A. Rose, CBE died on September 2 1976 at the age of 92. He will be remembered by many as the honorary Colonel of 2/7th Queen's from the inception of the battalion in 1939. His obituary in the Times speaks of his part in the pioneering days of motoring in the last century. He first drove a car in 1897, taking part in the first 1,000 mile reliability trial in the British Isles and the Gordon Bennett Paris - Bordeaux race in 1900. It is understood that he was the first person ever to lap Brooklands at 100 m.p.h. and this was before the First World War.

In 1914 he was associated with Colonel Napier in the organisation of motor transport for the BEF commandeering anything from lorries to Rolls-Royces. He served in both France and Italy, where after Caporetto he was in charge of all transport for the French and British divisions sent to plug the gap.

In his civilian days as deputy managing director of Glaxo he was responsible during the Second World War for expanding the production of penicillin from the laboratory stage to large scale manufacture. Curiously, in his student days he had been concerned with another great invention. At the age of 18 he spent a year at Wurzburg working with Rontgen and was with him when he published his discovery of the X-ray.

### Quires & Choirs

Mr Leslie Fisher, who served in the 7th (Service) Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 war, is still running his own publishing business in Torquay. Mr Fisher writes,

"Apart from the above business which has been in the family for more than 50 years, I also have a mail order firm which has grown considerably since its inception in 1938 with the result that my spare time is somewhat limited.

I am also a singing member of the TORBAY MALE VOICE CHOIR of which I have been President for the past 15 years. We sing in churches, halls, theatres, etc. throughout the West Country mainly for charity and give an average of 20 concerts a year providing our own soloists in all cases."

The choir took part in the BBC 'Songs of Praise' from the Central Church, Torquay, on 12 December 1976.

### From Here and There

Mr William Daybank (formerly 3975556 Corporal Daybank) who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from July 1943 until August 1946 would like to hear from any former members of the Mortar Platoon of HQ Company. His address is: 229 Coalshaw Green Road, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs OL9 8JT. Telephone 061-681-9056.

Former 6088586 Pte Leslie Arthur Wickens writes from the United States to say that he would like to hear of some of his old friends with whom he served in The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1939/45 War. Mr Wickens was with No. 17 pl, D Coy 1/6 Queen's from November 1939 to May 1940, when he was wounded. In September 1940 he joined 17 pl, D Coy, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Middle East and served with that battalion until October 1944, when he returned from India to Gravesend. His present address is:-

1545 Pacheco Street  
San Francisco  
California 94116  
USA

### The Queen's Surreys Golf Society

Results of the Autumn Meeting held at Sudbrook Park, Richmond on 7/8th October 1976.

#### First Day

Heales Memorial Trophy: Major T. L. Trotman 35 points

Junior Division: Lieut-Colonel B. A. Hannaford 33 points

Veterans Halo: Lieut-Colonel B. A. Hannaford

Bogey Greensomes: Mr H. P. Mason and Lieut-Colonel B. A. Hannaford.

#### Second Day

Autumn Bowl: Major T. L. Trotman 72 net

Glasgow Greys Cup: Brigadier M. J. A. Clarke 77 net

Petri Plate: Major W. J. F. Sutton 153 net

Bogey Foursomes: Mr H. P. Mason and Lieut-Colonel P. G. F. M. Roupell, Lieut-Colonel J. B. C. Palmer and Major B. A. Crutchfield.

#### Winners of Sweepstake on Medal Round

1st—Major B. A. Crutchfield—£19.25

2nd—Major E. Glanvill Benn—£7.70

3rd—Major H. E. P. Spearing—£3.85

## Regimental Association

### Accounts

The audited accounts of all Regimental Association funds for the year ended 31 December 1976 were confirmed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 23 April 1977.

### State of the Funds

The state of the principal funds at 31 December 1976 is summarised below:

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds		Excess of Income over Expenditure	
	1975 £	1976 £	1975 £	1976 £
Queen's Surreys Charitable	6,520	6,709	189	270
Queen's Charitable	51,906	50,639	417	1,293
Surrey's Charitable	25,955	26,178	302	(401)
Queen's War Memorial	21,292	21,720	428	465
Surrey's War Memorial	15,836	15,937	101	106
Main	2,533	2,972	439	269
Reunion	1,115	1,131	16	34
News letter	386	230	34	(65)

*Note:* Figures in brackets denote Excess of Expenditure over Income

### Benevolent Work of the Association — 1976

The number of cases in which a grant was made was 187, and the total amount disbursed in grants was £5,728.

### Reunion

The Annual Reunion will be held in the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames from 1830 hours to 2300 hours on Saturday, 1 October 1977. The function is for men only, and the cost of admission is £1 whether or not supper is taken.

Members who wish to attend are requested to submit the enclosed slip with remittance, together with a stamped and addressed envelope for reply by not later than Friday, 23 September 1977.

Admission will be by ticket which will entitle the holder to a buffet supper. Members are requested to buy their tickets in advance to assist administrative arrangements and reduce costs. Supper cannot be arranged for those who buy tickets at the door.

Money will be refunded provided cancelled bookings are notified by Monday, 26 September 1977. Members are reminded that cars must not be parked against the Drill Hall or connected buildings.

### 1933/4 Christmas Card

A request has been received from Capt. C. R. Mountjoy regarding an Officers' Mess Christmas card printed circa 1933/4 when the 2nd Queen's were in Corunna Barracks, Aldershot. The card shows a line drawing of an OR wearing the "Experimental Uniform" which preceded the 1939 battle-dress. He was the model for the drawing and would appreciate a sight or a copy if anybody still has one.

His service with 2nd Queen's covered the Pre-1939 period in Palestine and the early years in the Western Desert. He won the MM as a sergeant commanding 10 Platoon of "B" Company in June 1941 during a very spirited action in Syria supporting Australian infantry. He was later commissioned into the Indian Army.

If anybody has a copy of the Christmas card would they

please contact Capt. C. R. Mountjoy direct at "Pant Villa", 55 Aberdare Road, CWMBACH, Aberdare, Mid-Glam., CF4 0PB.

### National Service by 22403868

National Service. Some folks liked it. Some folks did not. Some got stuck in and eventually enjoyed it. Others kicked against it and consequently hated it, but overall I do not think that it did anyone any harm. In fact it made many boys into men and made them take a pride in their appearance and dress both in and out of uniform, and it also sharpened their mental reactions.

I was lucky, I enjoyed my two years in "The Surreys". I had been in the Army Cadet Force and consequently knew a little of what to expect from service life.

My initial training was spent at Shorncliffe with the 1st Bn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt. who were the training battalion for the Home Counties Brigade recruits at the time I joined. When the spell of square-bashing ended, together with a few weeks in a holding company, I together with four friends was sent with one railway warrant to join "The Surreys" at Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. We four friends stayed together for the whole of our two years of National Service although not all in the same company of the regiment.

The battalion at Barnard Castle had not long returned from East Africa, and we had more training ("forget what you've already learnt, you are starting again") before I moved to battalion HQ and joined the Intelligence Section.

Camp for our section was fairly routine and it was not really until we went on exercises that we had plenty to do such as checking on the positions of the other companies and the "enemy", keeping the battle map in the command vehicle up to date and briefing and de-briefing and also going on patrols. We were fortunate to have as an I.O. a



regular officer who was a good person to work with. Exercises took us to the Yorkshire Moors. On one occasion I recall crossing the fast flowing river Tees with a radio set and 12 foot of aerial fixed to my back. After four months at Barnard Castle I moved with the Battalion to the Stanford Battle Area in Norfolk for more realistic battle training in rough terrain. On one occasion the Battalion Headquarters had got into position in a wood and the signal platoon had laid telephone lines from Battalion HQ to Coy. HQs. Lt. Col. J.F. Metcalfe (our CO) was furiously ringing on his telephone to get through to the switch board which was about twenty yards away. Nothing happened. Eventually the CO stood up, looked towards the Signal platoon HQ and shouted in a voice loud enough to give our position away "For Christ's sake get me "C" company" — result — frenzied activity by the Signal platoon.

After chasing round Norfolk we went to Shorncliffe for a few spring and summer months before returning to Stanford to share a camp with The Scots Guards. The Guards reveille was half an hour before ours but we all heard a piper marching through the Guards' lines reminding them of the time, as we turned over for another half hour "Kip".

Our Norfolk exercises ended in a large Army exercise which took place on Salisbury Plain. During this exercise I was in a 15 cwt. truck on one occasion at night and the convoy we were in crossed another one and our truck became lost. However, after enjoying the beauty of Salisbury Plain for about 20 minutes our driver eventually realised where we should be and hurried to rejoin the convoy, driving through a village between the houses and a line of Centurion tanks that were also going in our direction. One swerve of a tank and we would have been unexpected guests in somebody's front room. In November 1951 the Battalion flew to Libya and we were posted to Tripoli. This was a delightful place; during the hot season we started work early and finished at "tiffin time" and spent most afternoons on the beach by the blue clear Mediterranean Sea. We also had the opportunity to visit the Roman cities of Sabratha and Leptis Magna.

Around the barracks at night as well as our own guard the Army employed nightwatchmen or golfiers. On one occasion some holes were made at night in the perimeter wall of the barracks adjacent to the MT park and some tarpaulins were stolen. Suspicion fell upon some of the night watchmen and they were all assembled together to be admonished by our CO Lt Col PG Wreford-Brown. The CO was fluent in Arabic and the look of surprise on the faces of the Arabs was something to be seen as he tore them off a strip and reminded them of their duties.

One of the night watchmen's delights was to have a brew-up during the night. They made tea in a variety of tins and small teapots and it was nothing to be offered a small glass of warm tea that had just been cooled by pouring from one old Duraglit (metal polish cloth) tin to another. When the tea became weak peanuts were floated in the glass of tea to make it more appetising.

RSM's and Adjutant's parades were held regularly when in camp and one RSM's parade remains in my memory. Our company, according to the RSM who was on the other side of the square, were moving about. "Stand still Headquarters Company" he roared. Hearing this our CSM who was in front of us turned about and said so that we could all hear "Now lads, I don't mind you moving about a little, but when you get the cards out I draw the line at that".

This remark made many quake with laughter much to the annoyance of the RSM who threatened to have us for an extra parade that evening. The RSM was Norman Turner and the CSM S. Seymour MM.

After ten months in Libya I and others were flown home for demob, spending a week in Malta on the way.

On reaching Kingston, my first visit to the Regimental Depot, no huts were allotted to us and most of the time was spent filling in forms before going home.

At the time of my National Service every NS soldier had to spend also 3 years either in the TA or in the AER. I was posted to an RE Movement Control Unit in the AER which meant I went to a two weeks' camp every year for the three years. These camps were also interesting but this is another story.

### **An Eyewitness Account of the Battle of Messines — By V E Fagene**

At the time of the Battle of Messines (June 1917) I was serving with the 11th Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, which I had joined as one of a draft of reinforcements in December 1916, and who were then holding a section of the front line trenches at St Eloi on the Messines front, about three miles south of Ypres. The Battalion was commanded by Lt Col Otter of the Norfolk Regiment and was one of the twelve Battalions in the 41st Division commanded by Major-General Sir Sydney Lawford. The Division was part of the 2nd Army commanded by General Sir Herbert Plumer, to whom had been allocated the task of arranging and directing the British Forces in the forthcoming assault, intended to wrest the Messines Ridge from possession of the enemy who had been in occupation of it since December 1914.

The British front line ran along the bottom of the Ridge with the enemy holding the position of vantage at the top, where in daylight he had direct observation over all our front line, support and reserve positions. In fine weather and with the aid of telescopes he had the additional advantage of being able to see further on into our back areas.

During the two and a half years in which he had been in occupation of the Ridge the enemy had, by means of an elaborate trench system and fortifications, made it into what he believed to be an impregnable position. The British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, hoped to disillusion him with regard to this. Accordingly, during the Spring of 1917, preparations were made to drive the enemy off the Ridge and to establish our own positions there.

Tunnelling and mining operations under the enemy positions, which had been commenced as early as the autumn of 1915, were renewed and accelerated, and huge quantities of explosives placed in readiness to blow them up on the day of the Battle which had been fixed to take place on the 7th of June.

Particular attention had been paid to that part of the plan that was to result in the destruction of Hill 60, an eminence of about 200 feet in height at the north east end of the Ridge, and held by the enemy as a strongpoint, bristling with machine guns.

For the task of capturing the Ridge nine divisions were chosen. The order of the attacking divisions were from north to south:

The 23rd  
47th (London)



41st  
19th  
16th (Irish)  
36th (Ulster)  
25th

The New Zealand Division  
3rd Australian Division

The 41st Division was to attack on the St. Eloi sector and to advance a distance of about 1¼ miles.

During the evening of the 6th June the 11th Queen's left Alberta Camp, Reninghelst, and marched up to the line, a distance of about 8 or 9 miles. We arrived at our assembly positions, and then each Company and Platoon was guided to their appointed place in readiness for the attack. Wooden pegs had been driven into the ground, and white tapes ran along from peg to peg, which had numbers painted on them and inscribed "1st Wave" "2nd Wave" and so on. These were to denote the waves of our attacking infantry and for each wave to line up on. I remember (whilst marching up) seeing these tapes with pegs numbered up to 32, so I presume we must have had that number of waves of infantry preparing for the attack.

The platoon that I was in (No 11, "C" Coy) was in the 2nd wave. Our objective was to capture a position known as the Damstrasse and then dig a new front line a hundred yards or so ahead of it.

Zero hour (3.10AM) arrived and nineteen huge landmines under the enemy lines exploded with a thunderous and deafening roar, and with the ground beneath our feet shaking as in an earthquake. Vast sheets of flame shot skywards, and huge columns of smoke ascended from this holocaust of destruction. Simultaneously, at the back of us, about a thousand guns of sizes and calibres ranging from 15 inch down to 4.5 inch and eighteen pounders, opened up with a terrific bombardment of the enemy positions. The reports from the guns and the explosions of the shells on their targets created a pandemonium of noise. Added to the confusion of sound were the peculiar whistling noises made by thousands of bullets from the overhead barrage of the Machine Gun Corps in rear of us. Also the enemy was beginning to put down an artillery barrage, augmented with a considerable amount of machine gun fire.

We advanced without meeting much infantry resistance. I remember crossing the Damstrasse which had been considerably smashed up by our shellfire. There were a number of dead Germans strewn around, some of the bodies in grotesque positions. We hurried on and reached the position in which we were to dig our front-line trench. I threw down my rifle and the eight Lewis gun magazines in two canvas buckets, which I had been carrying, grabbed a spade which I saw lying on the ground, and in feverish haste commenced to dig in.

It was a matter of life or death to get dug in quickly as some protection against the enemy shellfire. Others joined in and we soon had a trench about 3 or 4 feet deep which afforded us a certain amount of shelter. Then an officer told me to go to a dump some distance in rear and fetch a couple of two-gallon petrol tins filled with water. Our drinking water usually came up to us in these tins and there was generally a rubbery taste to it. I ran to the dump, picked up a tin in each hand and proceeded to return to our new trench. On my back and over to my right I saw one of our men sitting on the parapet of a trench with his back towards the enemy. As enemy shells were falling and

exploding round about, I was astonished to see how calm and composed he appeared to be, in what in my opinion was an extremely dangerous position. I was curious to know who he was, and exactly why he was there, instead of being up forward with the others. I therefore hurried over to speak to him and to ask questions. As I approached him I saw that his face was very pale, and on reaching the near-side of the trench I saw the reason for his apparent unconcern. The poor fellow was stone dead, his right leg having been completely severed between the knee and the thigh by a large shell splinter, and was lying in the bottom of the trench. All the blood had of course, drained from his body, and I presumed that on being struck by the shell he must have died practically instantly. I hurried back with my two tins of water and reported to the officer what I had seen. He sent an NCO and a stretcherbearer back and they retrieved the dead man's identity discs and pay-book, also his personal effects, to be sent home to his next of kin.

After we had got our new front line trench dug to our satisfaction, an officer detailed a lance-corporal and six men, including myself, to go forward about 50 yards and to convert a large shell-hole which was there into a Lewis gun outpost, to cover the new front line in the event of an enemy counter-attack. We were doing this, working with spades to cut the sides of the shellhole down straight, when I heard the crack of a rifle coming from close behind and a bullet whizzed past. Alarmed, I looked in that direction and saw one of our own men standing on the parapet of the new trench with his rifle at his shoulder, having fired the shot, pulling back the bolt to eject the empty cartridge case, and pumping another round into the breech preparatory to firing at us again at the same time shouting excitedly "Look! Jerries! there they are!" and pointing to us in the shellhole. We all ducked down as we appeared to be in more danger from him than we were from the enemy. The lance-corporal then pulled a near-white handkerchief from his pocket, tied it on the end of his bayonet and pushed it above the top of the shellhole. With that being seen by those at the rear the firing ceased, and we saw that the trigger-happy fool who had fired at us had had to be forcibly restrained, and his rifle taken away from him. He had apparently gone temporarily berserk with excitement. Or he may have been colourblind and not have been able to distinguish between khaki and fieldgrey. We were all thankful that he was not a better marksman. To quote the Company wit when later informed of the incident "With friends like that, who needs enemies".

We consolidated our positions, and later in the day our supporting troops passed through our lines and deepened the advance into enemy territory. We maintained our positions until we were relieved on 12th June, when we marched back to camp at the village of Vormersele. We moved up to the front line again on 19th June, being finally relieved on 30th June when we marched back to Alberta Camp, Reninghelst. The battle had been a complete victory, with the capture of the whole of the Messines Ridge, and an advance into enemy territory of up to 2 miles on a 7 miles front. More than 7000 prisoners had been captured, including 145 officers. The haul of weapons included 47 guns, and 60 trench mortars.

The casualties of the 11th Battalion the Queen's in this action were:

7 officers and 29 other ranks killed

5 officers and 157 other ranks wounded — a total of 198.

## News of the Associations

### 5th Queen's — Old Members Association

The 5th Queen's Old Members Association will be holding their annual Reunion Dinner at the Guildford TAVR centre on the 7th May 1977. We are hoping for a good attendance, to beat our last year's record of 160. It was agreed at our last Committee meeting that members of other Queen's Royal Regt. Battalions would be welcome to attend our reunion. We had in mind people living around Guildford who would like to meet and have their get-together with us. Further particulars from hon. Secretary, Douglas J Mitchell, 9 Peterborough Road, Guildford, Surrey.

### 1/7th Queen's OCA

An interesting report received from Mr. W. Murfitt tells of a trip by members of 1/7th Queen's OCA to St. Niklaas in Belgium during September 1976. The visit has been an annual event since 1967. The purpose was to take part in the liberation celebrations dating from 1944. Commemorative medals and certificates were presented to each member of the party by the Burgomaster and one of the town councillors. The highlights of the occasion were the laying of wreaths at the memorial to the Queen's, 44th RTR, the Polish Armoured Division and the local Resistance fighters, followed by a civic reception given by the Burgomaster and his Aldermen. Fireworks and a tattoo completed the day.

The guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Midlands area of the Queen's OCA was Col W. D. Griffiths, DSO, MC who commanded the battalion at the liberation of St. Niklaas.

## Deaths

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

**Adcock**—On 23 January 1977, Lieutenant Henry Sebastian Adcock, aged 87. He served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1906 to 1922 in every rank from Private to RQMS until commissioned in 1918, becoming Adjutant of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. (See obituary).

**Andras**—On 23 October 1976, Colonel John Bertram Andras TD. Commissioned in 1914 to the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, he became Adjutant of the battalion in 1918; Second in Command of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) in 1925, and commanded that battalion from 1932 to 1936.

**Baker**—On 31 December 1976, Colonel Thomas MacDonald Baker CBE, TD, DL aged 82. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1911 to 1932, and was Honorary Colonel of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1948 to 1960. (See obituary).

**Bolton**—On 3 March 1977, Lt Col Edward Frederick Bolton DSO, aged 79. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1948 (See obituary).

**Brown**—On 28 December 1976, Major John Patrick MC, aged 80. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1916 to 1940. (See obituary).

**Burton**—On 13 November 1976, Brigadier Bertram Edward Lionel Burton CBE, aged 71. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1929 to 1959. (See obituary).

**Childs**—On 15 November 1976, Walter Frederick Childs, aged 96. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1899 to 1907.

**Dorman-Smith**—On 20 March 1977, Colonel The Rt Hon Sir Reginald H Dorman-Smith P.C. GBE aged 78. Served with the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1925-1946. Honorary Colonel 5th and 1st/5th Battalions The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1937 to 1946.

**Evans**—On 27 December 1976, Colonel Bertie Langham TD, DL, aged 89. Commissioned in 1908 in The Queen's Royal Regiment, he served throughout the 1914-18 War with the Regiment and commanded the 4th Battalion from 1927 to 1933; He was also Honorary Colonel 598 LAA Regiment RA(TA) from 1949 to 1955, and a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey from 1933 to 1976. (See obituary).

**Isaac**—On 14 November 1976, Captain Edward Vivian Lawrence (Ted) Isaac, aged 68. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1936 to 1946. Vice President of Esher Rugby Club, and life member of Surrey County Rugby Union and Thames Ditton Cricket Club.

**Jackson**—On 11 February 1977, RQMS Leonard Henry Jackson. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1932 to 1955.

**Keen**—On 4 March CSM Charlie Keen died at his home in Farncombe after a long illness. Charlie joined the 1/5th Queen's (TA) during the 1920's and later became CSM of D Coy, a post he held through the war years. On demobilisation he carried on as caretaker of Farncombe Drill Hall. He was a very ardent supporter of our association and committee member, and I understand a 1st class shot.

**Parsons**—On 9 January 1977, Lt Col Clement Durie Hagen Parsons, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1923 to 1949. Educated at Osborne, Dartmouth and the Royal Military College, he was commissioned to the Regiment in 1923 and served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions until 1939. During and after the 1939-45 War he held several staff appointments, the last one being Assistant British Military Commandant, United States Zone of Western Germany.

**Pennells**—On 4 October 1976, Sidney G., OBE, ISO, MSM. (1407). Served in the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1914-18 War, and previously.

**Roberts**—On 1 October 1976 in Pietermaritzburg, Natal, Major Herbert Noel Roberts who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1940 to 1945. After service in the 10th and 70th Battalions of the Regiment, he was a member of the SHAEF Military Mission to Denmark, and was awarded the King Christian X Freedom Medal.

**Smith**—In November Sgt George Smith died at his home in Shalford, Guildford aged 89. George joined the 1/5th Queen's in 1914, and in 1915 was drafted to Mesopotamia and A Coy of the Bn. with whom he continued to serve until 1918.

**Willis**—On 22 March 1977, Lt Col Nigel Addington Willis OBE, aged 79. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1916 to 1947. Colonel Willis lost his right arm at Delville Wood, on 5 September 1916, with 2nd Queen's during the Battle of the Somme. (See obituary).

## Deaths

### Regimental Families

**Buchan**—On 18 January 1977, Gwynedd Llewelyn Buchan, widow of the late Major T O M Buchan MC, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Dickins**—On 30 October 1976, in Australia, Barbara Margaret Dickins, wife of Major C H Dickins, late The East Surrey Regiment, and mother of Major D J C Dickins, The Queen's Regiment.

**McCoy**—On 27 February 1977, at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, Mrs Dorothy McCoy, aged 66, wife of Captain J McCoy, late The Queen's Royal Regiment and formerly Chairman of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

## Obituaries

### Lieutenant H. S. Adcock

Harry joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1906 and served in practically every rank from Private to Lieutenant. An all-round sportsman, he particularly in his younger days excelled in field sports, hockey, football and cricket. After retirement from the Army he was for thirty-three years an



Inspector for the London Assurance Company, and during this period became an expert golfer (he was a founder member of The East Surrey Regiment Golf Society), a creditable billiards and snooker player, and an outstanding player of the ancient game of bowls, playing for Surrey.

Harry's father also served in The East Surrey Regiment, as did his three brothers, a family link of which he was truly proud.

His familiar figure at our Golf Meetings, at which he was a regular attender, will be sadly missed, as will the interesting reminiscences with which he entertained so many of us over the years.

F.J.R.

#### Colonel R Mac D Baker

Colonel "Mac D" as he was affectionately known to countless soldiers during his life time, was born on 1 August 1894. Educated at Radley College during the years 1908-1911, he was granted a commission in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TF) in the year he left school. He served with this battalion as a Captain from 1914 to 1919 in India and Aden, being wounded in Aden in 1917. A lawyer in civil life, when stationed in India he was Deputy Assistant to the Judge Advocate (India). The war over, he continued his service with the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, as a Company Commander until 1928 when he assumed command of the battalion until 1932. On retirement he continued to serve on the Surrey T & AF Association until 1960. In 1948 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA), an appointment he held until 1960. During this period he was also legal adviser to The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, relinquishing the appointment to the latter Regiment in 1964. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey in 1949. His civil career saw him as Inspector of Taxes from 1920-1924, Assistant Solicitor to the Inland Revenue from 1924 to 1934 and Solicitor to the Metropolitan Police from 1934 to 1960, setting up the new "Solicitor Department - New Scotland Yard" in 1935. For services to the Metropolitan Police he was awarded the OBE in 1949.

"Mac D" was a kindly man with a keen perceptive brain, and a liking for people. He generated a feeling of warmth with everyone he met - yet showed strength in his opinions and actions. A great raconteur, he had an endless fund of stories, both about the high and the low, and some which were most certainly libellous! He attracted friends everywhere. On the day he retired as Solicitor of the Metropolitan Police, and drove to his home in Woking from New Scotland Yard, he was "pulled up" by traffic police on no less than ten occasions during the journey - only to be wished good luck in retirement.

During the past three years or so he has not been in good health and has lived with his invalid wife in a Nursing Home. He has therefore already been greatly missed from the regimental scene of which previously he had been an ever present part, and it is sad to think that we shall never see him again. But those of us who knew him, will never forget him.

#### Lieutenant Colonel E. F. Bolton, DSO

Teddy Bolton, when reminiscing in later years, had been heard to say that he was too young in the First Great War and too old for the Second. He received his first command in 1940 when he took over 2nd/6th Queen's at Caterham from Lieutenant Colonel B. H. Hughes-Reckitt. As a battalion formed only shortly before the war, we were a very inexperienced lot. We had suffered in common with many other units from a shortage of equipment and even clothing, and had spent much of our time guarding V P's. Our training had been very sketchy and no field training above section level had been carried out. In April 1940 the battalion was ordered to France as part of 12 Division, to act as Pioneers - unskilled labour.

It was against this background that Teddy came to command us only a few days before embarkation. There was little he could do to sort us out in the short time he was with us in England, nor indeed in France, before we

were caught up in the German breakthrough in May. Our moment of crisis came when we found ourselves in the path of the Germans on the evening of 20th May, with no communications with Brigade or Divisional Headquarters, nor with 2nd/5th or 2nd/7th Queens. Colonel Bolton's only orders, received earlier that day, were to be prepared to withdraw across the Somme.

He decided to march the battalion, at night, over the river to the West. The transport (one staff car) was dumped, and he set about the march, personally leading with map and compass. He found the bridge at Pont Le Grand which he had aimed for and got the whole battalion across successfully, with the exception of the rearguard platoon which was cut off by the German panzer advance. For getting his battalion away almost intact, he was awarded the DSO.

It was when we were back in England that he showed the value of the knowledge and training which he had accumulated in those between-war years. He was most energetic and, starting from scratch, wrote a whole series of unit standing orders, weeded out the inefficient and weak and by 1942 commanded a well trained battalion, fit for war.

He was never properly fit himself and only kept going by his own determination and with the collusion of the RMO. It was no surprise that he was deemed to be unfit to take the battalion overseas in August, 1942.

He was intolerant of inefficiency and idleness in others, and was compelled on occasion to perform some ruthless surgery, but he appreciated and encouraged those who met his rigorous standards. In later years he cherished his memories of the two years he spent in command, and right up to 1976, he never failed to attend the 2nd/6th Queens' battalion re-unions. It is true to say that but for him, there would have been many of us who would have languished for five years in German P.O.W. camps.

S.W.P.

#### Major J.P. Brown, MC

John Patrick (Buster) Brown, who had died at the age of 80, was educated at Harrow School and the Royal Military College. Commissioned to The East Surrey Regiment in 1916 he served in the 1st Battalion on the Western Front and North Russia, and was awarded the Military Cross in August 1918 and a Bar to the decoration in 1919. Between the Wars "Buster" served in India and at the Regimental Depot. When the BEF embarked in September 1939, he was sent ahead with the 1st Battalion's transport and carriers, and was the first officer of The East Surrey Regiment to land in France. "Buster", who had a somewhat retiring disposition, was a cultured and delightful companion, and will be missed by his many friends.

P.G.E.H.

#### Brigadier B.E.L. Burton, CBE

Boy Burton was born on the 14th October 1905 and was educated at Felstead and Sandhurst. He was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment on 3rd September 1925, and served with both 1st and 2nd Battalions.

He was an excellent shot, twice winning the 1st Battalion Rifle and Revolver championships, and achieved distinction at hockey and cricket.

During his service he held various staff appointments, and ended his service career in 1959 as Commandant of the Intelligence Centre, Maresfield. For this he was awarded the CBE.

His leisure pursuits of fishing, carpentry and gardening were developed and enjoyed to his usual high standards. His liking for people led him to become honorary secretary of the Piltdown Golf club and to enter local government, where for four years he was chairman of the local housing committee.

His final illness and several major operations were borne with great fortitude. The unflagging cheerfulness and courage he showed to the end impressed all his visitors. The Regiment has lost yet another very good officer.

Our very sincere sympathy goes to his wife Stella, who was a tower of strength during his last months, and also to all his family.



#### **Colonel The Rt Hon Sir Reginald Hugh Dorman-Smith**

Colonel Dorman-Smith's connection with the Queen's Royal Regiment lasted from 1925 to 1946, being Honorary Colonel of the 5th and 1st/5th Battalions (TA) from 1937 to 1946. He was educated at Harrow and the RMC Sandhurst. Before joining the Queen's he served with the 15th Sikhs.

In addition to his military duties he enjoyed a very active political career. From 1935 to 1941 he was Conservative MP for Petersfield, Hants. In 1939 he became Minister of Agriculture and produced a scheme for the creation of the Women's Land Army.

His knighthood in 1937 was followed by his appointment as a Privy Councillor in 1939 and as GBE in 1941.

From 1941 until 1946 he was Governor of Burma. In his view inadequate recognition was given to the Burmese battalions who fought against the Japanese, and the aid given to us by the Chins, Kachins, Karens and Nagas.

In 1952 he was made High Sheriff of Hampshire.

Our deepest sympathy is conveyed to his family.

#### **Colonel Bertie Langham Evans, TD, DL**

Colonel B.L. Evans died on Tuesday 28th December 1976 at the age of 89. He was a remarkable man, dearly loved and respected by generations of men who have served in The Queen's Royal Regiment and its successors for he was associated with the Regiment for some seventy years. He joined the Volunteers in 1906, some two years before the creation of the Territorial Army and was commissioned into the Fourth Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1908.

Soon after the outbreak of war in August 1914 the Battalion left Croydon for India. He served in many places there, attended the Staff College at Quetta and returned to England in 1919 as a Brevet Major. The 4th Queens were soon reformed and there are many who served in the inter war years with vivid memories of summer Camps and the beginnings of mechanised transport. B.L. Evans threw himself with unstinting energy into all activities, culminating in the command of the Battalion for six years from 1927 to 1933. He was then promoted full Colonel, but continued as a member of the Surrey T.A. and A.F. Association, also being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County.

He was recalled to the Colours soon after the outbreak of War to take part in the British expedition to Norway. After the evacuation he was appointed to the command of the Lichfield sub district, where in addition to the Regular Troops under command he was responsible for the Home Guard throughout his district.

The War over, he returned to active membership of the Surrey T.A. and A.F. Association and soon after the resuscitation of the 4th Queens as 598 L.A.A. Regt. R.A. (4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment) T.A. he succeeded the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey as Honorary Colonel. This position he occupied with wisdom and dignity. The former Adjutant, Douglas Howell-Everson, now the Rector of Bamford in Derbyshire writes of his unfailing kindness and wisdom.

As Honorary Colonel he invariably visited the Regiment in Camp, making the rounds of all aspects of training by day, and the various Messes by night. He particularly enjoyed the Sergeants Mess where he was a popular figure.

Throughout all this time he was nobly supported and encouraged by Mrs Gladys Evans to whom a great debt of gratitude is owed by all ranks. To her, and her sons Dennis and Alan we express our deepest sympathy.

B.G.

#### **Lieut-Colonel N A Willis, OBE**

Colonel Nigel Willis died peacefully at home on 22 March in his 80th year. The deep sympathy of his many friends in the Regiment goes to his wife, Mary, and the family, — Simon, himself a National Service officer in The Queen's Royal Regiment — and their daughter, Sarah.

Educated at St Paul's and Sandhurst, by the age of 18 Nigel had been commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment, joining the 2nd Battalion in time for the Battle of the Somme in 1916 where he lost his right arm at Delville wood.

From the end of the First World War, he served abroad continuously until 1939 with either the 1st or 2nd Battalions in India, the Sudan and China. This twenty year spell of foreign service was broken only by his time as Adjutant of the 4th T.A. Battalion of the Regiment from 1928-33. When the Second World War came he was 42 and he was posted to the Staff where he remained until retirement in 1947.

Nigel Willis was a magnificent Regimental officer. His standards were of the highest. Much was rightly expected of his subordinates at all times. Amongst the many young officers who passed through his hands as a Company Commander, the writer, together with John Terry, later to command the 1st Battalion in Burma as well as the 5th (TA) and the late David Barrow, father of Major 'Peter' Barrow all served together for several years as Platoon Commanders under him, learning much from his leadership, administrative exactitude and vast Regimental experience.

In these later years, since retirement, Nigel and Mary shared together ever broadening interests and enthusiasms: travel, politics, international affairs, and above all the Arts whether music, the theatre or especially literature — for many years after leaving the Army he ran a charming and most successful book shop in Ludlow.

Never, however, did the diversity of his interests detract from his abiding love for his old Regiment. Nevertheless, as inevitably the Regiment change with time he moved unhesitatingly with the tide not against it. His health permitting, he never missed a Queen's Royal Regiment, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment or Queen's Regiment function. As soon as it was formed in 1967, he became a life member of the Officers' Club of our new Regiment at the age of 70.

If he had one characteristic which shone before all who knew him it was his courage. He never appeared to be unduly handicapped by having lost his right arm and he lived the last years of his life in increasingly poor health, but never ceased to radiate warm friendship and enthusiasm for life.

In the beautiful and remote Oxfordshire village of Hambledon to which Mary and he had retired after Ludlow before finally moving to Henley, he was Churchwarden and a much loved and respected President of the Royal British Legion. It was here that his many friends came to fill the Church at his Memorial Service and to give thanks for the life of a gallant soldier and a good man.

FAHL