



THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

President
Major General R.S.N. Mans, CBE

Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE

Secretary
Major F.J. Reed

Editor
Capt K.W. Brooks F.C.I.S., J.P.

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

Number 22
November 1977

Regimental Association
News Letter

Editorial

I must start by saying how much I have appreciated the letters of thanks and support which I have received following my first effort. I hope to continue at the same level, but must point out that the success of the News Letter is directly related to the "copy" which I receive. I look forward to seeing many more interesting snippets of information and enjoyable articles.

Elsewhere in this News Letter are given details of the move of the Kingston office to Canterbury. I will not repeat them here, but may I remind members that subscriptions for the News Letter must be sent to Major F. J. Reed at Canterbury and not to me.

The change of address coincides with the elevation of our President to be Colonel of The Queen's Regiment on 31st December 1977. I am sure many people have already expressed their congratulations and thanks for past services to Major-General Rowley Mans direct, but I do not think it amiss for me to say on your behalf "Well done, sir, and thank you. We look forward to a continuing happy relationship with you in your new appointment".

At the same time we extend a very warm welcome and an assurance of continuing support to our new President – Brigadier G. B. Curtis OBE, MC who takes over 31st December 1977.

One deficiency which I feel keenly is my ignorance of any personal details relating to members who die. May I urge you all to notify me of any points which you would like to have mentioned in the News Letter on such occasions. It is a good way to pay tribute to the qualities of our deceased members.

A new feature is to be a brief statement about the 1st Queen's with whom we are most closely associated. I hope it will please all those members who would otherwise not know of their situation and activities.

Copy for the May issue should be sent to me at: "Gables", Oaklands Way, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3FJ by 31st March 1978.

President's Notes

It is with some degree of sadness that I pen these Notes, for they will be my last as your President. However, I am glad to say it is not Goodbye, for I hope to see many of you when I am wearing my next hat as Colonel of The Queen's Regiment. Moreover, I am delighted to tell you that I am being succeeded as President by Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, an old friend and a fine servant of the Regiment. He is well

known to a very large number of you, having served in both the Queen's Royal Regiment and the Queen's Surreys. We will not forget the magnificent way in which he and his Staff at Stoughton played host to us for the Centennial Celebrations in Guildford last year.

Planning for the centralisation of Queen's Regiment affairs at Canterbury proceeds apace. The new Regimental Secretary, Colonel John Shipster is now at his desk there and the rest of the Staff from the present County office outstations will build up by the end of the year. Elsewhere in this News Letter details are given of the closure of the Kingston Office and also of lines of communication for the future. I believe I have written and spoken enough over the past year about the reasons for the move; all I wish to do now is to reiterate that Canterbury will be the focus for both the PAST and the PRESENT so do not hesitate to write there about any matter that concerns you, just as you would have done to Kingston. Better still; if you are in the Canterbury area call in at Howe Barracks.

The Museum Committee under Colonel Toby Sewell is going great guns in planning the establishment of our Museum at Clandon House. It is too early to say when we will be ready to open it to the Public but when the time comes full details will appear in the News Letter. We still need contributions, however small, towards the Museum Fund. Remember, every little helps! There is great scope for efforts by Branches and individuals in assisting us to raise money: Why not have a local Tombola competition, bridge party, whist drive or ask the ladies to organise a coffee morning.

We shall be back in Guildford Cathedral for our annual service on 11th June 1978. I am pleased to say that the Bishop of Guildford has kindly agreed to preach the sermon.

As this goes to Press I am looking forward to joining all ranks of the East Surrey Regiment at their annual reunion at the Drill Hall Clapham Junction on 22nd October.

Finally I could not end these Notes without saying a very sincere Thank You to all those who have helped me over the past four years. At the top of that list must go John Reed. We are indeed fortunate in having such a magnificent anchor man at the centre of our affairs. I for one am delighted that John has agreed to join the new Staff at Canterbury, where not only will he have an important functional appointment but also will continue to be the link man for the Queen's Surreys.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL.

Change of Address — 1 January 1978

From the above date all correspondence for:—

- a. — RHQ The Queen's Regiment (Surrey Office)
- b. — The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club
- c. — The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association
- d. — The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum

Must be addressed to:—

Major F. J. Reed,
RHQ The Queen's Regiment
Howe Barracks
Canterbury
Kent CT1 1JY

Goodbye to all that

Eighteen years ago The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment was formed from what proved the happiest of all Army amalgamations: that of the two former Infantry Regiments of Surrey — the Queen's of the West and the Surreys of the East. From this marriage was born the Queen's Surreys Office at Kingston-upon-Thames, firstly to be housed in the old Kingston Barracks, but very soon afterwards to move with one of its TA battalions to the TA Centre at Portsmouth Road, Kingston.

For eleven years since the advent of the large Queen's Regiment, the Surrey Office has been the focal point for both the old and bold of the former regiments, and the not so old, but equally bold young men who served at the demise of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and many of whom today serve in the Regular and TAVR battalions of The Queen's Regiment.

At the end of this year the Surrey Office closes and the staff depart, their functions to be carried out by the main Regimental Headquarters of The Queen's Regiment at Canterbury.

It would be unnatural for a man not to feel a degree of sadness at quitting the traditional areas of his old Regiment, or his very close personal contacts with the local civic authorities, benevolent organisations, police, ecclesiastical and a multitude of other bodies who looked upon the Surrey Office as "The Queen's Regiment". So goodbye to all that!

Many cliches have been uttered where changes have taken place, and it is not proposed to use any of them here. It is my earnest hope that all that has been built up and preserved since 1959 in our Association will be upheld, both by me at Canterbury, but particularly by *YOU* the members for without you and your steadfast support, our Regimental Association, and indeed, this News Letter would not exist. Today the young serving men of our Regiment look back with pride on *your* actions in the past, so let us give *them* our whole-hearted support. PRISTINAE VIRTUTIS MEMOR.

JOHN REED

News Letter Subscriptions

1. Subscriptions for next year's News Letter should now be paid. The subscription for 1978 has had to be increased to 85p.
2. No action is required by:
 - (a) those who have already paid in advance.
 - (b) members of the Officers Club whose Club subscription covers the News Letter.
 - (c) those who pay by Bankers Order, except to check that their Order covers the increased cost of 85p.

Annual Regimental Church Service 1977.

The service held on Sunday, June 12th, at All Saints Parish Church, Kingston was well attended. The vicar made us all feel very welcome indeed. The standard of music was high and the whole service was most enjoyable. The atmosphere in the church was undoubtedly influenced strongly by the visible tokens of past association with The East Surrey Regiment. After the service a strong contingent went to the TAVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, presumably to draw sustenance and strength for the homeward journey.

"The Mansel Diaries"

Unfortunately the data upon which was based the notice given in the last News Letter a propos "For you the war is ended" changed before publication date. It is regretted that some members who acted upon the notice suffered some inconvenience in the confusion. The title was found at the last minute to have been used recently for another book, publication date slipped and distribution was delayed. Apparently the situation is now stabilised and copies may be obtained from book-sellers or the distributors — Wildwood House Ltd. — for £4.50.

The Queen's Royal Regiment Memorial, Kohima

A recent report from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission states that the memorial is in good condition.

Note: This is the newer Memorial erected in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at KOHIMA by the Regiment in April 1972, to replace the original memorial on Jail Hill which had fallen into disrepair and been surrounded by buildings.

News of 1st Queen's

The battalion is still stationed at Werl, Germany to where it returned in November 1976 following a tour of duty in Ulster. It is anticipated that the battalion will return to UK in 1979 — hopefully to Howe Barracks, Canterbury. Command of the battalion changed from Lt Col J G W Davidson in August this year to Lt Col J C Holman — to whom we all send our best wishes for a happy and successful period of command.

To Lt Col J G W Davidson we send our thanks for his efforts, not least those which resulted in a new Colonel's Colour being produced — see elsewhere in this News Letter for full details.

I have received a letter from Capt. (QM) L M Wilson enclosing a really beautiful coloured photograph of the three Colours. They stand over the piled Silver Drums and Bugles of the East Surrey Regiment and the Mace from the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Together they make a fine picture — copies of which may be obtained from him for 50 pence. The address is given in the notice on the next page which may also interest members.

The Silver Drums and Bugles are still very much part of the 1st Battalion and are displayed on all Guest Nights.

Unfortunately cost prohibits the printing of the photograph in the News Letter, but I am still making enquiries as to a future possibility.

One company of the battalion went to Canada on a training visit but has already returned, having had an apparently useful and enjoyable time.

Forecast of Events — 1978 The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Clubs and Associations

Date	Place	Sponsor	Function
11 February 1978	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	Sobraon Dance (Provisional)
4 May 1978	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Spring Meeting
13 May 1978	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association	AGM and Annual Dinner (Provisional)
19 May 1978	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match V Royal Marines
11 June 1978	Guildford	Regimental Association	Annual Church Service Guildford
5/6 October 1978	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Cathedral at 11.15 am.
6 October 1978	London	Officers Club	2 day Autumn Meeting and AGM
4 November 1978	London(?)	Regimental Association (Provisional)	Dinner at Claridges
12 November 1978		Remembrance Day Parades Guildford and Kingston	Annual Reunion (Firm date and details to be notified in May 1978)

PRI (Regimental Shop)
1st Battalion The Queens Regiment
Albuhera Barracks

BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE 106

1. The 1st Battalion are offering the following items for sale:-

a. *Pewter Statuettes of:-*

- (1) Queens Dowager Regiment Officer 1686.
- (2) 31st Regiment Sergeant 1847.
- (3) Middlesex Drummer (Albuhera)
- (4) Royal Sussex Private Soldier (Quebec).
- (5) Queens Regiment Soldier N. Ireland (Combat Dress 1974).
- (6) Buffs Officer. Albuhera carrying Regimental Colour.
- (7) QORWK Soldier at time of Kohima.

The cost of the above are £7 each.

b. *Coloured Mounted Prints.*

Matching pictorial prints for each of these statuettes can also be supplied at a cost of 50p each.

2. Orders should be sent direct to the PRI 1st Bn The Queens Regiment at the address shown above, accompanied by cheque or postal order for the appropriate amount made payable to *Central Bank 1 Queens*.

3. Orders can be accepted by 1st Bn The Queens Regiment Only.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association Reunion — 1977

The Annual Regimental Association Reunion held at the TAVR Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames on Saturday, 1 October 1977, was once again a friendly and intimate gathering of members of all ages, many of whom had travelled long distances to be with their old friends. It is hoped that everyone enjoyed themselves.

General Mans, in his address, again reminded everyone that the Surrey Office would close at the end of the year, and that Association matters would be dealt with at Canterbury. He said that it was with sadness that he would be relinquishing the appointment of President of the Association, but he was happy that he was handing over the appointment to Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, whom he

introduced, when he himself became Colonel of The Queen's Regiment. He stressed the need for "selfhelp", but at the same time invited members to look upon Canterbury as the focal point of the Association, and indeed to visit Howe Barracks whenever possible.

A most successful Raffle was run by Mr Bill Warren and Mr Dave Boorer, and this produced a net profit for the Reunion Fund of £26.40 — The best ever! We are indebted to Messrs Warren and Boorer for their efforts, as we are also to Mr Tom Cahil who presented an additional prize of a bottle of French sparkling wine. May their shadows never grow less!!

Our thanks go also to Mr Bill Warren for helping to lay out the hall on the previous afternoon; to Mr George Bryce, his wife and the efficient bar tenders; to Cadet Corporal Bulbeck and Cadet Young of 161 Company ACF, The Queen's Regiment, for the efficient and pleasant way that they organised the Car Parking; and to all those who attended, without whom there could have been no Reunion.

The May issue of the Regimental Association News Letter will contain the date and venue of the 1978 Reunion.

News of the Associations

4th Queen's OCA

A very happy and satisfactory Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday April 16th.

The Silver Jubilee Year Dinner and Dance held on Saturday 4th June, was attended by 150 members and friends. The evening was thought by all concerned to have been a great success, in fact "a really wonderful celebration show!"

2/4th Queen's OCA

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday, April 30th, at the Mitcham Road Barracks. A most delightful dinner and evening were enjoyed by all present.

5th Queen's Old Members Association

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday May 8th, at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford. The Chairman, Lieut-Col H.M.W. Harris, JP, welcomed the gathering of 150, some of whom had travelled long distances to get there. Pride of place on this point must be given to Colin Burchett who was home on holiday from New Zealand after 20 years. Major-Gen F.A.H. Ling, Colonel of The Queen's

Regiment, himself a 5th Bn. man, made special mention of the 1914-18 members present. These included Col. C.R. Wigan, Mr. Tommy White and Mr. V. Fagence — all in their 80's. Thanks were given to all those responsible for making the successful evening possible, especially Major G. Wright for permitting the use of the Drill Hall, Major Oldfield, Doug. Mitchell (Secretary), Ron May (Treasurer), Jack Homersham, Jimmy Patterson and Geoff Regester.

The 1978 Reunion will be held on approximately the same weekend in May 1978. It has been agreed that all ex-members of any old Queen's Battalions would be very warmly welcomed. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact:—

The Hon. Secretary,
Doug. Mitchell,
9 Peterborough Road,
Guildford.

2/6th Queen's OCA

The annual reunion was held at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, on Saturday 17th September, 1977. Thirty-two years after the end of the war we can still raise a gathering of seventy, grey-haired and thickening at the waist though we may be, and although sadly, some old comrades inevitably pass on.

Frank Peart, our unpaid organiser, treasurer and secretary is indefatigable in trying to reach old 2nd/6th men who have not previously attended, and it is a tribute to him that a few new faces always appear.

The Reverend Arthur Rippengall looked a little different from when he was a rifleman in D Company. Len Fagg and Tom Blumson were also welcome again. And of course, the man who is the best known, and probably best loved, Doc Hogan, came over from Dublin.

We were also pleased to have three In-Pensioners from Chelsea in their scarlet, and Colonel John Kealy welcomed Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis as the incoming Deputy Colonel of the Queen's Regiment. During the evening a collection of £50 was made for the Star and Garter Home and for Arthur Lawrence, one of us, who is an inmate there.

The reunion for next year is already fixed for 9th September, thirty-five years to the day after the Salerno landings.

S.W.P.

The East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades Association.

The above Association formed by a nucleus of old "Surreys" headed by Mr John Bedford in 1975, held a most successful Reunion in 1976, at which 350 old "Surreys" were present. In 1977 an even more successful reunion was held at Clapham Junction Drill Hall on 22 October 1977.

This Association became officially affiliated to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association in July 1977.

All former members of The East Surrey Regiment wishing further details of membership, forthcoming reunions, etc should write to the Secretary:—

Mr J W Bedford,
5A Elm Grove
Wimbledon
London SW19

Major-General Rowley Mans, President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association and All Members send greetings and best wishes to the latest "offspring"!

The East Surrey Band Association

Notification has been received that the above Association was disbanded in May 1977, and it is understood that all members have been notified by the Secretary of The East Surrey Band Association.

This notice is inserted for record purposes only.

A New Colonel's Colour for the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment

By Lieutenant-Colonel JGW Davidson

When I took command of the 1st Battalion on 31 Oct 1974, the Colonel's Colour, which was presented in 1930 by Lt Cols Clark and Ponsonby, had already lasted longer than any of its four predecessors. (Note: The history of the Third (Colonel's) Colour was published in the News Letter Issue No 8 dated Nov 1970). The Colour was very faded and most of the gold thread and a lot of the silk thread on the cipher had worn away. Furthermore, the colours on the embroidered cipher had faded almost to neutrality. It was time for a new one.

Captain Les Wilson, the Battalion Quartermaster, who lives and dreams Regimental traditions and customs, had already started work on the project of replacement. Having been RSM when I was Adjutant of the Battalion, he considered that it would be most appropriate to complete his work so that a new — the sixth — Colonel's Colour should take its proud place in the Officers' Mess before I handed over the Battalion on 5 Aug 1977. So research was stepped up. There were two main problems. The first was to determine the exact colours of the original silk material and of the various parts of the cipher, and also — since parts of it were worn away — the exact design of the cipher. The second was to find someone to make the Colour and embroider the cipher.

One would think that it would have been easy to make an exact copy of the existing Colour, but this was not so. The more Les Wilson worked on it, the more he realised the difficulty. We could not even determine the original colour of the silk material. It was obvious that the existing colour had faded, but how much? Les Wilson sought guidance from the College of Heralds, Heraldic Heritage and other institutions; he searched through books, archives and museums; he looked at prints, paintings and photographs. All gave different answers to colours and, particularly, to the fine detail on the crown and cipher. He wrote to John Reed who was most helpful. John searched through various books and documents and confirmed that no sealed pattern of the Third Colour was in existence. Therefore Les assembled all his findings and he and I together made decisions on all the details for the replacement.

Having decided on colour and design, it proved to be no easy matter to get the new Colour made. Hopes and aspirations were dashed when the first firm quoted £4000, with four years to make and a second firm quoted "£2000 plus" and an immediate down payment of half the quotation. This was way out of our pocket, so we went abroad to Pakistan. Through the good offices of our Northern Ireland Contractors, the work was put in hand in Rawalpindi. Over a period of six months samples of material and design were sent back and forth for approval or modification. Finally the order was placed, with strict instructions that it was to be in our hands to display at our Regimental Tent on the day of Her Majesty's Review of Her Army at Sennelager on 7 July 1977. It arrived, rather crumpled, in our tented

camp at 8 pm on 6 July. It needed to be ironed and so, as time was short, David Dickins, my 21C, and I boarded a Landrover in search of an iron. At 11 pm we were to be seen jointly ironing the new Colour in the cellar of Lt Col Peter Sincock's quarter – the CO of 2nd Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. We had made it just in time, and the new Colour was proudly displayed for the Colonel of the Regiment and all our guests to see at the Jubilee Review.

On Sunday 24 July 1977, during a simple but impressive ceremony in our Battalion Church in Albuhera Barracks, Werl, we bid God's Blessing on the new Colour. It was marched into church by Captain Wilson to "Braganza," handed to me, and then placed on a pile of drums at the Altar by our Padre, the Reverend Mike Walters. After the Service, I handed it back to the Adjutant, Captain Amedee Mieville, who slow marched down the Aisle to "Scipio" and handed it over to Captain Wilson outside the Church. It was then marched back to the Officers' Mess escorted by the RSM, WO1 DA Ormerod BEM, WO2 VD Ebgens, WO2 N Jamieson and AQMS EJ Tomlinson, REME. The latter had forged and welded a new brass ferrule for the top of the pike. I suspect that it must be a unique occasion for a Colour to be carried by a Quartermaster and escorted by, inter alia, a Warrant Officer from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. True integration, and a true sign of the spirit in the Battalion.

I would like to pay tribute to Les Wilson. He is devoted to our Regiment and he has spent many thousands of hours not only on this project, but also on many other aspects of Regimental life and traditions. He is an authority on our history, customs and traditions, and the Regiment – and the First Battalion in particular – owe him a considerable debt of gratitude. I only hope that in the future there will be more like him to keep alive this great aspect of our Regimental life.

Finally, there remains the question of where the fifth (the Second Malta) Colour should rest. I have suggested to the Colonel of the Regiment that the cipher and a part of the Colour (about two foot square) should be sealed in a glass case or frame and be placed in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the First Battalion. My reason for suggesting this was that, because the Colour is very rarely displayed outside the Officers' Mess, it is hardly ever seen by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. If the retired Colour were to rest in their Mess, they will be reminded daily of all the splendid traditions behind it.

"Speak English"

This copy of an order from 1844 is an interesting comment on life in Scinde and that unusual but very effective man Sir Charles Napier. Mr. E. Hetherington who describes himself as an "old boy" of the East Surreys came across the order while in Karachi himself some years ago.

It is of interest I think that the Queen's were at the date of this order moving from Deesa to Poona and Bombay. Deesa is a couple of hundred miles from Karachi, and is just inside the borders of Gujarat. An unsubstantiated comment in the regimental history says that a detachment of Queen's went to serve under Napier around this time. Although no details of the detachment can be found it would not have been unreasonable for some of the Queen's to have assisted in the mopping-up operations following the defeat of the Ameers of Scinde at Miani and Haiderabad in 1843.

Headquarters Kurrachee,
12th February 1844

Extract from General Orders by His Excellency Major-General Sir C. J. Napier, G.C.B., Governor of Scinde.

2. The Governor unfortunately does not understand Hindoostanee, nor Persian, nor Marratta, nor any other Eastern dialect.

He therefore will feel particularly obliged to collectors, sub-collectors and officers writing the proceedings of courts-martial, and all staff officers, to indite their various papers in English, larded with as small a portion of the, to him, unknown tongues, as they conveniently can; instead of those he generally receives written in Hindoostanee, larded with occasional words in English.

Any indent made for English dictionaries shall be duly attended to, if such be in the stores at Kurrachee; if not, gentlemen who have forgotten their vulgar tongue, are requested to procure the requisite assistance from England.

True Extract.

*(Signed) EDWARD GREEN, Major.
Asst. Adjt.-Genl.*

True Copy

*(Signed) W. J. SURTEES,
Asst. Secy. Govt. of Scinde.*

"The Glorious First of June" and HMS Excellent.

This battle honour which is borne now by The Queen's Regiment is perhaps one of the better known battle honours of The Queen's Royal Regiment. What is perhaps not so well known is the reason why it should be linked to HMS "Excellent". I have only recently established the link for myself and thought it would be of interest to others.

The details of the battle are reasonably familiar to many people so I shall just outline them briefly. In 1794 The Queen's Royal Regiment was distributed among the ships of Lord Howe for service as marines, as follows:—

HMS Queen Charlotte	— 3 officers	+	134 O Rs.		
" Royal George	— 3	"	+	31	"
" Defence	— 3	"	+	80	"
" Majestic	— 3	"	+	77	"
" Russell	— 3	"	+	80	"
	---			15	402

The headquarters of the regiment was based on shore as an administrative and recruiting unit.

HMS "Queen Charlotte" was Lord Howe's flagship at the time the battle was fought. The major action to intercept and destroy the French fleet and grain convoy was fought on 1st June 1794, although subsidiary actions had taken place on a couple of days earlier. The French warships were defeated, but the grain convoy reached France safely. To that extent Lord Howe's object was not achieved. Casualties in the regiment were relatively light, being 1 officer and 6 ORs killed, 1 officer and 12 ORs wounded.

In 1829 Commander G. Smith, RN submitted to the Admiralty his "Prospectus of a plan for the improvement of naval gunnery without any additional expense". His suggestion was to establish a school to train gun's crews and evaluate new gunnery equipment. The Admiralty approved the scheme and in 1830 authorised Cdr. Smith to establish a gunnery school at Portsmouth, with himself as Captain. The ship to be used was HMS "Excellent" which was moored in Portsmouth harbour. The guns were to fire

across the mud-flats at low water to avoid injuring anybody. HMS "Excellent" was to carry a staff of 200 with room for 600 men under training. This particular ship had been Collingwood's ship at St. Vincent in 1797. It served as the gunnery school until 1834 when it was broken up — to be replaced by HMS "Boyne". This ship lasted until 1859 when HMS "Queen Charlotte" took its place. The ships which replaced HMS "Excellent" were all re-named "Excellent" as was the shore establishment when it was built.

The school had been put on a permanent footing by the Admiralty in 1832 and it is suggested that it was at about this time that first references are made to the setting-up of a permanent body of seamen to act as gun captains, with a uniform system of training and operation. These suggestions coupled with the introduction of regular renewal of engagements, and increased pay for merit were indeed revolutionary changes in the Royal Navy.

As could be expected there was strong opposition and criticism from politicians and die-hard officers, especially as the cost in 1835 was £35,000. The improved gunnery standards demonstrated at the naval bombardment of St. Jean D'Acre in November 1840 effectively reduced the critics as well as the shore artillery.

The Captain of HMS "Excellent" in 1883 was the later famous admiral "Jackie" Fisher, and John Jellicoe was on his staff at that time. The relationship between HMS "Excellent" and The Queen's Regiment continues on a very harmonious basis, with the annual cricket match as a regular, and very enjoyable, feature.

Book Review

Probably few soldiers in a campaign have much idea of what is happening on their immediate front or on their flanks, and know practically nothing of the personalities of the higher commanders. For those wanting to know more of the campaigns leading to the fall of Tunis, Gregory Blaxland's 'The Plain Cook and the Great Showman', the story of the First and Eighth Armies in North Africa, will provide not only a comprehensive narrative, but an illuminating contrast of the two commanders concerned — Generals Anderson and Montgomery. Major Blaxland, who served in 5th Buffs in 78 Division, has devoted an immense amount of study and research to his task, and the result is a readable, interesting and sympathetic account of the North African Campaigns and many of the commanders concerned. The political and historical situations on both sides of the Atlantic form a background to the operations of the field.

The action at Tebourba is well described, although the author was unaware that 1 Surreys were commanded throughout by Major Harry Smith, the Second in Command, Lt Colonel Wilberforce, the Commanding Officer, having been summoned to Brigade Headquarters, some four miles in rear, before the battle. The valiant stand by D Coy 1 Surreys at Fort MacGregor is recounted and tribute paid to its gallant commander, Major J F V Brooke Fox.

Major Blaxland's book is well illustrated with photographs and sketch maps. Mention is made of 1/6 Surreys in 4 Division, who, like the 1st Battalion, lost their commanding officer killed in action, and of the three Queen's battalions in 131 Brigade, including the 1/7 Queen's epic anti-tank defence battle at Medenine.

'The Plain Cook and the Great Showman' is published by William Kimber at £6.95.

India Recalled

In their series 'More Plain Tales from the Raj' this summer, the BBC broadcast a programme on soldiering in India in which a number of old sweats spoke of their reminiscences of service in India. The general impression gained was rather depressing — intense heat, frustration and bore-jom, but little was said of the better side of life in the Shiny.

Undoubtedly the happiest recollection was the comradeship which developed from years of service together, and the esprit de corps engendered from belonging to the best battalion in India. In a one battalion station, sport took on an increased importance; and tremendous enthusiasm was aroused by inter-company football, cricket, hockey, boxing and athletics. The friendships made in the barrack room bound men closely together when the piping times of peace gave place to war, and they still form the basis of old soldiers' reunions today.

Training was inclined to be stereotyped, starting each year with individual training and working through various collective training programmes until the Brigade autumn manoeuvres. An important feature, because he was shooting for his pay, was the soldier's Annual Range course, and the dread of becoming a third class shot with extra training in one's own time 'on the dhurrie'.

The Indian weather was predictable — the Cold Weather, the Hot Weather and the Monsoon. The trooping season was held through the Cold Weather, and no one will forget the dust and discomfort of a three day journey in a troop train. The marvellous exhilarating feeling of the Cold Weather gradually gave way to warmer days which led into the unbelievably hot Hot Weather with temperatures up in the 100s. Few escaped prickly heat, that maddening inflamed rash on the forearms, neck, stomach and the back of the leg where the shorts rubbed. The swish and creak of the punkahs in the long barrack rooms, the howling of the scavenging jackals in the cantonment dustbins and the maddening repetitive song of the brain fever bird are all sounds reminiscent of the Hot Weather. Then came the rains, and how it rained! It was as if the heavens opened and millions of gallons fell vertically on the parched earth. The monsoon drains turned into streams, the nullahs into rivers and the rivers into huge expanses of fast flowing muddy water a mile or so across.

Half way through the Hot Weather the companies who had been in the plains changed over with those who had spent the previous couple of months in the battalion's hill station. The bronzed fit men from the hills gazed askance at the pallid ghosts of their comrades waiting on the platform to make the return journey in the same train. After several hours trundling across the plains the troops exchanged to the narrow gauge railway, which took them chugging through the foot hills to the great hills beyond where they were to live for the next few weeks. It was a different world — clear, crisp and fresh with trees, streams and flowers everywhere, while in the distance lay the Himalayas, snowcapped and beautiful at all times in the changing light.

When the time came for his draft to entrain for Home, many a soldier who had sung 'Roll on my Seven and Five', said goodbye quietly to his friends and left the Battalion which had been his life for the past seven years with more than a little sadness.

"The Formation of the Regiment and 250 Years Later"

By A. Surrey.

1702-a good year for the formation of an army. It must have been a good year because it was at this time that the regiment which was later to be known as The East Surrey Regiment was formed. It was in the reign of Queen Anne that Colonel Villiers raised a regiment to serve in ships that were being commissioned to fight the French and Spaniards. For 13 years "Villiers Marines", as the unit was called, were seaborne soldiers, and took part in actions against the Spaniards at Cadiz and Vigo and they helped in the capture and defence of Gibraltar in 1704. For this latter action they were awarded their first Battle Honour "Gibraltar 1704-5". In 1715 more infantry were required and they, together with other Marine Regiments, were converted to a Regiment of the line as the 31st of Foot.

250 years after the formation of the regiment the Anniversary of this event was celebrated in 1952 by the 1st Battalion who were stationed in Tripoli, Libya.

The day began as all days did with the sounding of reveille, but, on this occasion it was different. Instead of the lone bugle call sounding at various parts of the camp, and being ignored in most parts of the camp, on this day it was sounded by all the Corps of Drums who were conducted by Drum Major Craggs. With this melodic awakening the day was bound to be different. A Drumhead Service was held during the morning with the colours on parade — they had been flown out four days previously from Kingston. During the rest of the morning a swimming gala was held and throughout the day there were Tennis Tournaments. A special lunch was served at "Tiffin Time" and the NAAFI did a good trade in liquid refreshments. In the early evening the Corps of Drums were joined by the band of the 16th/5th Lancers and beat retreat on the Barrack square. Officers entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, and the OR's played tombola, then came the concert.

Individuals and groups had been practising for weeks to show their talents and the whole of the battalion and a few guests were present to see the results. In the "pit" was the Lancers' Band conducted by their bandmaster.

After an overture by the band and a fanfare by the Corps of Drums the show began.

The compere was Capt. P. C. Brown, who at one period tried to inject some culture into the show by reciting "The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God". This failed, however, due to the interruptions of Capt. Cox and CSM Seymour who disagreed with almost every line of the poem and insisted that it be changed. A touch of the macabre was introduced when one company commander sang the song "With His Head Tucked Underneath His Arm" conjuring up visions of the gruesome Tower of London.

Some of the Battalion P.T. enthusiasts gave a lively display with their instructor S.I. Langley — a clear head was needed for this event.

Sgt. Nannine of the Int. Section sang songs and accompanied himself at the piano before asking the audience to join him in some well known pub choruses such as "Bull and Bush" and "Nellie Dean".

During the interval the band played, then it was on to the second half of the show, with more sketches, songs and individual comedy. Cpl. Rodwell told some Australian tales from "Down Under" and said that he thought R.S.M. meant Regimental Shirt Mender — hoping that the R.S.M.

would overlook this jest when next they met.

One sketch employed the Bedford Twins who were in the regiment. A clergyman called upon their "parents" and explained that due to an error in the marriage ceremony 10 years ago they were not legally married. "What does that make us?" asked the father. "Never mind about you" said the Bedford Twins dressed like children and coming into view, "Never mind about you, what does that make us?"

Before the Last Post was sounded and the National Anthem played Capt. Brown presented his comic act which he called "The Demobbed Soldier", recalling his days in the army. The most amusing story was of the Q.M. fitting a man out with a complete uniform. Everything was a perfect fit and no alterations were needed to the uniform. The puzzled Q.M. who said that he had never seen this happen before thought for a moment, then he said to the soldier "Ah Ha! I know the reason for the perfect fit — report sick you are deformed!"

With the show over, the camp became quiet, the 250th celebrations were over and on the following day it was back to duties as usual.

The Raid that Misfired

by V.E. Fagence

During the early part of the last year of the war (1918) most, if not all, of the British infantry units on the Western Front carried out a series of raids on their German counterparts, with the object of capturing prisoners for the purpose of interrogation — to obtain information concerning the plans and dispositions of troops, which might be of service to us in combating the forthcoming enemy offensive, which it was known was soon to take place.

Officers and men for these raids were recruited on a voluntary basis, and in February one of the officers in "C" Coy of the 1st Queens requested permission from the C.O. (Lt.-Col. Sladen) to organise and lead a party on one of these expeditions.

I forgot the name of the officer and of most of the men. The only ones I can remember were Sergeant Davies, Pte Broadwater, Pte Sutton and myself.

We were in the Passchendaele Salient, and although the front in a general term faced east, the sector occupied by the 1st Queen's being on that part of the salient which curved to the right was, in consequence, facing south-east rather than due east. This was an important point for us of the raiding party to remember as, in the absence of landmarks (most, if not all, of which had been destroyed by shellfire in the battles of the previous autumn), it was difficult to steer the way to our objective except by the stars, which on the night of the raid were fortunately shining brightly.

The raiding party numbered 14; The Officer, Sgt Davies, two full corporals, two lance-corporals and eight privates. We were excused all other duties, and for the preparation of the raid, we were quartered in a big underground "sap" which had been excavated by the Royal Engineers at a place known as Crest Farm in our support lines. The entrance to the sap was by steps cut into the earth and reinforced with timber. The sap itself was quite spacious, with a number of rooms and also wash-places and toilets. Water had been laid on and there were facilities for cooking. Rough tables, chairs, and sleeping bunks had also been supplied by the diligent R.E.'s. Whilst we were there we received plentiful supplies of hot tea and soup.

On our first day underground we were briefed and

instructed on how we were to make the raid. We were to wear only drill order equipment; belt, braces and pouches. We were to carry rifles and bayonets with fifty rounds of ammunition and two Mills hand grenades, one in each bottom tunic pocket. It was also agreed that steel helmets being rather awkward to wear whilst crawling across "No Man's Land" we would dispense with them and wear our woollen cap comforters instead. An hour or so before we were ready to start we blacked our hands and faces with burnt cork. This caused some amusement to other occupants of the sap who nicknamed us "The Nigger Minstrels". At about eight o'clock we made our way, single file, up to the front line which was a series of shellholes, deepened and lined with sandbags filled with earth. There were emplacements for the firing of Lewis guns and rifles and each of these outposts was manned by about 4 or 5 men including an N.C.O. Once arrived at the front line we received a final briefing from the officer, and commenced our journey across "No Man's Land" crawling on hands and knees. The enemy's front line was about 200 yards from ours at this point so that it took quite some time to crawl this distance. Our own troops had been ordered not to fire any Very lights whilst we were engaged on our expedition, but this of course did not apply to the enemy, who proceeded to send up their usual liberal supply of "star-shells". Each time one of these was fired and lighted up the landscape we "froze" in whatever position we happened to be at the moment. To move would probably have proved fatal.

A German machine gunner directly in front of us kept firing bursts of bullets towards us, not necessarily because he could see us (in fact I don't think he could) but probably as a matter of routine and also to deter anyone who might be engaged in just such an adventure as we, at that very moment, were. Most of the bullets went over our heads although some of them seemed to come uncomfortably close. We were spread out roughly fanwise with the officer in the centre. After we had gone about 50 yards Sgt Davies, who already had a cold, developed a cough and was sent back by the officer, who feared that the noise of his coughing might betray our presence to the enemy.

Then Private Sutton, who was just behind me, called out to me in a stage whisper that he felt ill and wanted to be sick and was there any safe place where he could rest for a while. As it happened, some distance in rear I had noticed an exceptionally large shell-hole or bomb crater. I told him about this and suggested that he crawl back in a straight line (pointing out the North — or Pole Star as guidance), get into the bomb crater and rest awhile. He started on his return journey and I resumed my way towards the enemy front line, trying to hurry a bit and catch up with the others who were now some yards in front. I rejoined them and we crawled on until we were within about 20 yards of the enemy front line without apparently having been seen. We could hear noises which sounded as though they were digging a trench. There were the unmistakable sounds of picks and shovels at work. The officer gathered us into a group, behind a small mound or hillock, which conveniently happened to be at hand. He gave whispered instructions. He told the senior corporal to remain there with half the party, and indicated those of us who were on the right as that half. This included me. He then said that he himself would move over some distance to the left with the remainder of the party, which included the other corporal and one of the lance-corporals. He told our corporal to allow him, the officer, a few minutes

to get into position with his party. Then, when we heard two blasts on the officer's whistle, we were to rush to the enemy's front line, grab hold of the first German we saw, disarm him, and "frog-march" him back to our own front line. The officer with his party disappeared into the darkness. We waited expectantly. Then, before the officer could get into position, someone back at our own front line for some reason or other sent up the S.O.S. signal for artillery support, and, to the consternation of our party our artillery right valiantly and promptly responded. An 18-pounder battery directly to the rear of us plonked a salvo of shells into Passchendaele gasometer (or what remained of it). All other field-gun batteries on our front commenced barrage fire, dozens of Very lights on our side and star-shells on the German side were fired into the air, making "No Man's Land" almost as light as day. Now standing erect we saw the enemy soldiers in their trench, grab their rifles and digging tools and make a beeline for their support trenches. We could not follow them as we would have been running into our own barrage, and by this time the German retaliatory shell-fire was beginning to come down on "No Man's Land" and on our front-line positions. We therefore moved back towards our front line, at the same time looking for somewhere to shelter from the storm of explosions and flying splinters of steel.

Then suddenly amid all the noise and confusion we heard a voice seeming to come from out of the ground. The voice was in English and I recognised it as Sutton's. We called to him and he replied "Here I am, it's me, Sutton! I'm in here". "Here" was the bomb crater into which I had directed him some time previously. We then, as quickly as we could, jumped into the crater and distributed ourselves round about the inside of it, crouching low to obtain as much protection as possible from the shells that were exploding, some almost on the edge of our refuge. Fortunately for us a shell did not fall into it, otherwise we would almost certainly all have been annihilated. We remained there for some time, then, the shell-fire having somewhat abated, we evacuated the crater and made our way back to our front line. Providentially none of our party had been killed or even wounded. We all considered that we had had a miraculous escape. From the front line we returned to our quarters in the sap, where we had a cleanup and removed the traces of burnt cork from our hands and faces. We were then regaled with hot tea and soup and a tot of rum each, and went to sleep in some of the bunks that were placed at our disposal.

In the morning, after we had performed our ablutions and had eaten our breakfast of fried bacon and bread, our officer, coming from the officers' quarters at the other end of the sap, paid us a visit and announced that, as the raid the previous night had been unsuccessful, we would make another attempt that night. He proposed that the number of the party should be reduced from 14 to 8. Sgt. Davies and Pte Sutton were already ruled out. Several others having developed coughs were also omitted, and the number of eight was arrived at. These, beside the officer, included the two corporals, two lance-corporals, Pte Broadwater, one other and myself. The officer also said that he had noticed that the bayonets, fitting loosely on the bosses of the rifles had made quite an amount of noise the previous night whilst we were crawling across "No Man's Land". I suggested that we should not fix our bayonets but carry them in our scabbards. The officer vetoed the carrying of rifles at all and told us that he would obtain some better weapons for us

and bring them along early in the evening. He then returned to the officers' quarters for the remainder of the day. In the evening he reappeared carrying a brown-paper parcel which he deposited on a table which was there. He said "I've got some good weapons for you, boys". As he proceeded to unwrap this parcel we all stood around waiting to see what would be revealed. I don't know what the others expected, but I for one expected to see either revolvers or automatic pistols and was very disappointed to see instead small hatchets or tomahawks. Armed with those things and with only one firearm in the party (namely the officer's revolver) I did not fancy our chances when we encountered our enemies armed with their rifles and bayonets. In fact I was rather disgusted and the remainder of our party, including the N.C.O.'s, appeared to be nonplussed, but being good disciplinarians none of us said anything.

In the meantime, outside, a mist had arisen which, when the time arrived for us to make our second attempt at the raid, had thickened, so that by the time we arrived at the front line it had developed into quite a thick fog. After a hurried consultation among ourselves, most of us with the exception of the officer considered that, in view of the fog being so thick, it would be inadvisable to make the attempt that night. He was undeterred, and announced his intention of going alone if no one else would come. That being so, and as it would be unthinkable to allow him to do so, the N.C.O.'s said that they would go too, so that there was no alternative but for we three privates to follow suit. We left the front-line post and started off towards the enemy lines although I for one doubted the wisdom of it. Visibility now being very bad we advanced slowly and cautiously in the direction we presumed the enemy lines to be. We had travelled about 50 yards when just ahead of us we saw a small group of human figures partially shrouded in the fog. Our party all ducked down and concealed ourselves as well as we could. They did the same and for a few moments both parties lay in their positions contemplating what further action to take. One bright spark on our side suggested lobbing a Mills grenade at them but wiser counsel prevailed and it was decided to challenge them first. Our officer rose to his feet with his revolver pointing towards their position, and in a loud firm voice called out "Who are you?" To our relief the reply came in English "Number Four Lewis gun post, 1st Queen's, who are you?" Our officer answered "Raiding party "C" Coy 1st Queen's". We were told to advance to be recognised, with which order we complied, and saw that their Lewis gun had been trained on us ready to open fire. We then realised that we must have lost our way in the fog and had wandered round in a semicircle which had brought us face to face with our own troops. Having satisfied them as to our identity (in fact some of both parties were able to recognise each other) we were allowed to pass through the lines and make our way back to the sap at Crest Farm, where after a wash and refreshments we spent the remainder of the night. I think that before going to sleep each of us gave a silent prayer of thankfulness to the One Above for our escape from what might have ended in a tragedy instead of rather a tragicomedy.

In the morning after breakfast the officer visited us again, and by now being convinced of the futility of any further attempt at our enterprise, said that we could consider the raid as now being "off" and, thanking us for our co-operation, told us that we could all return to our individual platoons and sections for ordinary duties. We had only one

more night of duty before our spell in the front line came to an end, and upon the Battalion being relieved the following evening we were able to make our way back to our camp at St Jean on the outskirts of Ypres.

So ended the "Raid that Misfired".

Yeoman Warden

RSM Frederick George Harcup who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1927 to 1949, retired from service as a Yeoman Warden of HM Tower of London on 31 January 1977 when he was placed on the Supernumerary List. Mr Harcup commenced his service at the Tower on 3 October 1949. On his retirement he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. Congratulations, Mr Harcup!

He left the Tower in the good hands of three other former stalwarts of the Regiment; Yeoman Warders L H Piper, D Harding and H T Chaffer MM. Abandon hope all ye who enter here!!

Tracing old friends

Mr Henry Harding (formerly 6084597 Pte H Harding) who served in 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1945 and who now lives at 11 Gosforth, Queensway, Wellingborough, Northants (Tel: Wellingborough 677271) is anxious to make contact again with his old friend Mr J Baker (6084793) whom he has not seen since 1945, when they were serving together.

Mr Harding, who is now 71, will be very grateful to anyone who can put him in touch. Any information should be sent direct to Mr Harding.

My No. was 6077876

W C Flack
No. 4 Sewell Avenue
Bexhill on Sea
Sussex

17 May 1977

Dear Major Reed,

In last Nov News, I was interested to see that Mr Joe Dennis was asking for any of 11 Platoon C Coy 2 Queen's who were on the NWF at Ladha in 1921. He enclosed his address and I wrote to Joe at his address, 124 Kynaston Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey, and was very pleased to have had a letter from him.

Recently while staying in Guildford with my sister I went up and saw Joe and his wife.

I left the Batt in November 1926 and that was the last time I saw Joe as he went to Khartoum so it was 51 years ago. Joe is 79 and I am 76.

Would it be possible to have my letter put in the next News as Joe and I thought we may be able to pick up some more of 11 Platoon.

Your kind attention will oblige.

W C FLACK

An Old Soldier's Gratitude

A letter received by the Surrey Office Regimental Secretary is reproduced below. As a result of Major Reed's reply, a very substantial donation was received for The Queen's Royal Regiment Charitable Fund. Thank you Mr Doyle, for the gift, and especially for the thoughts that prompted it!

"The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment"

Regimental Association

T.A. Centre

Portsmouth Road

Kingston-upon-Thames

Surrey.

14 July 1977

Dear Sirs,

As a 1918 War Disabled Pensioner (8th Batt. Royal West Surrey Regt.) I have recently returned home following a hip replacement operation at the Royal Herbert Military Hospital at Woolwich, all without any cost to me.

To enable me to show some appreciation for the care and attention I received in hospital do you have a benevolent fund for needy cases to which I can make a donation? If so please let me know to whom I should make a cheque payable.

Your name was given to me by the War Pensioners Welfare Service at Tunbridge Wells.

Yours faithfully

(A. C. Doyle)

Deaths

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

Bryan—On 15/12/76, RQMS J.A. Bryan. Served with 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Edwards—On 4 September 1977. John (Jack) Edwards (6095421) aged 59. Served in 2 Queen's from 1940 to 1945. He was a member of the Burma Star Association. (See obituary).

Fitzgerald—On 7 June 1977 at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Sgt James Edward Fitzgerald (6139968) aged 63. Served in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1933–1942. Entered the Royal Hospital as an In-Pensioner in 1969.

Gill—On 8 July 1977 Lt Col Brian Gill TD JP, late 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, and a member of the Surrey Army Benevolent Fund Committee (See obituary).

Glover—On 30 August 1977, Lieut Frank Percy Joseph Glover MC. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1916–1918. (See obituary).

Hartnell—On 20/2/77, Sergeant R.S. Hartnell. Served with 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Desert, Italy and N.W. Europe.

Hopkins—George Hopkins died at his home in Wimborne, Dorset. He served with the MT section of HQ Coy., 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939–1945.

Hubbard—On 29 July 1977, L/cpl Harry Hubbard, aged 80. Served in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1911 to 1919.

Lock—On 31/3/77, Sergeant A.G. Lock. Joined 22nd Bn London Regiment (Queen's) in 1929. Mobilised with 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939 and was taken prisoner May 1940. Rejoined 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1948 and served for several more years.

Lowder—On 18 September 1977, Pte A.E. Lowder (T-1991) aged 83. Enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1913 and served with the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1917 to 1920.

Tedman—On 21 May 1977, Pte George Evan Tedman (6139577). Served in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1931–1946. (See obituary).

Veysey—On 13 July 1977 Harry Robert Vesey (207321), aged 80. Served in 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1911–1919, and later commissioned to the Royal Artillery.

Webster—October 1976, WO1 K. Webster. Served with 1st and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment, including service in China. Recalled to the colours in 1939, transferred to the Pioneer Corps in 1942 — reaching the rank of WO1.

Weeks—On 15 July 1977 Major (QM) Edwin James (Ted) Weeks, aged 66. Enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1930 and finished his Army career with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1966. (See obituary).

Wilshaw—On 16th May 1977 CSM Samuel Wilshaw (6080-397). aged 73. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1922–1947. During his service he was with the 1st and 2nd Bns in India, Sudan and China, and he also saw service in Palestine. A brilliant shot, he qualified as an instructor at the Small Arms School, Hythe in 1938, and won the men's shooting competition at the Regimental Association Garden Party in 1959. For a period he was an instructor to the Ceylon Defence Force.

Woollaston—On 11 March 1977 Bandmaster Hilary Vernon Woollaston MBE (6139959). Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1933 and was Bandmaster of the 4th (Uganda) Bn King's African Rifles. He retired from the Army in 1961. In 1957 he brought the combined bands of the 4th and 6th King's African Rifles to England to perform at the Royal Tournament.

Deaths

Regimental Families

We also regret to announce the death of the under-mentioned ladies:—

Cox—On 10 September 1977, Mrs Phoebe Cox, wife of Major J C Cox MBE, Chairman of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association. For the past 24 years Mrs Cox assisted in placing flowers in The East Surrey Regimental Chapel within Kingston Parish Church.

Parry—On 24 August 1977 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Mrs Ethel Rosa Parry, wife of Mr William Parry (10329) who served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1911 to 1919.

Wright—On 5 April 1977, Mrs Flora Bewick Wright, widow of Brigadier-General Wallace Duffield Wright VC DSO, late The Queen's Royal Regiment. Brigadier-General Wright as a Lieutenant attached to the Northern Nigeria Regiment was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1903 during the KANO-SOKOTO Expedition. His decoration is in the possession of the Regiment.

Obituaries

Jack Edwards

Farewell Jack! We who had the pleasure of knowing you will remember you as a soldier, cricketer and friend. You will be missed by many who share the loss with your wife. Safe posting!

T R Kienzle and Friends.

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Gill, TD

Brian Gill started his military career with the 63rd S/L Regiment (4th Queen's), and served with them in the ranks from 1939 until he joined 69th S/L Regiment, Royal Fusiliers. He transferred to 132 L.A.A. Regt. Royal Artillery, in 1941 and was, in 1943, seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force, with whom he served in the rank of Major until 1946.

He was one of the first to join the resuscitated TA after the war, and very quickly became Officer Commanding 'P' Battery, 598 L.A.A. Regt., R.A. (4th Queen's) TA at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon. He was extremely popular in the Officers' Mess as well as in the Sergeants' and O.R.'s messes. He will long be remembered for his West African curries which he produced annually at camp!

He survived the axe when the Regiment was amalgamated in 1954 to form the 565 L.A.A. Regt. R.A., TA, and after serving as 2nd I/C, he took over command of the Regiment in the rank of Lt. Colonel. He had one excellent camp and in 1961 the regiment was again amalgamated — the old 4th Queen's contingent joining with the 5th and 6th Queen's, TA to form the 3rd Queen's Surreys TA under the command of the CO of the 5th Queen's.

His love for the TA and all that goes with it did not end

here. He has striven continuously and successfully to hold together the Officers and O.R.'s with whom he had had such happy days.

At the time of his death he was President of the 4th Queen's OCA — having served in this capacity for only five months; prior to which he had been our Chairman for many years. He was also President of The City of London Rifles OCA. For many years former officers of The Queen's have gathered at his house in Caterham on the 1st June to celebrate The Glorious First of June, when he and his charming wife, Rosalys, were the perfect host and hostess. He has been the link between the Past and the Present for so long that his going will leave a void that will not be easily filled.

Apart from his army activities, Brian was deeply involved in no less than 22 voluntary organisations. He was a past Chairman of the Croydon branch of the Institute of Bankers: he was Chairman of the Croydon Bench of Magistrates: Treasurer of the Croydon Social Services: a most popular member of The City of London Rifles Lodge and Caterham Chapter. He was also a very active and skilled member of the Caterham Players: a Freeman of the City of London: a devoted member of St. Mary's Church, Caterham, where he was laid to rest.

His was a full life, a life devoted to the service of others — a life which has ended all too abruptly.

We extend our sympathy to Rosalys, his wife, and to Nicholas, his son.

To Brian — God Bless You.

R.N.

There is little left for me to add, for much has been said of the man who has left us all too soon and all too quickly. I first knew Brian Gill when he came into the 4th Queen's OCA and served as Chairman for many years, where his wise counselling and patience endeared him to all members of the Association. And his quiet wit was no less very much appreciated.

Through my days as Assistant-Secretary I discovered Brian Gill's help and advice invaluable. It was he who acted as intermediary between myself and the publishers in producing our most successful Brochure during our Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1970. Even when I became full-time secretary he was always ready, in his quiet, unobtrusive way, with whatever help he could give.

Within the ranks of our OCA I can honestly say all members deeply appreciated everything he did for us; although he was connected with so many other organisations, it seemed to have no effect on his interest toward our OCA and its affairs; his counsel, suggestions and help were of great value to us all.

Not only did this man in his time play many parts, but he played them sincerely, nobly, very justly and with humility.

.... "Act well your part, there all the honour lies
(Alexander Pope)

P.S.

Frank Percy Joseph Glover MC

A Special Reserve Officer in the 4th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, Frank Glover joined the 1st Battalion in the winter of 1916, and served as Intelligence Officer in France and Italy until the end of the War. 'Jimmie', as he was always known, will be remembered for his cheerfulness and fortitude in the most appalling conditions. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the Nieuport Forest operations of March 1918, and a bar for conspicuous service in the fighting about Bapaume. Jimmie was a loyal and doughty comrade. He had a gift for words, and his tributes to past officers of the 1st Battalion have previously appeared in these pages.

PEH

RQMS Leonard Henry Jackson

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of RQMS Len Jackson (reported in the last issue of the News Letter). Here was the passing of another truly loyal "East Surrey-man".

During his service he was always a very popular member of the Regiment, he was one of the 'Old school' — always ready to help and advise, particularly the younger members of the Regiment.

After leaving the service he continued to attend as many Regimental functions as possible, being a staunch supporter of the WOs & Sgts Association of which he was a Founder Member.

His last appearance (when he was a very sick man indeed) was at the East Surrey Regimental re-union, organised by John Bedford at the Clapham drill hall towards the end of last year.

Mrs Jackson said that Len had suffered a very long illness, but never complained, and that he died as he had lived a "Good Soldier".

IAH

George Evan Tedman

George who died on 21 May 1977 at the age of 66, was the old type of Regular Soldier who formed the backbone of our Regiments, and indeed the British Army, between the two World Wars. Loyal, intelligent, and utterly dependable, George, in his unassuming way was typical of the old regimental soldier.

PGEH

Major Edwin James Weeks

Ted Weeks who died unexpectedly on 15 July this year was born in 1911 and enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment on 16 September 1930. He served with the 2nd Bn in various home stations and quickly made his mark as one who was unusually intelligent and competent. He gained a Special Certificate of Education and achieved the grading of Distinction on the MMG course. So highly was he rated at Netheravon that they applied for his transfer to the Small Arms School Corps. This was approved and he served with them from 1938 until 1948.

He was apparently lost to the Regiment but, prior to 1938, he had attracted the attention of another distinguished soldier. The latter was General Sir Arthur Dowler who, when he became Colonel of the Regiment, arranged for Ted's transfer back again. The fact that the General was also Director of Infantry may have helped this most unusual re-transfer.

On return to the Regiment, Ted went on a Drill course at the Guards Depot. He achieved, for him, the inevitable "D" and was posted as CSM to the 1st Bn serving in Greece and Mogadishu, but on return to UK he was promoted to RSM and posted to 1st Buffs in 1950. Within two years he was back with the Surreys as Quartermaster at the Depot. He remained there for the next four years, followed by four years as Quartermaster of 23rd Bn London Regiment TA. He finished his Army service as Administrative Officer to 3 Queen's Surreys, retiring in 1966.

This outline shows that he had a highly successful career. He was outstanding as an instructor and brilliantly efficient at any task he was given, but there was more to Ted than that. He had a fine sense of humour, was always a wise counsellor and inspired confidence. He was one of those few who attract deep respect but, at the same time, general popularity and affection.

Our sympathies go to Doris and their family.

BAH