



# THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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## **Regimental Headquarters**

**The Queen's Regiment**

**Howe Barracks**

**Canterbury**

**Kent**

**CT1 1JY**

**Number 23**  
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**Regimental Association**  
**News Letter**

## **Editorial**

The centralisation of regimental administration at Canterbury has apparently proceeded smoothly. One effect is to foster more strongly the "one regiment" concept as far as The Queen's Regiment and all associated OCA's are concerned. In order that the interests of the OCA's will continue to be properly represented, the Presidents (or Chairmen) of all affiliated OCA's have been invited to become ex-officio members of the Regimental Committee, and they will be attending their first bi-annual meeting as such in London on 9 May.

As the contents of this Newsletter show many interesting letters and articles have been received. I am very pleased to receive all contributions at any time, so keep them coming, please.

It is said that a doctor buries his mistakes, a parson visits his in prison — while an editor sees his in print.

Copy for the November issue should be sent to me at "Gables", Oaklands Way, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3FJ, by 30th September 1978.

## **Annual Regimental Church Service 1978**

This year the Service will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 11 June, commencing at 11.15 a.m.

On this occasion the Lord Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend David Brown, has graciously consented to preach the sermon. The lesson will be read by Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association.

After the Service, a cash bar will be available at the TAVR Centre, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford, by kind permission of Major Geoffrey Wright, Commanding 'A' Coy, 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment. It is regretted that it is no longer economically or administratively possible to have a marquee erected in the Cathedral precincts.

## **Regimental Association**

### **Benevolent Work of the Association — 1977**

The number of cases in which a grant was made was 184, and the total amount disbursed in grants was £6,575. In addition the Association administered Army Benevolent Fund Supplementary Allowances to 26 former members and widows totalling £1,528.

## **Museum Report**

In previous notes by the President of the Regimental Association it has been reported that the closure of RHQ at Kingston-Upon-Thames has meant that a new location has had to be found for the museum of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. After considerable thought and as a result of the personal inspiration of our previous President, and now Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Rowley Mans, agreement was reached with the National Trust in 1977 that the new location should be at Clandon Park House. Clandon Park is situated close to the intersection of the A246 and A247 about 3 miles East of Guildford, and the house is one of the National Trust's outstanding properties in the South-East, with a particularly fine collection of furniture, porcelain and needlework, all in a magnificent setting. It attracts some 20,000 visitors a year and has its own restaurant for lunches and tea, and a National Trust shop.

Within the house the National Trust are making available for the Museum three fair sized rooms, one of which we have had to repair and redecorate completely. These rooms are on the basement floor adjacent to the visitors entrance to the house, the shop and the restaurant. The location is thus one which will enable the Regiment's history and exhibits to be seen by a very large number of people each year.

Besides the three main rooms, the Regiment is also to have use of one other room, which will be available as a small office and to contain archives, books and albums, and those items which are not suitable for, or are in too great a profusion, such as many of the medals, for general display.

In order to make arrangements for moving to and setting up at Clandon the Regimental Museum Committee has been constituted as a Trust and has the following members: Colonel J.W. Sewell, Colonel W.E. MacConnell, Lt Colonel H.R.D. Hill, Lt Colonel P.C. Kimmerling, Major C.W.J. Clark. Major Peter Hill has been coopted to assist the Committee, while Major John Reed is continuing to give secretarial backing and look after the finances. Mr Wheeler at Kingston-Upon-Thames fortunately remains for the moment, and his expertise and knowledge are of great value during the present period.

In planning the museum at Clandon, the Committee has decided that the aim should be "to illustrate as far as possible the histories and traditions of the Queen's Royal and East Surrey Regiments and their co-existence prior to their merging into the present Queen's Regiment". This

will be done by displaying past Colours of the Regiments, together with the uniforms, flags, pictures, medals, badges and other items having a direct bearing on the Regiment's history. It is probable that of the three display rooms available the first will cover up to 1914, the second will deal with the Militia and Territorial parts of the Regiment and their origins and connections, while the third room will be devoted to the First and Second World Wars and the subsequent years. In setting out the museum advice is being given by the Army Museum's Ogilby Trust, and Mr Bernard Milner MBE, who was originally responsible for the superlative Castle Museum at York, has already been personally involved on their behalf in preparing a first draft plan for the lay-out.

To move and establish a museum in a new location inevitably involves a number of problems and the main one is, regrettably, that now it is essential for all exhibits to be securely protected by being housed in modern and up to date show cases. Such cases if required to be provided regimentally would cost a great deal of money; however, it is possible that the Department of the Environment may help us. Pending a decision on this, plans can only proceed slowly, and it is not possible for the Committee to confirm their budget nor decide a positive date for the move from Kingston. This date will be later in this year with a view to opening the museum in the spring of 1979. The other main problem facing the Committee is that, while suitable and adequate, the space available at Clandon Park is considerably more limited than that at Kingston. At Kingston too the Regiment was able to accept and keep many items which while of interest do not directly illustrate the history of the Regiments nor the achievements of distinguished members of the Regiments. Some of the exhibits at Kingston are thus surplus to requirements, and it would be inappropriate for them to be moved to Clandon Park where they could neither be displayed nor stored. Regrettably the Museum Committee has no ability to make any general arrangements for the disposal of such surplus items to members of the Regiment. We are most anxious, however, that if any donor of a particular item wishes to be consulted as to the disposal of that item, or would like it back he should contact the Committee by letter to:

The Chairman

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Committee  
c/o RHQ The Queen's Regiment

Howe Barracks

CANTERBURY, Kent.

Such letters are requested to include positive details identifying the items, a contact telephone number and confirmation that, if the item is not to go to Clandon and therefore will be for disposal, the donor would be able to arrange its collection from Kingston. It is regretted that since the County Office moved to the main Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury there are no facilities for returning any item by post. If nothing is heard from a donor within one month of the publication of the News Letter it will be assumed that there is no objection to disposal being decided by the Museum Committee.

As Chairman of the Committee I am conscious that this report does not indicate as much concrete progress as I would have liked. However, once our decision can be taken to complete the packing at Kingston and move into Clandon Park, there will be a certain need for positive support from anyone prepared to help in small working groups, and subsequently possibly to assist in the provision of assistant

curatorship, cataloguing and guiding. If there is anyone who at this stage feels they might be available to assist in one of these ways it would be most helpful if they could give their name to any member of the Committee.

All of us are most grateful for the interest that has been shown so far and for the generous financial support already given by a number of people.

J.W.S.

### General Mans Regimental Museum Appeal

The Managing Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum wish to express their thanks to the undermentioned ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly made donations to the Museum Fund:-

Colonel J.B. Kealy	Mrs J.Y. Whitfield
Mr R.R. Rodwell	Lt Col G.M. Elias Morgan
Mrs G.R.P. Roupell	Captain A.E. Warner
Mr R.W. Moyle	Mr H.C. Russell
Mr S.J. Gadd	Mr S.J. Trayler
Lt Col J.L. Paine	Mrs E.F. Bolton
Mr W.G. Warren	Mr T. Powell
Major H.B. Watson	Mr W.G. Clarke
Lt Col W.C.E. Nash	The Queen's (Bermondsey)
Major B.D.S. Burton	Regimental Association
Mrs N.A. Willis	Mr S.J. Lewis-Wheatley
Mr J.E. Fagence	Mr H.J. Ford

Names are in order of receipt of donations commencing in May 1977. The total sum received to date is £325.

### From Here and There

L.S. DUNCAN from New Zealand writes that he and ex Drum-Major L. Bennett are well. He is anxious to get hold of any photographs of the N.W. Frontier, especially Razmak, for a collection he is making. Best wishes are sent to all ex-members of 1st Queen's.

A.E. BOND tells of days in India - marching up into the hills for the hot weather. Dehra Dun was probably the same in the 1920's as it was last year when I was there. Service in the Sudan and China recalls the poster about joining the Army and seeing the world.

J. JONES also reminisces about marching uphill all the way to a hill-station with appropriate comments. As he says, there were many good times.

T.F. CONNOLLY writes from British Columbia to point out that the late TED WEEKS - whose obituary was printed in the last issue - must have served in all ranks to warrant officer in order to have been commissioned as Quartermaster. T.F. Connolly joined East Surrey's in 1923. He suggests that a column called "Where are they now?" would be a good idea. I agree!

TED WEEKS was the subject of another letter from EGB, who pointed out that for ten out of eleven years after his retirement from the army Ted was a very valuable member of his firm. He displayed the same qualities and retained the same high levels of performance for which he was renowned in the service.

B.A. THOMPSON talks of joining 1st Queen's in 1926 at Shaft Barracks, Dover. He was sent for attestation to Howe Barracks, Canterbury. He did not know the reason then - and still does not. As he says - perhaps it was because he was already an enlisted Boy Trumpeter with the T.A. Royal Field Artillery?

### Where are they now?

Ex-Drum Major L. Bennett would like to hear from Charlie Cheeseman and "Nobby" Saxby.

### News of the Associations

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

The Annual Reunion will take place on May 13th at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford. Details may be obtained from:

Douglas Mitchell,  
3 Little Field Way,  
Fairlands Estate,  
Guildford, Surrey.

New faces will be most welcome.

#### The East Surrey Regiment Re-Union Association

The Annual Reunion of the above Association will be held at the Drill Hall, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London SW on Saturday 21st October 1978. Details will be issued by Mr. J.W. Bedford, 5B Elm Grove, Wimbledon, London S.W.19.

#### Civilian Staff Vacancies — Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Frequently there are staff vacancies - with single board and accommodation. Preference is given to ex Regular Members of H.M. Forces.

Application should be made to:-

Lt. Col. W.M. Mackay,  
Adjutant,  
Royal Hospital,  
Chelsea, S.W.3.

### The Regular Battalions

The 1st Bn (Lt Col John Holman) is still based at Werl, BAOR, but will probably move to UK next year.

Captain L.M. Wilson writes:-

Since the last issue the Battalion has been extremely busy. On return from Canada we settled down (we thought) to a period of intensive Cadres up to Platoon level. However, 3 Division having just moved to BAOR, we have participated in almost continual exercises either as players or as enemy.

During the early part of March when the Battalion had hoped to concentrate on Field Firing and Classification at that Mecca of all Trg in BAOR - Sennelager, we had to despatch BHQ with two companies to Soltau to take part in Exercise "Seconds Out". During one weekend the Battalion had its Base Camp in Werl - Tac HQ & two companies in Soltau - a small detachment at Snow Queen, a further Detachment in Münsterlager, and 2 companies moving to Sennelager. It was decided not to hold a fire practice as well! Older soldiers amongst our readers will smile and say nothing has really changed - but we do live in hope for a quiet period!!

From December till now we have also been Restructuring - older readers may well ask what the hell is that? It is just another phase of the Regular Army's constant change since 1661 - but we hope we will get it right sometime. We now have an Establishment of 650 so we are known as a "650 Bn", BUT this has changed since we started in December and we are going up to 672!! (watch this space for further changes!) SP Coy has gone from the Establishment again -

those independent gentlemen of the Mortars and A/Tks have been absorbed into D Coy, which has now been reformed under the command of Major Mike Kealy DSO who is back with us between tours with the S.A.S. The Recce Pl is no more - but we now boast a Close Observation Platoon (we are not quite sure what they do but Lt Les Edwards has promised further details later). HQ Coy continues to expand (no change the older readers will murmur). The QMs Department has been drawing up more APCs and Equipment and distributing them as quickly as possible and backloading a large amount of Equipment not now considered to be essential for an Infantry Battalion. As readers will know Colonel John Davidson left us for the Cabinet Office in Downing Street where he sits on the right hand of our Masters. On taking command in August Colonel John Holman decreed that Football and Boxing would be the Priority Sports for the Coming season.

We entered the Major Units Boxing Championships for the first time since 1971, this being mainly due to N Ireland tours and unit moves. 1977/78 has been a very successful year for the Battalion Boxing Team. In December we beat 1st Battalion The Royal Scots to become the BAOR Champions in the same ring at Oxford Barracks Munster that we became Champions as 1st Bn The Queens Royal Surrey Regt. We then moved to UK to Aldershot to meet our old rivals of Ten Years ago 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. In 1967 they had beaten us by 6 Bouts to 5, but on the 15th December 1977 we boxed in the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot and beat 1 Para by 6 Bouts to 5 to avenge our earlier defeat to become Army Boxing Champions 1978.

Following this success seven of our Boxers entered for the BAOR Individual Championships, and after the two day event the Battalion had six BAOR Champions. These six Boxers went back to Aldershot for the Army Individual Championships, where, after three days of boxing we finished with Cpl Jean-Pierre as the Army Middleweight Champion and Pte Lewis becoming the Army Heavy-Weight Champion. In the CSBA Championships later we had three boxers who were beaten in the Semi-Finals and two who were beaten in the Finals.

The Battalion go on Block Leave from 24th March to 24th April, but wait for it - the main Recce to N Ireland leaves on the 21st April! And then - once again life's rich pattern - N Ireland Trg at Sennelager - and in June we commence our 7th Operational tour of N Ireland since 1969.

The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Crispin Champion) has been in Gibraltar since last August on a two-year accompanied tour which means that they too should be returning to UK in 79. Since the project to re-open Howe Barracks as a battalion station is still on and, since works services for this purpose are due for completion late that year, we are hoping that either the 1st Bn or 2nd Bn will be the first occupants, thus making Canterbury a true "Home" for the Regiment.

The 3rd Bn (Lt Col Stuart Anderson) is our first major unit to be stationed within the Regimental boundary since formation in 1966. Now at Connaught Barracks, Dover, the Regiment will, at long last, be able to identify itself with the civilian population in its own area. Before arriving at Dover (from Catterick) the battalion was fully engaged in fire-fighting in the Merseyside area and, just before that, keeping the peace in Belize.



### The 5th and 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalions

Both our TAVR battalions are flourishing. Recruiting is so good in fact, that quality remains the hallmark in selection. (These days you have to be good if you want to be a Volunteer in The Queen's) HQs are in Sturry Road, Canterbury (5 QUEENS) and in Denne Road, Horsham (6/7 QUEENS). This year the 5th will be camping in BAOR (Sept) and 6th/7th at Stanford (June).

### Recruiting

As readers know, the South East has always been a comparatively difficult area in which to recruit soldiers; nevertheless, the Regiment's Recruiting Team (The RIT), based at Maidstone, works strenuously throughout the year to steer suitable young men our way. Hopefully, recruiting may be boosted by a future announcement of improved pay and conditions.

Officer recruiting, however is encouraging and we are beginning to reap the rewards of an intensive effort in this field.

The Regiment employs a serving officer at RHQ whose sole job is recruiting but we would like to remind all readers, that both past and present members of our Regiment continue to play a major role in actively helping our recruiting effort.

### By Special Request

#### 1923 Marathon Race - Pyramids to Cairo

This race was won by Pte. Ackroyd of B Coy. 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. A silver cup was awarded to him with his name and regiment inscribed on it.

Pte. Ackroyd is a registered blind person and would like to know if anybody has any news of the cup. Any information should be sent direct to:-

Mr. L. Branford  
95 Munster Road  
Teddington, Middx, TW11 9LS

### The Queen's Roll of Honour

This book contains the names of all officers and men of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment who were killed or died of wounds in the 1914-18 war. It is 14½ inches by 9¾ inches and ¾ inches thick. The title and Pascal Lamb are on the front cover. A copy is being sought by Mr. V.E. Fagence who has been responsible for many interesting articles published in the News Letter in the past. He is willing to pay a fair market price if anybody has a copy for disposal. Details should be sent direct to:-

Mr. V.E. Fagence,  
9 Stream Close,  
Byfleet,  
Weybridge,  
Surrey, KT14 7LZ

### Regimental Recordings

An enquiry has been received about any recordings of regimental music by the relevant regimental bands of the Queen's Royal Regiment and the East Surrey Regiment. Interest is in getting copies of records, or perhaps a cassette tape-recording, or any details of records and their contents. If anybody has any information which they would like to share would they please contact:-

Mr M. Fountain,  
3 Melbury Close,  
Claygate,  
Esher, Surrey. KT10 0EX.

### News of an old Queen's Family

Lt. Col. G.S. Grimston writes:-

I am sure that members of The Queen's who served with the 1st and 2nd Bns between 1903 and 1927 will be pleased to hear that Mrs Domoney, the widow of the late CSM A.J. Domoney who joined the Regiment on the 25th of February 1903, celebrated her 90th birthday in October 1977. Although crippled with arthritis she is remarkably well and her memory splendid. She well remembers joining the 1st Bn in Warley, Essex with 35 other 'Brides'. The next move was to Bordon where the 1st Bn left for France in 1914.

She now lives at 47, Prestfield Road, Gillingham Kent, ME7 4RC, and I am sure she would be very pleased to hear from anyone who served with her husband.

Her son Major A.W.V. Domoney lives at Leamington Spa and we regularly exchange letters each Christmas.

### An old Soldier

Major General R.S.N. Mans CBE, Colonel, The Queen's Regiment, writes:-

Just before Christmas I visited Major Arthur Roberts at his home at New Milton in Hampshire.

'Athy' Roberts is, I believe, our oldest surviving officer. He left Sandhurst in 1903 and was commissioned originally into the West India Regiment transferring to the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1908.

Talking to 'Athy' is like turning the pages of Regimental History. Although, as he admits, his sight and hearing is not as good as it used to be his remarkable memory is as alert as ever.

He gave me a vivid description of the 2nd Battalion The Queens return from South Africa in September 1914. They marched from Southampton to a camp in the New Forest at Lyndhurst, leaving there a few weeks later for France. 'Athy' stayed behind with the rear details collecting reinforcements together before following the battalion over to the BEF. Contrary to popular belief the new soldiers were not very well trained, barely knowing how to handle their rifles. 'Athy' who had just received his captaincy, put them through intensive training and then took them to France to join 2 Queen's.

By this time the 2nd Battalion had been in the thick of the fighting and suffered severe casualties. 'Athy' was told to form his raw troops into a Company and to take command of it. On November 7th 1914 he led his men against the Germans at Ypres.

Almost immediately Major Roberts was very severely wounded. He tells a gripping story of how left for dead he was finally brought in by his batman Private J.G. KEMMITT who gathered a party of walking wounded together to carry his officer to safety.

It was through this splendid story of comradeship that I first got to know that 'Athy' lived so close to my home. Mrs. Joyce Muir, Private KEMMITT'S daughter, wrote to RHQ The Queens Regiment at the Kingston office, not long before it closed to donate to the Museum a watch that Major Roberts had given to her father. This watch is now in The Queen's Regiment Museum at Canterbury, a living memorial of duty and friendship.

His wounds prevented Major Roberts from serving overseas again in World War 1, but he had a distinguished service on the staff until he was fit enough to return to the 2nd Battalion in 1920. From 1920 to 1931 when he retired 'Athy' saw service in two campaigns in Waziristan. During

his active career he was awarded OBE and mentioned in despatches four times. Officers who served with him during this time in India have told me how sad it was that he was not given command, but like the splendid man he is 'Athy' never mentions this, only talking of the ability of his fellow majors in the Regiment.

After his first retirement 'Athy' put his vast knowledge of military matters at the disposal of young cadets trying to get into Sandhurst, teaching at the Army College at Farnham. Many a successful senior officer in World War II must have been very grateful for the instruction he received from such a professional teacher.

'Athy' was recalled in 1939 and held a series of instructor posts at OCTUs until 1943.

One cannot leave the story of this remarkable man without mentioning Mrs. Roberts. She is 95 and on first meeting looks thirty years younger than that. A very charming and attractive lady.

This is a very short and totally inadequate picture of a great Regimental officer, beloved by all in his day. The total contentment that he exudes in describing his years in the Army should serve as an outstanding example to those who now follow him in The Queen's Regiment.

R S N M

### Farewell to Kingston

The association of Kingston with the Regiment dates back nearly 200 years. In 1782, county titles were introduced for Regiments of Infantry, ostensibly to foster a connection with a particular county, but primarily to establish a base for the ever present problem of raising recruits for the Army. The Seventieth became the 70th (Surrey) Regiment and a Depot Company was established at Kingston on Thames to recruit men of the county of Surrey for that Regiment. The early drafts trained at Kingston served with the 70th in Canada.

In April 1873, eight years before their final amalgamation, the 31st and 70th were linked together into 47 Sub-District Brigade. The Brigade Depot was established at Kingston and it was here that recruits for the two Regiments were trained. The Barracks in Kings Road, Kingston, designed by the Royal Engineers as a 'Brigade Depot Centre', were completed in 1875, and recruits for the 31st Foot, then in Gibraltar, and recruits for the 70th Foot, then in India, were in training there by the following February. Although the 'Surrey Comet' in 1874 remarked that the new barracks should have a "by no means unhandsome appearance", it must be admitted they were of no great architectural merit, though the massive Keep was impressive.

The Depot Companies of the 31st and 70th continued to train recruits for their respective Regiments until the long-foreshadowed amalgamation was effected in 1881. The 47th Brigade Depot then changed its name to the 31st Regimental District, and the Kings Road Barracks became the Depot of The East Surrey Regiment. The role of the Depot was to be the Regimental Headquarters and to train recruits for the Regiment. In the First World War, 84,000 volunteer recruits passed through Kingston Barracks between 1914 and 1917.

Recruit training, commenced in 1881, continued until July 1959 when the Depot reverted to its alternative role of the Headquarters of the Colonel of the Regiment and his secretariat. Three months later when The East Surrey Regiment amalgamated with The Queen's Royal Regiment

to become The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the newly formed Regimental Headquarters remained at Kingston Barracks for another two years before moving to the TAVR Centre in Portsmouth Road where it has been for the last 16 years.

The Regimental War Memorial in Kingston consists of the Trinity Chapel in the Parish Church of All Saints and the Memorial Gates to the Churchyard. The Chapel was restored in 1920 by the relatives, friends and comrades of the 6,000 officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment who lost their lives in the 1914 - 18 War, and whose names are recorded in the Book of Remembrance. To this Roll of Honour were added the names of 1,198 officers and men of the Regiment who were killed in the 1939 - 45 War. Oak panels on the walls are memorials to officers who served in the Regiment and there is a section for holders of the Victoria Cross. In the Church hang Colours of the 31st and 70th Regiments, and of the Territorial and Service Battalions of The East Surrey Regiment.

In May 1944, the Council of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames conferred upon the Regiment the Freedom of the Borough, but it was another three years before the Presentation Ceremony could be held. In his address, the Mayor of Kingston said, "You are granted by the town, as a Regiment, the right to march through the town with fixed bayonets, Colours flying and drums beating . . . It is difficult to express in words the great pride and admiration which Kingston holds and feels in the record and history of the East Surreys - or may I say, 'our own soldiers'".

The cordial relationship between the Regiment and the Borough was not only demonstrated on ceremonial occasions. Before and after the Second World War, the Mayor and his Town Clerk were always present at the port to welcome the arrival of the troopship bringing home the 1st or 2nd Battalion on completion of an overseas tour. Here may be mentioned Alfred Forsdike, the Town Clerk of Kingston for 25 years, who was a good friend to the Regiment. Excellent relations have been maintained with Kingston's own newspaper, the 'Surrey Comet', which has been publishing news of the Regiment for over 100 years. Articles on the operations of the Regular, Territorial and Service battalions in both World Wars have reflected the interest and pride of the Royal Borough in its connection with the Regiment.

The Freedom of the Borough was first exercised by the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) when His Majesty the King opened the giant new power station at Kingston on 27th October 1948. The Depot was regarded as the home of the Regiment. It was here a soldier began and finished his service; and, being the centre of the Old Comrades Association, it was here that Reunions and Garden Parties were held. There was a friendly atmosphere about the place, and any old Surrey visiting could be sure of a warm welcome. In 1950 the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association was formed at the Depot, and is perhaps the most active bond with the old Regiment. Its meetings and functions are still held in Kingston. In times of industrial unrest, men of all three Services were occasionally accommodated in Kingston Barracks. An unusual visit occurred in 1951 when the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in full dress with their guns, staged at the Depot prior to the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Birdwood.

Without doubt the most significant and spectacular event celebrated at Kingston was the 250th Anniversary of the



raising of the Regiment in 1702. The Regiment exercised its privilege of marching through the Royal Borough with bayonets fixed, bands playing and Colours flying. At the Depot, in the presence of the Mayor, civic dignitaries and senior officers of the Services, a large crowd watched the massed bands of the Royal Marines and the Regiment beat Retreat.

The last great East Surrey and civic occasion at Kingston was the Centenary Celebration of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA). Formed in 1859 as local Volunteer Corps, one of which, the 12th Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps was raised by the Mayor of Kingston, the separate units were eventually merged into a battalion in 1880. The 6th Battalion, preceded by Band and Drums, and followed by the Old Comrades of the Battalion, marched through the town with bayonets fixed and Colours flying, the salute being taken by His Worship the Mayor at the Guildhall.

But it is the Regimental personalities rather than the events which linger in the mind. One remembers our distinguished Colonels, Generals Sir John Longley, Sir Richard Foster, Sir Arthur Dowler and Brigadier Roupell, those custodians of our Regimental institutions and tradition, John Congdon and 'Rosie' Sutton, that outstanding Quartermaster, Major H.J. Percy, MC, DCM, the Honorary Colonels of our 6th (Territorial) Battalion, Colonels Drayson, T MacD Baker, 'Daddy' Hicks, whose son was killed in action with the 1st Battalion and that cheerful extrovert, 'Buck' Buchanan. So many others come to mind - RSM Alec Twohey, Canon Wellesley Orr, the Depot Chaplain for over 30 years, Miss Dodd, NAAFI manageress for 25 years, Bandmaster Harriott, Stan Bays and the three old sweats, Paddy Lynch, Jasper Dineen and Bill Reid. There are a host of other memorable characters too numerous to mention. There is probably no one who has served longer in Kingston or who knows the Royal Borough and its many friends of the Regiment better than Major John Reed. He served as Adjutant of the 6th Battalion from 1950 to 1952 and as Training Officer from 1956 to 1959. On the amalgamation of the Surreys and the Queen's, he was appointed to the newly formed Regimental Headquarters in 1959 and has served there for 18 years. To him fell the task of winding up the Surrey Office of the Regimental Headquarters, which is now incorporated in the main Headquarters of The Queen's Regiment at Canterbury.

It is gratifying that the Freedom of the Borough was granted to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and latterly to The Queen's Regiment. Thus the connection between the Royal Borough and the Regiment of today is preserved.

P G E H

### The Gurkha Museum

This museum is well worth a visit. It is inside Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Church Crookham near Aldershot. The resident Gurkha battalion is at present 6 G R. Of the many well-displayed exhibits two are of particular interest to our members. One is a print of a photograph taken of the Queen's firing-party at the unveiling of the memorial at Jail Hill, Kohima. The other is the set of medals previously belonging to Subedar Major Danbahadur Rana - 4/1st KGV Own Gurkha Rifles, who was a Subedar at Jail Hill. They include OBI, MC, IGSM 1908 as well as clasps for N.W. Frontier and World War II.

### Letters from the Boer War

In the May 1977 issue of this News Letter there appeared a notice of the death of Mrs. Barbara Dickins - wife of Major C.H. Dickins late The East Surrey Regiment. It was later brought to my notice by her son, Major D.J.C. Dickins - 2i/c 1st Queen's, that her father had also served with the East Surreys during the Boer War and Great War. Captain H.S. Tew - later Colonel - had written some letters which had been preserved. Selected extracts are printed below:-

#### From South of the Tugela River - as a Captain:

"We have just come back from a second unsuccessful attempt to relieve Ladysmith. We managed to deceive the Boers and cross the Tugela, but instead of attacking at once, we waited three days doing nothing while the Boers constructed their usual row after row of trenches. We then made two or three attacks taking several of their trenches but making no serious attempt with all our force and then giving up the attempt, made a very successful night march across the Tugela again."

"Our Brigade was engaged with the Boers on Sunday January 21st. As usual we had nothing but a few dry biscuits to eat all day. I was in command of the first line of my men and had to rush off with no idea of what I had to do except that we were supposed to attack some Boer trenches, but which I could not find out. The object of the fight was not apparent as it was impossible to take the Boer trenches with the number of men at our disposal and we had no guns to support us till late in the afternoon."

#### From Camp near Ladysmith. March 6th 1900 - still a Captain.

"Very many thanks for the parcel of socks which will be most useful. I am sending you a box of Queen's chocolate as a curiosity. Keep the box as they will be worth a lot of money some day. As much as £5 has already been given out by *civilians* who wanted them. I managed to raise three boxes. One of them was picked up by a man in my company in our last fight when we stormed the Boer trenches on a dead Boer. He had evidently picked it off a dead Tommy in the previous fight on the same hill . . .

. . . We attacked the hill which General Hart's Brigade had attacked four days previously without success in which he had lost 1,000 killed and wounded, but in this case two other Brigades attacked hills on the right from which the Boers had previously enfiladed Gen Hart's men. I commanded the 2 companies of the E Surrey in the firing line and there were 2 Co of the Rifles on our left. We took the hill very easily, my CO being first up and then fired away hard at the retreating Boers until it was dark. The fight took place on my birthday and it was the most exciting day of my life. The next morning no Boers were in sight and the Cavalry entered Ladysmith the same afternoon. The Boers left all their kit behind and every man in my Co has got a bandolier full of Mauser ammunition, a rug, a waterproof and several have Mauser rifles. I have a Mauser rifle with the name of Potgeiter in large silver letters on the stock. He was a Commandant and was severely wounded."

#### From Col Colvilles Column, Standerton May 26th (1901?)

"Whenever we visit a fresh farm, the troops collar all the poultry for themselves as of course it is impossible for the people to take them away with them, but as a rule our mounted troops get all that. A few days ago I had to go and destroy a lot of forage and mealies at the late General Joubert's farm. He was evidently a rich man and had a far



superior farm to most one sees about. We shot a number of guinea fowl and pigeon there but some Boer snipers rather interfered with our sport and caused us to leave quicker than we had intended but not before we had destroyed all his supplies."

**From Parderkop Hill. Nov 10th (1902?) - as a brevet Major!**

"... My Colonel offered me the choice of a DSO or a brevet but advised me to take the brevet as otherwise it would have meant a junior officer going over my head, which would not have been pleasant. The brevet gives me 2s/0 a day extra pay which is an advantage and the DSO brings nothing extra except the honour and medal for it. There is no sign of any end to the war which is almost bound to last until next July at any rate. It is very disheartening but progress is very sure. I don't think anyone could do better than Lord Kitchener is doing; it is simply a case of capturing a few Boers every day till none are left..."

*Editor's Note:* Captain Tew commanded the firing line of two companies during the successful attack on Hart's Hill, which was part of the action which finally cleared the Boers from their positions on the Tugela river, and thus allowed the relief of Ladysmith.

### Books of Interest

**"IRON DIVISION"** - The history of the 3rd Division, by *R. McNish*.

Direct links of interest to readers of this News Letter may be restricted to the person of Major-General "Bolo" Whistler who had previously commanded 131 (Queen's) Brigade in North Africa, and the service of 1st Surrey's in the Suez Zone in 1952. The book is, however, worth reading as the story of a British infantry division from the Peninsular War up to the present day. The Division was commanded from 1st June 1914 by Major-General H. Hamilton CVO, CB, DSO - late of the Queen's Royal Regiment - until 14th October 1914 when he was killed visiting his forward troops. A high proportion of the 192 pages is devoted to excellent maps, reproduction of orders, letters, prints and photographs.

Copies may be obtained from "A" Branch, HQ 3rd Armoured Division, BFPO 106 at £3.50 plus 60 pence postage, or from booksellers at £5.95. The publishers are Ian Allen Ltd., of Shepperton. Cheques to cover direct purchases should be payable to "3rd Division Amenities Fund".

**"LITERARY GENT"** by *David Higham*

David Higham joined 8th Queen's in September 1914, saw service in France and was wounded in August 1916. Further service covered Palestine and Turkey finishing at Aldershot with 1st Queen's in 1924. Service during World War II was spent as a staff officer and Civil Affairs in Belgium.

The book is written in a witty, interesting style and gives a very clear picture of life in and out of the army. Outside the army David Higham was a successful literary agent. The title derives from his mis-heard reply to a question put to him by King George VI when presented to His Majesty at Guildford in 1939.

Many older members will doubtless be familiar with names referred to in the book. The book is published by Jonathan Cape at £7.95.

**"THE FIRST TEN YEARS"** by *Gregory Blaxland*

Recently published as a Supplement to his "A Guide to The Queen's Regiment" (our Short History), Gregory Blaxland has now chronicled Regimental activities during the first decade of the Queen's Regiment's existence.

This small booklet is a "must" for all who wish to keep in touch with our affairs and is a necessary adjunct to the "guide" which many readers will already have.

If you would like to have copies of either the "Guide" (60p) or "The First Ten Years" (30p), or both, please apply direct to Regimental Headquarters.

OVERSEAS READERS - please add 20p per copy for postage.

### The Legendary Jimmie Ives

In his fascinating and very human book 'A Village in Chelsea - a History of the Royal Hospital', Lt Colonel David Ascoli has thus described Jimmie Ives, who was RSM there for no less than 19 years. Mr Ives, a well known and respected member of The East Surrey Regiment, brought to his appointment the qualities of understanding, firmness and tact, allied to a robust sense of humour without which his task would have been impossible. The administration of discipline in a community of old soldiers no longer subject to military law, requires, in the words of Colonel Ascoli, 'the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the professional expertise of a psychiatrist.' The RSM was keenly concerned with the welfare of the In-Pensioners and the success of the In-Pensioners' Club owes much to his guidance and enthusiasm.

Here, with the author's permission, is Colonel Ascoli's tribute to RSM Ives BEM, who was appointed RSM of the Royal Hospital in 1954.

"RSM Ives was a retired warrant officer of the East Surreys. Captured by the Japanese at Singapore, he had spent four dark years in prison camps, including those on the infamous Siam railway, where he had learned all he needed to know about human nature. He was to serve the Royal Hospital under four Governors and become a familiar public figure as he led his twelve In-Pensioners into the Albert Hall each year at the Festival of Remembrance; and the smartness and bearing of those old gentlemen is the best of all tributes to the silent revolution which their RSM worked at Chelsea. In 1954, the picture was very different."

Jimmie Ives well remembers his first Church parade and his astonishment at the appearance of the In-pensioners. "Those few who had troubled to clean their buttons had Brasso all over their scarlet. Really scruffy they looked." And so he set to work.

"He is the first to disclaim any exclusive credit, and this is true; for \*Bernard Paget's dedication to the Hospital and his own qualities of leadership and understanding were soon reflected in the staff around him. He had devoted himself to a revival of this great honourable institution and that sense of devotion was contagious. There was no sickness at the heart of the Hospital that could not be cured by firmness and good humour and those were the specifics which Ives prescribed in his daily dealings with the pensioners; and they thrived on the treatment."

P G E H

\* General Sir Bernard Paget, Governor of the Royal Hospital from 1949 to 1956.



## The attack on the outer defences of the Hindenburg Line, September 21st 1918

Early in September 1918 the 33rd Division (Major-General Pinney) which, for the previous five months, had been involved in the defensive battles on the Meteren, Kemmel and Ypres fronts was moved down on to the Somme. It was to take part in the Allied offensive which was designed to push the Germans completely out of France and Belgium. This offensive had commenced on 8th August, with an attack by the Australians, Canadians and British at Villers-Bretonneux, and extending as far north as Morlancourt and southwards to Thennes. The offensive had been continued until, by the time the 33rd Division arrived on this front, the enemy had lost all, or nearly all, of the ground which he had gained in his Spring offensive. The battle-line was back practically to the positions occupied by both sides prior to 21st March.

The 33rd Division was moved up to the Equancourt area, as far east as Heudecourt, on September 19th, taking over from the 21st Division the trenches which had formed the old front line, at the end of the Cambrai reverse of November 1917. These included Poplar Trench and Beech Walk, lying west of Villers Guislain and just east of Epehy. An attack was now ordered upon the outer defences of the Hindenburg Line, including the network of trenches and posts commanding the approaches to the St Quentin Canal. Artillery support was weak, and no tanks were available to assist the assault, and Villers Guislain, in particular, was exceptionally strong, being defended by machine guns at every point and by concrete "pillboxes".

The attack was to be made at dawn on the 21st September, by the 19th and 98th Brigades on the right and left respectively. The 1st Queen's were now commanded by Lt-Col P.C. Esdaile with Major G.K. Olliver as Second in Command, and the disposition of the Battalion for the attack was as follows:—

"A" Company (Capt K.A. Brown) and "B" Company (Capt E.W. Bethell) in front line,

"C" Company (Lieut A.J.R. Haggard) in support,

"D" Company (Capt E.S. Bingham) in local reserve.

I was a Lewis gunner in No 9 Platoon "C" Company.

This part of the Western Front was new territory to me, as previously all my service had been spent on the Messines, Ypres and Armentieres fronts. The Lewis gun section I was in consisted of seven: Pte Hinviés (in charge and also No. 1 on the gun), myself (No. 2), Pte Chinnery, Pte Felton, Pte Freeman, Pte Hunter and one other whose name I cannot remember. During the night we lined up on our position in a sunken road. The ground over which we were to advance was rather like a large saucer or shallow basin, with the ridge at the eastern end being occupied by the enemy, who, as we discovered later, had a large number of machine guns positioned there.

Shortly before Zero hour, which was fixed for 5.40 a.m., Lieutenant Whittaker and Sgt Randall, respectively platoon officer and sergeant, came round with the rum jar and gave each of us our ration, which was very welcome as the night had been rather cold. That was the last time that we were to see them alive. Zero hour arrived and our artillery barrage commenced, augmented by overhead covering fire by the machine guns of the MGC. I remember feeling quite exhilarated by the thought of being once more in an attacking role, instead of the defending one to which we had necessarily been assigned for the past five months. Also there was the prospect that the war was coming to an

end, and after perhaps a few more battles, (provided that we were fortunate enough to come through each of them without being killed or wounded), we would be going home. But this feeling soon ended.

We scrambled up the bank of the sunken road and commenced our advance. We had to go slightly uphill at first, and as we topped the rise, we came under enfilade machine gun fire from our left flank. A withering hail of bullets came among us, and Freeman and Hunter were both wounded. We left them to be attended by our Company stretcher-bearers, who were following up close behind. A few yards further on Chinnery and Felton also received wounds, and soon after that Hinviés went down. I took the Lewis gun from him, and handed my spare parts bag to the remaining unwounded man of our section, and we ran forward and joined some of our own Company in an old trench which had apparently been used in previous battles of an earlier date. Other NCO's and men of our Company were already there, and for the time being we were pinned down by the enemy machine gun fire which was very severe. The other men told us that they had had quite a number of casualties, and that as far as they knew, that had been the case on the whole battalion frontage. We remained there for about 20 minutes, and, there being no officer present, it was decided by the senior NCO, a sergeant, that it would be best for us, in order to reach our objective, to make our way one at a time across the valley, to a more favourable position near some old dugouts which would give us a rallying point. We all managed to reach there safely, although being fired at by the enemy machine-guns on the ridge. Then the sergeant despatched us all to various positions in front. The other man and myself were told to take our Lewis gun into an old meadow or field about 100 yards further on, and with a couple of spades to make a gun emplacement, which we did.

We could not see any of the enemy, who were very well concealed, but we remained in our position for the remainder of that day and on into the night. The enemy apparently knew exactly where our positions were, as he shelled us incessantly and with quite a degree of accuracy. The shell-fire became more intense during the night and at about two o'clock in the morning my companion was wounded. I called out for stretcher-bearers and two of them came with a stretcher, bound up the injured man's wounds, placed him on the stretcher and carried him to the rear. When daylight came (22nd Sept), a messenger came to tell me and others round about, that all of us were to go back to our starting point of the previous morning. There we were rallied and re-organised, and preparations were made for another attack by those who had survived the previous day's fighting. Our ranks were somewhat depleted as we had lost rather heavily in killed and wounded.

We left our trenches and advanced down into the valley, being led by Major Olliver. Almost immediately we came under whiz-bang shellfire, which, with the intensity and rapidity of its delivery, indicated that the enemy gunners were firing at us over open sights. As it appeared that we would have still heavier casualties if we continued the officer in command gave the order to retire to the shelter of our trenches, with which I, for one, was very glad to comply. We occupied the trenches for the remainder of the day, and during the night we were relieved and marched back some distance behind the lines, to recuperate and receive reinforcements to make good our losses.

The attack had been rather abortive, and the Battalion



had again suffered heavy losses. My platoon officer, sergeant, and several others of the platoon had been killed, and I was the only one of my section of seven to answer the roll call. The other six had all been wounded, although fortunately none of them had been killed.

The Battalion casualties were:

6 officers and 98 NCOs and men killed or died of wounds

5 officers and 184 NCOs and men wounded.

30 men missing. a total of 323

### Marine Colonels of the Regiment

A note of the four Colonels who commanded the Regiment when part of the Marine Corps between 1702 and 1714 may be of interest.

George Villiers was commissioned in the First Guards on 31st August 1685, and must have been in his late thirties when appointed to command one of the newly formed Regiments of Marines. His commission as Colonel of a Regiment of Marines was signed by King William III on 12th February 1702. The first action in which Villiers' Marines took part was an unsuccessful attempt to capture Cadiz on 12th August 1702. Two months later they formed part of the Second Brigade at the capture of the Spanish galleons at Vigo, although they remained embarked on this occasion. It was while serving in the Mediterranean the following year that the Regiment suffered a great loss in the death of Colonel Villiers. He and one of his officers were drowned at Priuti on 6th December 1703.

The second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Luttrell, who had served with the Regiment since its formation, immediately assumed command. He had previously been in the (19th) Yorkshire Regiment and had seen active service in Flanders. After an unsuccessful attempt to capture Barcelona on 19th May, Luttrell's Marines took part in the capture of Gibraltar on 21st July 1704. They formed part of the heroic garrison which held on to the Rock through the long and bitter siege which lasted until 18th April the following year. Luttrell remained in command during the second and successful attack on Barcelona in October 1705, but he retired from the Active List on 31st January 1706. Colonel Luttrell died in September 1714.

The next commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Churchill of the 3rd Foot (The Buffs). He came from a well known family in Dorset, but was not, so far as is known, related to the Duke of Marlborough. During 1706, the Marine Corps took part in the Capture of a number of towns on the east coast of Spain, including Alicante, and of the islands of Ibiza and Majorca. The Regiment continued to serve 'By Sea and By Land', and Churchill's Marines took part in the ill fated attack on Toulon in the summer of 1707. In October the fleet sailed for home, but some of the ships were wrecked off the Scilly Isles, and a large number of men, including some of Churchill's Marines, were lost. Operations in the Western Mediterranean continued in 1708, and Churchill's Marines were in the force which captured Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, in August of that year. In 1710, a composite battalion of Marines was formed for an expedition against Port Royal in Nova Scotia. Six Regiments of Marines, including Churchill's, each supplied one company, and the force was commanded by Major Reading of Churchill's. The following year, Colonel Churchill, after five years in command on active service, received Her Majesty's permission to sell his commission, and left the Service in February 1711.

On 1st March 1711, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Harry Goring, then Member of Parliament for Steyning, was promoted by purchase to command of the Regiment. He was aged 32. During his period of command, Goring's Marines were employed by detachments at sea and on garrison duties ashore in the traditional role of the Marine Corps. Consequent upon the Treaty of Utrecht which concluded the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713, the Regiment was threatened with disbandment, and Colonel Goring himself was placed on the half pay list. The following year, after the death of Queen Anne on 1st August, there was an upsurge of Jacobite activity with the aim of restoring the Stuart dynasty. The situation was sufficiently serious for six new regiments to be raised, and the three senior Marine Regiments, including Goring's, to be restored to the Active List as Regiments of the Line. Goring's Marine Regiment thus became the Thirty First Regiment of Foot, and Sir Harry was re-appointed to the colonelcy in 1715.

Unfortunately, Colonel Goring was suspected of Jacobite sympathies, and in June that year, as a result of political pressure lost his seat in the House of Commons, and three months later he was obliged to sell his commission. On his retirement, Sir Harry returned to Sussex. He died at Horsham on 12th November 1731, at the age of 52.

### Footnote

In this review of Marine Colonels, it would perhaps be not inappropriate to mention General Sir Richard Foster, KCB, CMG, DSO, who was Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment from 1939 to 1946. Commissioned in the Royal Marine Artillery in September 1897, he served in the Royal Naval Division in France in the 1914 - 18 War. He was awarded the CMG and DSO, and was four times mentioned in despatches. The climax of his distinguished career was his appointment as Adjutant General Royal Marines in 1933. He was knighted during his term of office and retired in 1936. A later Colonel of the Regiment wrote, 'The period of Sir Richard's Colonelcy was by no means an easy one, covering as it did, the whole period of the Second World War, but he entered with energy, enthusiasm and instinctive sympathy into the life of his new Regiment, and did much to maintain the high morale of the Surreys throughout those difficult years.' General Dick, who died in April 1965, was regarded with affection, admiration and respect by all ranks of his Regiment.

P G E H

### Correction, Please

A letter has been received from Major E.G. Sandys who writes as OC 1/7 Queen's A/TK Platoon, Medenine 6/3/43:-

Further to the book review in the November 1977 issue on "The Plain Cook and the Great Showman", contrary to what is written by Gregory Blaxland

- (1) 1/7 Queen's Anti-tank Platoon went into battle at Medenine on 6th March 1943 with only 1 Troop 4 x 6 pdrs. and 1 Troop 4 x 2 pdr. anti-tank guns. The latter were sited by me in depth. They were replaced by 6 pdrs only in mid-April 1943.
- (2) On 1/7 Queen's front only 3 x 6 pdrs. were fired in this battle and nos. 5 and 7 guns accounted for 22 of the 27 German tanks that were "knocked out" on this sector.

(Editor: Readers are referred to an interesting article on this subject by Lt. Col. W.D. Griffiths DSO MC in the September 1969 issue of the Queen's Journal.)



## The Royal Hospital, Chelsea

A memorial tablet to Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral states "If you seek his monument look around you". This same statement can also be applied to The Royal Hospital Chelsea part of which also was designed by this great architect. In fact he included in the design some ideas that he did not use in the building of St. Paul's.

The Royal Hospital was founded by Charles II in 1682 as a retreat for veterans of the regular army and at the present time there are approximately 400 in-pensioners, WO's and below in rank at the hospital. The Hospital is managed by a Board of Governors that are appointed by the Crown, the Chairman of the Governors is the Paymaster General.

The Chapel of the R.H. was completed by Wren in 1687 and contains some very fine plaster work and wood carving, the latter being executed by pupils of Grinling Gibbons. On the half dome of the apse is a picture of the resurrection done by two Italian painters and dates from about the end of Queen Anne's reign. The Choir stalls and pews are facing inward and not towards the altar as in other chapels. Over the entrance is the organ and standing in the aisle is a small but very fine portable font.

Services are conducted on Sundays by the full time R.H. Chaplain and members of the public are welcome to attend. Between the Chapel and The Great Hall is the octagon porch so named because of the tall octagon which towers high above roof height. In the porch are the staves of colours that were captured from various peoples and deposited at the R.H. by order of William IV in 1833. A reproduction of the colours are hanging in the Great Hall. This Hall is where the meals are served on 8 foot long tables, 10 places per table, and in accordance with the original regulations which were drawn up by Wren, the pensioners are always served before the officers of the hospital. It was in the Hall that the Duke of Wellington's body laid in state and the table on which it rested is preserved in the R.H. Museum. Around the walls of the Hall are portraits of some of the Kings and Queens of England, and at the end of the Hall is a large mural representing Charles II on horseback with the R.H. in the background.

The pensioners living quarters are known as Long Wards, and are in two four-storey buildings. Each floor consists of a pair of wards 200 foot long back to back with a line of wainscoted cubicles running down the inner side. Each cubicle is fitted with a bed, table, chair, wardrobe, chest of drawers, bed light and wireless headphones, although many pensioners have their own radio and television. The cubicle measures 9 ft x 6 ft and by closing the wooden door and shutter there is complete privacy.

In addition to the above buildings there is a Museum which contains a fine collection of medals, a library, a Roman Catholic chapel, administration buildings, an infirmary and living quarters for the officers of the R.H.

The in-pensioners are drawn from out-pensioners of good character and are normally not less than 65 years old. On entering the R.H. the ex-soldier surrenders his out-pension, in return for which he receives board and lodging, clothing, a pint of beer daily or tobacco in lieu and if not in receipt of a retired pension under the National Insurance Scheme or a certain minimum income from other sources, a small money allowance. Leave of absence is freely granted and a summer holiday can be arranged for those who desire it. Social amenities include a club, TV lounge,

billiards room, allotment and a handicraft room where attractive personal jewellery is made.

The R.H. is a place where amalgamation of regiments that produced new identities does not mean very much. A pensioner's love and pride is still with his original regiment and many of them can be seen wearing a regimental cap badge of units that have long since been amalgamated.

Among the ex-Queens and Surrey soldiers at the R.H. is Francis Tanner WO II of The East Surrey Regiment. When he went to enlist in the army in 1927 there were no vacancies in the cavalry which he wanted to join so he elected to join the Surreys as he was living in this county. Training at the depot was hard and thorough, his main instructor being Sgt. Miles "quite a pleasant bloke" and it was not long before Pte. Tanner began to accept and enjoy army life.

His first overseas posting was to Gibraltar with the 2nd Battalion where the usual overseas routine of training, duties, fatigues and sport were carried out. After being invalided home and having a spell in hospital with back trouble and spending some time at Kingston, Mr. Tanner sailed with the 1st Battalion for India and Lahore, being employed in the QM store, and also - after being sent on a course - as a cook, this was from 1931 to 1938.

Soon after his return to England Mr. Tanner was sent on a Field Security course and at the outbreak of war in 1939 he was claimed into the Field Security wing of the Royal Military Police and was soon posted to HQ BEF in France. At the British withdrawal through Dunkirk Mr. Tanner and three of his companions could not get a lift on any of the boats (possibly due to their R.M.P. cap badge) so they decided to paddle their own way home. On the shore they found a beach raft made up of timber and empty oil drums and using G.S. shovels as paddles "Admiral" Tanner and his crew pointed their craft toward England and began to paddle. They had got quite a distance from the shore when they were picked up by a Royal Navy vessel and transferred to an aircraft carrier which eventually landed them in the West Country. After regrouping Mr. Tanner was posted to HQ 1st Infantry Division and went with them to North Africa, Italy and Northern Europe and finished the war in Vienna. By this time the Field Security Section had become part of the Intelligence Corps and Mr. Tanner was Chief Clerk, Int. Organisation, British Troops, Austria and remained in this post until retirement time came in 1955.

While awaiting demobilisation he applied for a post in the Diplomatic Service and was accepted as a Chancery Guard. Shortly afterwards Mr. Tanner was in Addis Ababa starting a new career which over the next 13 years took him to Warsaw, Prague, and Brazil among other places.

After spending some years as a civilian the Army Pensions Office drew his attention to the Royal Hospital and asked if he would be interested in becoming an in-pensioner. He applied, spent three days as a guest at Chelsea and finally joined them in 1975.

During the first year he attended the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall and since then has assisted at local functions when pensioners are requested to help or sell flags for charity, or just to lend a bit of colour to the occasion in their scarlet coats. One of the tasks that he likes doing is to conduct parties of tourists around the R.H. and explain to them the history of the building.



If ever you should visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea remember that it is not only the building that we should be proud of but also of all the pensioners who have many years of interesting history behind them and in most cases even helped to make it.

A. Surrey

### Service at Sea

It was interesting to read in the November 1977 issue of the News Letter references to the sea service of our two former Regiments. Captain K.W. Brooks' article on 'The Glorious First of June' mentions the part played by The Queen's Royal Regiment in Lord Howe's great naval victory of 1794. Throughout the nineteenth Century, detachments of soldiers were frequently embarked in ships of war for raids and assault landings, and the History of The Queen's Royal Regiment relates many instances of the Queen's serving as seaborne soldiers.

'The Formation of the Regiment' by A. Surrey recalls the raising of Colonel George Villiers' Regiment as one of six marine regiments authorized by the Royal Warrant of 1702. In this year the Marine forces were placed under the control of the Lord High Admiral, and when serving at sea the marines came under Naval command. According to Cannon's 'Historical Record of the Marine Corps', they were supplied with 'proper sea clothes and other suitable necessities'. They were, in fact, sea soldiers as opposed to seaborne soldiers. Raised and trained as Mariners, Villiers' Regiment and its successors formed part of the Marine forces until 1715.

P G E H

### Deaths

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

**Aldridge**—On 15 November 1977, Cpl George Rupert Aldridge (10120) aged 85. Served in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1910 - 1915 and was with the battalion in the battle and retreat from Mons.

**Aspin**—On 25 January 1977, Richard George Aspin MM (6876) aged 82. Served in the 3rd, 9th and 11th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment 1915 - 1919. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on 21 September 1917 at the Battle of Ypres whilst attached as a runner from 11th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment to HQ 138 Brigade. He also served during the 1939/45 War with the Home Guard. His medals are displayed in The Queen's Regiment Museum, Howe Barracks, Canterbury.

**Baker**—On 10 February 1978, Corporal A. Baker (late of Cranleigh). He served with 1/5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment 1939 - 45. He was driver to Brigadier R.V. Palmer when C.O. of the battalion.

**Bartlett**—In August 1976, Sergeant George Bartlett (609-2926) aged 57. He served in the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment ('D' Coy) from October 1939 - June 1946.

**Booth**—On 5 February 1978, ORQMS "General" Ronald Alfred Booth (6139148), aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment (1st, 2nd and 11th battalions) from 1929 - 1964. (See Obituary).

**Butler**—On 30 September 1977, Harold Victor Butler (6134132) aged 77. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1917 - 1922 and saw service with the Regiment in France and Egypt.

**Collins**—On 10 September 1977, Arthur Collins (6092832) aged 58. He served as barber in HQ Coy, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from October 1939 - November 1945. Saw service in France 1940, Iraq 1942, North Africa 1943, and was at the Salerno landings, Anzio, and all action through to Trieste.

**Crowther**—On 4 March 1978, CSM Derek Crowther (614-8198) aged 55. Joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1941 and was later granted an emergency commission in The Middlesex Regiment. After the 1939/45 War, he re-enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment, and served in that Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and the Hong Kong Defence Force from 1948 to 1966. Taking local discharge in Hong Kong, he joined The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) attaining the rank of Captain. In the early 1970's, due to ill-health, he had to return to UK. For several years he had been in charge of the St Thomas's Hospital Medical School Sports Pavilion at Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, and it was here that he died. A keen games player, he had represented his Regiment at cricket and hockey.

**Dennis**—On 13 February 1978, CSM Joseph R Dennis (6076743) aged 78. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 - 1945 in the 2nd, 4th and 1/5th Battalions. (See Obituary).

**Dungate**—During December 1977, Sgt. G. Dungate. He served with 1/5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment 1939 - 45, as Signals Sergeant.

**Gilham**—On 1 January 1978, at the Royal Hospital, Sgt. Frederick George Gilham, aged 83. Served in The North Staffordshire Regiment from 1909 - 1921 and in The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 - 1930 and 1939 - 1940. He was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in 1967.

**Glazier**—On 11 November 1977, RSM Reginald John Glazier (6140959) aged 62. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1934 to 1947. Whilst serving in 'B' Coy 2 Surreys in Malaya he was captured on 22 December 1941, and was a Japanese prisoner of war until the end of the Far East campaign. In 1947 he joined the Malayan Police Force from which he retired in 1968. (See Obituary).

**Hance**—On 1 April 1977, C/Sgt. Frank William Hance (6138498) aged 65 who served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) from 1928 - 1952. He was a member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and of 6 Surreys Veterans Company.

**Jones**—On 8 March 1978, WOII Gordon James Jones (6086676), aged 60. Served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment and later in the Intelligence Corps from 1936 - 1969.

**Keen**—On 26 July 1977, Henry Baden Keen (6076717), aged 76. He served with 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in India and in the Sudan from 1918 to 1927.

**Montanaro**—On 18 December 1977, Major Reginald Austin Forbes, MC, aged 86. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1910 - 1934 and from 1939 - 1945. (See Obituary).

**Stringer**—On 21 November 1977, Reginald Stephen Stringer (200821), aged 83. Served in 1/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 - 1919, and was a founder member of 4th Queen's OCA in 1920.

**Stubbs**—In October 1977, Sidney Norman Stubbs (24067), aged 80. Served in 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Royal Sussex Regiment from 1915 - 1918.

**Wells**—On 22nd January 1978, after having been attacked and robbed at his home, George William Wells, aged 89. George Wells, who served in The East Surrey Regiment joined the 3rd Volunteer Battalion in 1907 and served with the 6th Battalion in India until 1919, regularly attended the Remembrance Day Parades at Kingston. He was a nephew of H.G. Wells, and two years ago took part in a television documentary on the writer.

### Deaths

#### Regimental Families

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

**Baker**—On 25 November 1977, Mrs Vera Evelyn Baker widow of Colonel T MacD Baker CBE who was a former Honorary Colonel of 6 Surreys (TA) and 4 Queen's Surreys (TA).

**Burton**—On 2 December 1977, Mrs Stella Burton widow of the late Brigadier B.E.L. Burton CBE, late The Queen's Royal Regiment who himself died on 13 November 1976, and mother of Major Dennis Burton, late The Queen's Regiment.

**Dickason**—On 19th November 1977, Mrs Mercia Edith Dickason, wife of Mr. Samuel Dickason (6136954) who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1924 to 1945. Many old comrades will remember "Dick" and his wife.

**Hopkins**—On 31 December 1976, Mrs Hopkins wife of former C/Sgt. B. Hopkins (6076449) The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Horner**—On 14th February 1978, Mrs Sybil Gertrude Horner, wife of Colonel B. Stuart Horner OBE, late The East Surrey Regiment.

**Manley**—Tragically on 21 November 1977, Mrs Dorothy (Dorrie) Manley, widow of the late Bandmaster Ernest Manley of The East Surrey Regiment who died as a Japanese POW in January 1945.

**Paine**—On 7th February 1978, Mrs Margaret Ann Paine, wife of Lieut-Colonel J.L.P. Paine, late of The Queen's Royal Regiment. During the last war as a Nursing Sister she served in hospitals in Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Karachi.

## Obituaries

### WOII R A Booth

Few of us knew that his Christian names were Ronald Alfred. To everyone in the Regiment he was "General" Booth. He joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1929 and soon was appointed Company Clerk. This suited him to perfection and suited everyone else in the Company. Not content with normal duties he found time to edit and produce a company weekly newspaper and to be a stalwart member of the football team.

On the advent of war in 1939 the "General" was rushed into the Orderly Room and rapidly promoted to Sergeant. On the formation of 50th Bn Surreys (soon to become II Surreys and later 2 Surreys) he was appointed Orderly Room Sergeant. He did sterling service for many a CO and many an Adjutant and was duly promoted to WOII.

He eventually completed 35 years in the Army and to those of us who knew him well, liked and admired him. He will be remembered as a very special "General".

B A H

### CSM Joseph R. Dennis

Known to everyone as "Joe" was born in Thornton Heath, Croydon, 78 years ago. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment, November 13 1917 and served in France with 2/4th Queen's. He saw service in India and soon after his return to England was sent to Croydon as a PSI to 4th Queen's. He brought with him the strict discipline of Stoughton Barracks, Guildford.

Joe soon proved himself an excellent instructor in not only drill and weapon training, but in all the essentials which a young soldier should learn, such as pride and confidence. He developed the physical fitness of "his" lads by organising boxing, running and swimming contests. By encouragement and example he helped them to develop their talents. The lads of the 4th never let Joe down - nor did he let them down!

It was not only the lads of the 4th who looked up to him, so did the TA sergeants and WO's and even the RSM - himself a regular soldier. The adjutant and colonel of the time respected him and knew quite well just what a power Joe was in the battalion.

During these years at Croydon Joe was for some time the Sergeant-Major Instructor at Whitgift Grammar School, Croydon, where he was most popular with the students and gained the respect of the masters.

Joe Dennis was discharged from the army in 1945, holding war medals, the L.S.G.C. and Coronation medals -

and his Merit of Special Qualification in PT, 1st class.

It was a natural event that Joe should join 4th Queen's OCA, and before long being appointed Treasurer. He held the position for many years, until elected Vice-Chairman - in which capacity he served until the time of his death. That the OCA flourished was due mainly to Joe's efforts.

He left behind him a wealth of experience, from which legacy we should profit by emulating his example. The Association was represented at his cremation by the Chairman and 20 members, some with their wives; also the Standard Bearer and escort. Also present were officers of the Army Cadet Force and a representative of The Queen's Regiment, Canterbury. The Royal Navy OCA, the Canadian Veterans and Honorary members of the 4th Queen's OCA were also represented.

At the close of the service a bugler of the Army Cadet Force sounded Last Post and Reveille, during which the Standard was lowered before the coffin draped with the Queen's Regimental flag.

P S

### R. J. Glazier

R.J. Glazier of 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regt. passed away on 11.11.77 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Essex, aged 62. A great comrade and friend.

Jack saw service with the 1st Bn in India in 1935 and also in Khartoum. He then joined the 2nd Bn in Shanghai and Singapore where he became a prisoner of war.

On the cessation of hostilities he was repatriated to England and after a very short spell in England went back to Singapore to take up duties in the Malay Police Force which he served for 21 years.

On coming back to England upon completion of his service his health began to deteriorate, 5 years ago, when he found his work too difficult to carry on.

He was so well liked by all and it is a great loss as our friendship was so sincere.

A H

### Major R A F Montanaro MC

Reginald Austin Forbes Montanaro, 'Monty' as he was invariably known, has died at the age of 86. Educated at Bedford School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1910. He went to France with the 1st Battalion at the outbreak of war in August 1914, and was soon in action. At the Battle of the Aisne in September, he took command of his company when the company commander was wounded; and was himself wounded in the head. While recovering from his wound, Monty served as ADC to the Army Commander, 2nd Army. He was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches for gallantry in this, his first, action.

Back with the Battalion, Monty was appointed Adjutant in June 1915, and was wounded by a shell splinter at Battalion Headquarters the following year. He became Staff Captain to HQ 95 Brigade in 1917 and GSO3 to HQ 5 Division in 1918. On promotion to Major, Monty returned to the 1st Battalion as Second in Command, and was wounded for the third time, by machine gun fire. After the War, Monty's last appointment at Regimental duty was OC Regimental Depot. He retired in 1934. He was recalled from the reserve for training in May 1939 and rejoined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. On the outbreak of the 2nd World War he served at the Depot of the Regiment.

Monty was held in high regard in the Regiment, not only for his fine record as a soldier, but for his cheerful disposition and easy friendliness. He will be remembered for his lively personality and his wit, the latter often directed at some military absurdity. He conveyed his enjoyment of life to others and people were stimulated by his company. Monty remained a staunch supporter of his Regiment through his long life.

P G E H