



THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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Brigadier G. B. Curtis, OBE, MC

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

Howe Barracks

Canterbury

Kent

CT1 1JY

**Number 25
May 1979**

**Regimental Association
News Letter**

Editorial

Please note the change of address given below. Any letters sent to my old address have been forwarded and used for this Newsletter as appropriate. In future letters will be forwarded to me but delays may occur, so please note the new address.

The President's Notes in this issue deal with a very important, albeit a potentially "touchy", subject. My thoughts can be summarised quite simply as:—

— do we want our various associations to wither with passing time, or should we grasp an opportunity to reinforce our foundations by transfusions of new members?
— are we to resist some possible change of title as posing a threat to our identity for narrow parochial reasons or should we see wider horizons and longer life expectancy?
— are our personal loyalties to our own individual battalions or past regiments likely to be trampled underfoot by an unsympathetic, indiscriminating bureaucracy?

There will be many other questions and concerns raised and discussed in the near future before any decisions can be made. I can but urge you to exercise your right and privilege to give your views to our President — as he requests. I am certain that the regimental traditions and spirit as we understand them will continue to survive only through dynamic rather than slowly-petrifying institutions, and we should therefore give positive thought to any method likely to improve the situation.

Copy for the November issue should be sent to me at 50 Ashdene Road, Ashurst, Hants, SO4 2BW by 30th September 1979.

Regimental Museum Appeal

The Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment thank the under-mentioned gentlemen for their kind donations which have been received since October 1978:—

Brig D.M. Cornah	Capt P.W. Barrier
Lt Col D.L.A. Gibbs	Mr R.J. Turner
Mr W.J. Woods	Mr F.I.R. Allin
Mr G.E. Parry	Mr R.M. Hornby
Mr J.A. Mepstead	Mr R.W. Moyle
Maj E.G.A. Lett	Brig F.E. Stafford

The total sum received up to 28 March 1979 is £520.

Apologies to Lt Col S.H. Sellicks whose rank was incorrectly shown as Capt in the November 1978 issue of the Newsletter under this heading.

President's Notes

When I was asked by General Rowley Mans to take over from him as your President on 1 January 1978 I was delighted, but I also gave considerable thought to the future of this Association, as to whether there was a continuing requirement for it, and to its purpose and role eleven years after the formation of The Queen's Regiment. Now looking back over the past year I have ample proof that my conviction was right, not only that there continues to be a very positive requirement for our Association, but also that it is an essential element in the structure of the Regiment today. The many functions I have attended have been well supported, indeed in some cases even better than previously. But this is not a matter which should be judged just by numbers. Far more important I have sensed that there is a strengthening of the bonds between us as the years go by, that we are becoming more alert to the values of Regimental comradeship which most of us took for granted while we were still serving.

As to its purpose, the answer I believe is quite simply to maintain and strengthen the bonds of comradeship which we once shared in our Regiment in our everyday life. Or, if that sounds a bit pompous, to stick by our old muckers. It's the same thing said in a different way. But do we really still want to do this? — Ten, Twenty, Thirty-five, Sixty years later? I think, to the surprise of many of us, the need is still there and growing, and this past year has shown me that this is not just nostalgia, but a genuine deeper feeling for our old chums in a world where human values are fading.

It is a fact that The Queen's Regiment has been in existence longer than the whole life of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. So how does our Association fit into the structure of the Regiment today? As I see it, just as our present Association grew from the strength of the old Queen's and Surreys OCAs, so today's Regiment needs to build on the success of the Associations of its founding Regiments. It is a basic military principle to reinforce success and I believe the time is now ripe, indeed overdue, when we should take the initiative towards closer and more positive links with The Queen's Regiment. Thus today's soldiers and those leaving the Regiment will see us as a living body which they can truly feel part of, and for our part our future will be assured.

Discussion has begun between the Colonel of the Regiment, Presidents of Regimental Associations, and serving officers about the way ahead, but nothing has been decided. I should welcome your views to help me as your representative in these discussions, but rest assured that the essence of our thoughts is the preservation and strengthening of our own thriving Associations.

Geoffrey Curtis

Forecast of Events 1979 — Regimental Association and Officers' Club

Date	Place	Event	Detail
10 June 1979	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Church Service	Guildford Cathedral at 11.15 am.
15 June 1979	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match v Royal Marines
4 & 5 October 1979	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	2 Day Autumn Meeting and AGM
12 October 1979	London	Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon	To be issued
20 October 1979	Clapham	East Surrey Regiment Reunion	See Notice in this issue
2 November 1979	London	Regimental Association Annual Reunion	To be issued
11 November 1979	Guildford and Kingston	Remembrance Day Parades	—

Headquarters
The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 4PQ
Camberley 63344 Ext 489
From: Dr T.A. Heathcote
Curator RMAS Collection

The Chairman of the Trustees
Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum
Queen's Regimental HQ, TAVR Centre
Portsmouth Road
Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 2NB

Dear Colonel Sewell

I am writing to say how very grateful we are to have for the RMAS Collection the full dress tunic worn by Lieut General Sir Arthur Dowler when he was a gentleman cadet at the RMC in 1913 and 1914. In view of the very high casualty rate among infantry subalterns during the first world war, and especially that among the small regular cadre (more than 4,000 ex Sandhurst cadets lost their lives in that war, out of a total number of 37,000 officers killed) it is very pleasant to see that he survived to win the high honours which subsequently came to him, not least that of becoming Colonel of the old East Surreys.

Colonel Pip Newton of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust was kind enough to hand over this tunic to Sandhurst recently on your behalf, and I am sure you will know that it will be highly regarded and carefully looked after there.
T.A. Heathcote
Asst. Keeper I

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club

It will be noted that the Forecast of Events published in the November 1978 issue of the Newsletter has been slightly amended.

The Cocktail Party scheduled for 8 June 1979 will NOT now be held. Instead there will be a Buffet Lunch for Officers and their ladies on **Friday 12 October 1979** at the Victory Club, London. Details will be notified in due course
The next Officers' Club Dinner will be held in 1980.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion will be held on **Friday 2nd November 1979** at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. Details are notified separately.

Regimental Association

Benevolent Work of the Association — 1978

The number of cases in which a grant was made was 142 and the total amount disbursed in grants was £5,623. In addition the Association administered Army Benevolent Fund Supplementary Allowances to 25 former members and their widows totalling £1,716.

Regimental Association Christmas Cards

Owing to the continuing rise in costs of producing Christmas Cards, the sale price has become prohibitive for the majority of our readers. It is therefore regretted that having exhausted existing stocks, no Association card will be available in 1979.

The Queen's Regiment however, will be producing a Christmas Card, details of which may be obtained from RHQ, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, CT1 1JY, after 31 July 1979. This detail will also be circulated in the November 1979 issue of the Queen's Surreys Association Newsletter.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society

Autumn Meeting 5/6th October 1978

Thursday 5th October

18 holes Stableford under $7/8$ handicap:—
Heals Memorial Trophy— Colonel J.W. Sewell 35 pts
Veterans Halo — Colonel J.W. Sewell
Putting Competition:—
Harry Adcock Memorial Trophy — Lt Col J.W. Davidson (34)

Friday 6th October

18 holes medal under full handicap:—
Autumn Bowl — Lt Col J.W. Davidson (net 71)
(Senior division)
Glasgow Greys Cup — Major H. Greatwood (net 71)
Best Spring and Autumn Aggregate under handicap:—
Petri Plate — Lt Col J.W. Davidson (143)
Sweep winners 1st equal Lt Col P. Roupell and R. Randolph Esq.
3rd equal R.R. Davies Esq.

Future Events

Spring Meeting — 3rd May 1979
Match v Royal Marines — 15th June 1979
at Sudbrook
Autumn Meeting — 4th/5th October 1979

Officers' Swords

There is an urgent requirement for swords and leather scabbards for use, on appropriate occasions, by officers in all three regular battalions of The Queen's Regt. The high cost of these items today (£150) precludes many newly-commissioned regular officers from purchasing them; certainly the outfit allowance which they receive on commissioning is quite inadequate to cover such expenditure. **Note:** This particularly applies to the 3-year Short Service Officer.

The Queen's Regiment is now appealing to all retired officers of The Regt and the former Regts from which it stems, to donate their swords and scabbards to The Regt so that a "pool" of these items can be maintained at RHQ for issue on loan to regular Battalions.

If any retired officer is willing to present his sword and scabbard for this purpose, would he kindly write to:

The Regimental Secretary
RHQ The Queen's Regiment
Howe Barracks
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1JY

who will be happy to make the necessary arrangements for collecting it.

The Queen's Regiment

On 1 Jan 1979, Brig Charles Millman OBE was appointed Deputy Colonel of The Regt vice Brig Roy Coleman.

At RHQ, we have a new Regimental Careers Officer (RCO) — Maj David Gouda — who took over from Maj Roddy Mellotte on 12 Jan. The latter relieved Maj Jimmy Reid as "our man in Denmark" in March.

The 1st Bn (Lt Col John Holman) successfully defended their Army Boxing Championship title at Werl on 20 Dec 78 by beating 2 LI eight bouts to three. In Jan next year Maj David Dickins (now BM of 39 Inf Bde) takes over command.

The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Peter Barrow) returns to UK from Gibraltar in the Autumn of this year and will be stationed at Colchester.

The 3rd Bn (Lt Col Gavin Bulloch took over from Lt Col Stuart Anderson in Jan) departed for N. Ireland in March on a 4 month Op Banner tour.

In the New Years Honour List, Lt Col Cecil West was made a OBE whilst Maj Victor Abplanalp and Buster Carlston received the MBE.

Maj Frank Waldron, one of the ROs at RHQ retires on age in June and we shall welcome, in his place, Maj Dicky Waite, now serving with the 3rd Bn.

The "Glorious First of June" celebrations with HMS Excellent are to take place in WERL (with the 1st Bn) from 1-3 June.

1 Queen's Progress

Since the last report the 1st Battalion has been to Northern Ireland, and now returned to the "fleshpots" of BAOR!

1 QUEENS started its eighth tour in Northern Ireland in June 1978, taking over from 3 PARA an area in the South West of Belfast covering some of the old names like Andersonstown, Lenadoon, Ladybrook and a new housing estate of the latest designs in Twinbrook.

Northern Ireland had changed! This tour, compared with previous tours, was peaceful. The Bn operated mainly in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and it was more a question of dialling 999 than rushing in oneself. No longer were there daily shootings and aggro.

Though not friendly, the people were not so hostile, didn't spit at you (or not nearly as much), and the proverbial two fingers was not seen quite as much!!! Most of the locals had settled; lawns were cut, cars were washed and houses painted (not with slogans either). Selectivity was the name of the game. Intelligence was good and a specific operation was carried out only when we had positive intelligence to support it. By this policy of selectivity the locals saw us combating the terrorist leaving innocent people alone: confidence, we hope, was gained and with it more intelligence which led to more success.

The Bn was grouped into three companies, Tangier Company having been split up to augment the other three — Holland (Kirke's), Sobraon and Quebec having their own areas of responsibility.

Echelon was in comparative luxury at Musgrove Park Hospital, but as the Echelon contained all the "workers" of the Bn, headed by the Quartermaster, what Echelon should be uncomfortable?

The Camps hadn't changed, though improvements continued. Saunas and multi-gyms existed in all bases and there was even talk of a squash court. Washing machines were still a QM's nightmare.

Over half the Battalion was deployed on the monotonous task of guarding key points while the remainder concentrated on getting to know their areas, or providing RUC cover as well as dealing with the infrequent incidents.

To say that nothing really exciting happened is of course to exaggerate. The main trouble period was over the Anniversary of Internment, when we had a major shoot and a fair amount of stoning and bottling. We had plenty of hoax and false alarm IEDs but fortunately only two real ones and they were, thankfully, small. The drill and work was the same for both, and so we were busy, chasing nothing.

The Bn recovered a Thompson Machine Carbine, five rifles and a quantity of ammunition during the tour, not much in comparison to previous tours but the result of a lot of hard work by young NCOs and soldiers of the Bn.

The Bn returned to Werl (BAOR) in early October. Leave followed and then the Battle Group went for ten days on Ex Shake Out in early November, complete with its APCs.

On 6th December the Bn defended its BAOR title of Boxing Champions against 10 Regt RCT, which unit had had a string of successes in Army Boxing. On 20th December the Army Championships were held in 1 QUEEN'S own Gymnasium against the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry, the UKLF Champions. The Army Championships were won for the second year running by beating them 8-3.

The BAOR Individual Championships took place in Berlin in early January and this Competition yielded 4 BAOR Champions from 1 QUEENS. At Aldershot during the Army Individual Championships the Bn ended with the Army Individual Bantamweight and Heavyweight Champions, and young Pte McVey won the Under 19s Welterweight Contest. As a Bn we had six boxers in the finals and as a Regiment the Queens had eight. (Two boxers were from the 2nd Battalion).

Five of the team are representing the Army at Aldershot and training for the CSBA Championships in March. Other sports and activities are also covered, as the Bn ski team achieved some notable successes this year, under the training of WOII Ryan MM.

Preparation has commenced for the Annual Inspection, and the Hygiene, Medical, Documents, Vehicle, Small Arms, Ordnance and Civil Labour Inspections have already taken place. Finally, the Bn has become expert at Snow

Clearance, after one of the severest German winters on record. The initial recce to Canterbury has taken place with our C.O. Designate, Major David Dickins, the Quartermaster and Families Officer.

Sobraon Day was celebrated in normal style, again this year with the honour of carrying the Regimental Colour from the Officers Mess to the Sgts Mess going to Sgts Potts, preceded by the Band and Drums. The Battalion lined the route. This was followed by the traditional Sgts Mess Dinner in the evening.

To all our old soldiers, the 1st Battalion send greetings and belated best wishes for 1979.

Major Mike Kealy DSO 1945–1979 The Queen's Regiment and Special Air Service Regiment

Major Tony Ling writes:—

Michael John Anthony Kealy was born at Farnborough on 29th May 1945. He was the only son of Colonel and Mrs John KEALY, whose only other child died tragically young.

Mike leaves behind a devoted wife, Maggi and three children, two of these, Amy and William, are twins born on Christmas Day only 2 months ago.

He was educated at Eastbourne College and then commissioned from RMA Sandhurst into the Queen's Surreys in 1965 and posted to BAOR. As a member of The Queen's Regiment he served in Bahrain and with the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe.

In 1971 he was selected into 22nd Special Air Service Regiment with whom he served throughout the world. He returned to 1 QUEENS for 18 months in 1974 – 75 and again in 1978 for service in Northern Ireland and BAOR. From 1976 – 77 he was GSO 3 in HQ SAS Group. He took command of D squadron 22 SAS in December 1978.

It was in the SAS that Mike Kealy found the involvement and professional interest that he demanded. From the day he took over command of his Troop, in B Squadron, it was clear that he would have the total loyalty of his men and they would have his. A quiet, almost shy man, he never thrust himself forward nor sought the limelight. He was essentially a most genuine man but with a dry and telling sense of humour. He was always polite and considerate, forever putting others before himself. The hallmark of his character however was his determination to achieve his goal whatever it may be; to go on both mentally and physically when others were crying stop.

It was this determination that helped him carry out the sustained act of bravery for which he is most remembered by his colleagues. The Port of Marbat sits 1000 metres from the 'Jebel' at the East end of the Salalah Plain in the Oman Province of Dhofar. On 19 July 1972 Mike Kealy and 9 members of his Troop, helped by some local auxiliaries, held off the attack for 5 hours of up to 250 enemy who were armed with automatic weapons, rocket launchers and mortars. During the battle he ran forward 700 yards with another soldier, the last half under fire, to assist those manning a 25 pounder gun, which was very exposed and near an undefended Fort. At the gun he found both SAS wounded. Soon the soldier who had accompanied him across the open ground was fatally shot. Then the other wounded man was killed leaving the remaining man and Mike Kealy to hold off attacks from grenade throwing range until relieved by reinforcing troops. The commander of the relieving force wrote in his report of this action:

"When I reached the Fort I was speechless at the sight of that area. There were pools of blood from the

wounded, 84mm rounds, many rings from grenades and the 25 pdr gun was holed many times through its shield. The ground was scarred by the many grenades which had exploded. It was obvious that an extremely fierce close-quarter battle had been fought there. Each one of Captain Kealy's men made a point of coming up to tell me of that officer's action and all that he had done. They told me that he was the bravest man they had ever seen. From my own observations it was obvious that Captain Kealy's action had saved the gun and the Fort. Also I sincerely believe that his inspired leadership and bravery had saved the lives of his men and the town from being captured".

For his gallant action Mike Kealy was awarded a DSO, a decoration also held by his father.

Mike's life was spent essentially in work and service for others. In his tragic death there is a light and lesson for us all. His generous nature and willingness to help in any situation won him the devotion of all about him. Characteristically his interests revolved around his love and knowledge of nature and the joy of life.

He stands as a memorial to all that is courageous and honest. We do not often see his like. He will be sadly missed.

Major-General Fergus Ling writes:—

I cannot claim to have Anthony's knowledge of Mike Kealy, so close as they were in age and interests. Indeed a very warm friendship had developed between them ever since those 1 QUEENS days over ten years ago, at the end of their tour, they "walked" home together from Bahrain via Turkey, The Balkans and Italy.

I am proud, however, to have known him well since his childhood and later, of course, Maggi of the Acworth family, who have given so much in person and through marriage to the service of the country and Regiment, and who now, and in the years to come, will give Mike's family such unsurpassable love and support.

At last it has been permitted to shed some light on Mike's part in the battle of Marbat during the Oman Campaign, after which at the age of 27, he became one of the youngest officers ever to be awarded the DSO in times of so-called peace.

At the memorial service on a cold, sad February day, there gathered together in an overflowing church at Chobham, where his father-in-law had ministered for over thirty years, his family and friends and brother soldiers of the Queen's Regiment and Special Air Service. Some there were from the old Queen's Regiment who had never known Mike. It was enough that they had known his father.

It was a quiet and sincere service appropriate to the man we were remembering: the beauty and sincerity of the words of Bunyan and music of Handel.

If, as we know, Mike Kealy was a brave and good man it was plain to see on that moving occasion where the courage had come from and with whom it has been shared.

From Here and There

Mr. R.W. Brigg — formerly 2nd Queen's — expresses his surprise and disappointment that there seems to be no news of old comrades of his battalion. There must be old friends somewhere and there must be plenty of anecdotes of the years 1932 – 1944. But where are they? Perhaps the next entry may help to fill the gap.

Mr. E. Josling — formerly 2nd Queen's — has been in Australia for 28 years. He has been actively concerned with the Naval Reserve Cadets for many years. His request for the musical score of "Braganza" has been met by Regimental Headquarters, so that his unit may march to it in future. His obvious pride in his old regiment must surely be reflected in the efficiency of his unit. Let us all hope that

he — and they — will enjoy hearing “Braganza” played many times on inspections.

Brigadier R.A. Boxshall — formerly East Surreys — says how disappointed he is at the lack of 1 Queen’s news in the last issue of the Newsletter. I can assure everybody that it was not slackness on anybody’s part, but service requirements delayed delivery of the interesting and detailed letter I normally get from Major (QM) Les Wilson. Les is highly appreciative of the fact that all old soldiers of our former regiments are waiting for news of battalion activities. I hope this issue will make up for the deficiency last time.

The Brigadier also sent me a newspaper cutting about:—

Mr. C. Gent — formerly 1st East Surreys — who took part in the making of the film “The Four Feathers” in the Sudan 40 years ago. The latest re-make of the film was not a patch on the first one, perhaps because the East Surreys were not there to help. Anyway, Charlie is still thriving at the age of 65.

Mr. W.H. Dole — 1st and 2nd East Surreys — writes from Jersey about his days as leading tipper (Drum Corporal to the uninitiated like me). Apparently the drummers were chosen for special guard duties as a reward (?) for their ultra-smart turnout. A period of special interest was spent instructing the drummers of an Indian cavalry regiment. He enclosed a newspaper cutting of a letter he wrote about the subject of rabies which has been printed separately in this Newsletter.

News of the Associations

2/4th Queen’s O.C.A.

The Annual Reunion will be in the form of a luncheon instead of a dinner on April 7th. The change has been made to enable more of the members to attend. The association is still very active after 53 years of existence.

Seven members were invited to a luncheon given by the Mayor of Croydon to honour veterans of the First World War resident in Croydon.

5th Queen’s O.C.A.

Owing to a letter getting lost in the post no news of the Association appeared in the November Newsletter. The Annual Reunion Dinner took place last May with 150 members in attendance. A very successful evening was enjoyed by all.

The 1979 Reunion will be held on 12th May at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford. All members of 1/5th and 2/5th Queen’s are invited. Any other Queensman is welcome to attend subject to catering limits. Details may be obtained from the Secretary:—

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

Phone. Worplesdon 2043 (after 7 pm)

A memorial service was held for Major Mike Kealy, at St. Lawrence’s Church, Chobham. The Association was represented by the Chairman, Lt Col H.M.W. Harris JP

“C” Company 1/5th Queen’s held their Annual Reunion in the Cranleigh Cricket Pavilion in October. 50 members attended to consume a turkey dinner. The guest of honour was Lady William Mullens, sister of the late Captain Berdoo-Wilkins who was the company commander.

The Queen’s (Bermondsey) O.C.A.

Again an active year. The Annual Dinner in February was well attended, members travelling from Southampton and Kent in spite of the weather. Brigadier G. Curtis, President of the Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association was present — together with Major F.J. Reed from RHQ Canterbury. A good evening was enjoyed by all.

The Queen’s (Southwark) Regimental Association
Lt Col W.D. Griffiths DSO MC writes:—

“We have just celebrated the 60th Anniversary of The Queen’s (Southwark) Regimental Association with a Dinner at the Union Jack Club. Brigadier Ronnie Senior DSO TD, whose thirty-two years service went back to 1924, was the guest of honour. Major-General D.S. Gordon CB CBE DSO also attended with five members of the Association who saw action in the First World War. The seventy-eight members present, including the three war-time Commanding Officers, of 1/7th Queen’s Royal Regiment, had a most enjoyable evening and I had the honour to be in the chair.....”

The East Surrey Regiment Reunion Association

The Annual Reunion of the Association will be held on Saturday 20th October 1979, from 6.30 pm to 11.30 pm at the TAVR Centre St John’s Hill, Clapham Junction, London SW. (Near Clapham Junction Station).

The organisers will be glad if members will spread the news, particularly to pre-1939 members of The East Surrey Regiment who have lost contact. For details of the Reunion apply to:

Mr John Bedford
5b Elm Grove
Wimbledon, London SW19

The Queen’s Royal Regiment Memorial, Kohima.

A letter has been received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which reports that the memorial is in good condition. The panels have been cleaned and the rose beds, hedge and lawn have received attention.

The “33” Club

On the 26th June 1946 a re-union Dinner was held in the Cafe Royal, London, for Officers of the 1st Bn The Queen’s Royal Regt who had served in the Battalion in Burma.

At this Dinner Major General Loftus Tottenham, DSO, who commanded the 33rd Indian Infantry Brigade in the 7th Indian Division in the ARAKAN, proposed that the Club should include all Officers who had served in “33” Brigade between November 1943 and February 1945, and this was agreed.

The other Units in the Brigade were the 4/1st Gurkha Rifles and the 4/15th Punjab Regiment. The Club started with 61 members.

The first Dinners from 1946 were organised by Major A.S.C. Hobrow, M.C. until 1952 when he was posted to Scotland. Captain R.F. Kensington ran the Dinners until 1974 when Tony Hobrow returned to the task.

Since 1950 the Annual Dinner has been held at The Eccleston Hotel, Victoria, S.W.1 on a Friday in May nearest to the Anniversary of the Second Battle of Jall Hill, Kohima, 11th — 14th May 1944.

GSG

The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers’ Widows

This Home is primarily intended for elderly widows of W.O.’s, N.C.O.’s and soldiers of the Regular Army, married whilst their husbands were serving but it will accept a number of other soldiers’ widows when vacancies permit.

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

The Home is at East Molesey, Surrey and consists of two adjoining houses with a connecting wing and gardens.

They have lifts, are centrally heated and each has its own dining room and sitting room with television.

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

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

Widows contribute towards their maintenance according to their Pension retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

For further information, application should be made to:

The Secretary / Superintendent
ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS
82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AH
Telephone: 01-979 3788

Regimental Music

At present considerable effort is being put into collecting information on the words and music of all marches of the Queen's Regiment and its founder regiments. It is hoped that a brief history will be produced, together with a recording of all the music. If any reader has any information which may be of help will they please send it to me, and I will forward it to the appropriate person.

Mr. Roy Rodwell who has contributed several very interesting articles in the past is to be congratulated for discovering the words of "A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky" and "The Lass O'Gowrie".

More information about the possible release of a history and recording will be published when something definite is known.

SSAFA to present a new Tri-Service Aldershot Tattoo for 1979

SSAFA are taking over the entire Aldershot Rushmoor Arena, lock, stock and barrel to present a new tri-service Tattoo. Although the next traditional Aldershot Army Display will not take place until 1980 the public will still be able to enjoy a spectacular service event on the last weekend of June 1979. The promise of full interservice co-operation will ensure the very high standards of previous Army Displays will be maintained by this brand new SSAFA venture.

All proceeds from this event (to be known as the SSAFA Aldershot Tattoo) will go to SSAFA funds thus enabling the continuation of assistance to the families of Service and ex-Service men and women as was done in 37,216 cases last year.

Gallipoli 1915

The Defence and Military Attache at the British Embassy Ankara has written to Major F.J. Reed as follows:—

A member of a British police advisory team temporarily working out here has given me the enclosed photograph of a hip-flask in the collection of a Turkish police officer. The inscription makes it clear that the original owner, G.T. Bray, was a member of 2/4th The Queen's Royal Regiment and the Turkish policeman is fairly certain that the hip-flask was recovered from Gallipoli. At this remove it is unlikely that connection with any of Bray's relatives can be made, but I thought you would be interested.

I have been to Gallipoli twice since arrival. The area remains largely uninhabited except for wild life and is most beautiful — particularly in Spring when the hills are covered with wild flowers and the air is filled with the

scent of herbs. Even at the height of Summer when much of the vegetation has been burned away by the sun it remains an attractive place.

Marks of the campaign still remain: parts of the trench systems remain almost intact, particularly along the ridgelines of the ANZAC area, and a short search suffices to unearth other evidence of the fighting. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission here as elsewhere, have achieved minor miracles of planning and applied good taste in creating and maintaining the many cemeteries in the Peninsula. These days, visitors are few, and the Commissions's work goes largely unseen, but it is still carried out with the utmost dedication.

With best wishes to you and all at RHQ.

The 8th Surreys in the Battle of the Somme

Readers may have seen in the paper or on the 'Nationwide' television programme earlier this year that the Rev T.S. Nevill had presented a collection of his brother Wilfred's war letters to the Imperial War Museum. Captain W.P. Nevill was killed in action on the first day of the Somme Battle, leading his company in the attack on Montauban Ridge. In this successful but costly operation, the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment under the redoubtable Colonel Irwin, lost 148 killed and 278 wounded. Mention of the battle stirred the memory of Mr Ernest Hetherington who was a platoon commander in the support company, and who was wounded soon after Captain Nevill, commanding one of the two leading companies, had been killed.

2nd Lieutenant Hetherington was among the walking wounded, and on his way along the communication trench to the Field Dressing Station, he encountered the Battalion MO, Captain Gimson, who was attending to the wounded. On the fire step near him was the body of an officer of the Battalion. The MO took a ring off the dead officer's finger and asked Hetherington to take it home to the dead man's family.

Mr Hetherington's memories are blurred after so many years, but he has a recollection of handing over the ring while in hospital in London. He thought that it belonged to Captain Nevill, but this is not confirmed by the Rev T.S. Nevill. He thinks now the ring may have belonged to Captain Pearce, who was commanding the other leading company at Montauban. While in hospital, Mr Hetherington was visited by Caton Woodville, the artist, to get some details for his picture of the Football Charge which appeared in the illustrated London News, and a copy of which is in the Regimental Museum.

Colonel Irwin and Captain Gimson, the Medical Officer, were awarded the DSO for gallantry during the assault on Montauban Ridge. There can be few survivors now of that battle, but Mr Hetherington is hale and hearty, although he still suffers from the disability caused by his wound.

Wartime Poetry

The following poems have been sent in by Captain C.R. Mountjoy MM. They were written by R. Sigs soldiers and published in Mercury, the Journal of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, whose editor has kindly consented to their use here.

Christmas in Tobruch

Sigmn. H.G. Knight. RCOS

1. There were six of us that Christmas
(and the War was on in the Desert),
A wireless set, six Englishmen the crew;
By the truck two aerial masts,

- Gaunt fingers, pointing skywards,
Strained eager at the guy ropes,
Quivering.
Outside an angry wind,
Sand-laden,
Slashing the sage clumps
To whirling eddies swirling through the night.
Within
An atmosphere of home, warmth, and light;
The pipes glowing,
Cans of beer (good honest English brew),
Carefully hoarded, ready for the Day,
Eked out with captured Cognac.
There was food too—
No turkeys or plum puddings,
But a biscuit potage
Bubbling on the primus
Flavoured with apricot jam;
And the sandwiches-sardines from sunny Portugal,
Inevitably bully, persistent, omnipresent,
With Cheddar from Australian grasslands
Thick, spread on wholemeal biscuits;
And the nuts, too—
Valencian almonds,
Ripe, russet hazels insistently recalling
Rich autumn hedgerows at home.
2. And, when we had feasted
And the mugs were drained,
Our voices lifted in song;
Time-honoured carols praising the wonder of Birth.
And soon we were deep in reminiscence.
Six schoolboys, muddy knees,
The smooth white snow,
Six piping voices shrilling through the crisping air
"While shepherds watched",
The door flung wide,
The cheery glow
Warm-spilt across the threshold,
The pennies clutched by eager, grimy hands—
"Merry Christmas, M'um",
And still outside an angry wind,
Sand-laden,
Slashed the sage clumps.
3. There were times we regretted—
That innate yearning from home,
A loving mother, excited children, wondrous-eyed
At some new toy or bulging stocking,
The sweethearts, wives awaiting our return.....
The little things we missed so much as well—
A crackling log fire, the roasted chestnuts,
Parties, and the expectant mistletoe,
Clinking glasses,
Cinderella at Drury Lane,
Yes, there were moments we regretted!
But it was no time for repining,
So the cognac poured more freely,
And we toasted Benito, the donor,
And, just as heartily cursed him,
For it was he who made us spend,
That Christmas in Tobruch.

Desert Warfare

Sigmn. G. Harker RCOS

A Universe of Space, infinite sands,
Unbroken line to mark off cloudless blue,
A shimmering heat that plucks the very life
Of withered thorns which strive and stretch out shoots
Groping in vain to take a hold on life.
The desert, mighty, void of hope, immense,
Disturbed from tortured sleep by sounds of war,
Her barren bosom throbs with life once more.
Across her brow came men and guns to wrest
From foeman's grasp another sterile stretch.

And so the game is played on age-old sands,
Shades of the Caesars of a bygone day,
Their might decayed, great triumphs turned to dust.
Soon, as with them, shall our deeds grow obscure,
Our victories unimportant, efforts vain
defaced by time. Once more the desert reigns,
Our warfare but a phase, long long forgot.

The Royal Tournament

Every ex-Serviceman cannot fail to be thrilled with the annual event The Royal Tournament, which is held in the large arena of Earls Court Exhibition Building, London during mid-summer. This spectacular which last year was visited by 244,000 people and seen by 8 million people on television donates about £30,000 each year to Service Charities.

The planning and organisation of The Royal Tournament is a full-time job for the Vice Chairman and Director who are retired officers of HM Forces. The Tournament is completely independent of all government funds, although the policy is directed by senior officers of the three Services who serve on a committee whose Chairman is the General Officer Commanding London District. The committee meets at least twice a year, once to approve the sum of money to be donated to Service Charities and once in April to satisfy itself that arrangements for the July performances are going smoothly.

The Director is responsible for the content of each Royal Tournament and takes advice from many people who see events and consider them suitable for this London "show". A display is never accepted unless the Director or the Producer has seen it which of course entails world travel to see overseas units. At the present time planning for 1979 is almost complete, plans for the 1980 Centenary year are advanced and several displays already booked for 1981.

The first Royal Tournament was held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington in 1880, and the performance was then called "The Grand Military Tournament". The title then progressed through "The Royal Military Tournament" to the "Royal Naval and Military Tournament" until in 1919 it was called "The Royal Naval, Military and Air Force Tournament", becoming in 1920 "The Royal Tournament". In 1906 the Tournament moved to Olympia where it remained until it moved to Earls Court in 1950.

It is not until one week before public performances that Earls Court becomes available for final rehearsals, so events must be well rehearsed before coming to this arena. The first rehearsal in the arena does not usually take place until the Monday before the public performance on Wednesday, as the arena has to be covered in soil, and stabling for the horses and accommodation for personnel have to be built.

As well as arena events there are also static displays by Service organisations, where the equipment and horses that take part in the arena events may be seen.

The 1979 Royal Tournament will be held from Wednesday, 11th July until Saturday, 28th July with two performances a day at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. except that there are no performances on Sundays and no matinees on Mondays.

So why not enjoy the thrill in Earls Court in July and take your family, or organise a party booking, to see the skill of HM Forces at The Royal Tournament?

R.R.

Oct. 1978

The Subject of Rabies

I am writing this letter in answer to the letter in your edition of January 8 on the subject of rabies.

In 1929 I was a soldier stationed in Khuldana, India. We had a dog in our barrack room: we were very fond of it. One morning the dog was lying down. It could not get up and was frothing at the mouth. The owner of the dog reported the matter to the doctor, who sent the animal straight away to the vet who confirmed it had rabies.

Five of us who had come in contact with the dog were straight away transferred to Sunnybank Rest Centre with orders to report to the British Military Hospital in the Murree Hills at 9 a.m. the next morning. We were examined by the doctor there and he gave us each an injection in the tummy. We were told we were to have one every day for 14 days.

On the third day, we heard a woman screaming and shouting in the hospital ward upstairs. I asked an orderly who it was, and he replied that it was a colonel's wife dying of rabies. On the fourth day we heard she had passed away.

After our treatment we were transferred back to our barracks. After about two weeks, one of our soldiers was bitten in the face by a dog suffering from rabies. He reported sick and was transferred to another hospital to have a special course of treatment. After this, he came back to our barracks — apparently all right. But after about a fortnight he was taken ill and again admitted to hospital, where he died of rabies about two days afterwards.

Out of the seven of us who were given injections, two died.

I am writing this because of what Dr. Dickinson Priest wrote in his letter to you. Rabies is a killer. If anyone sees a dog who cannot stand and is frothing at the mouth, it should be left alone and reported immediately to a vet, or the police, who will take necessary precautions.

I know it is a long time ago, but I can still hear the screams of that poor woman.

17 Le Geyt Street,
S. Helier.

January 9, 1979.

Mr. W.H. Dole (Cpl) — late East Surrey Regt.

Editor's Note:

This letter was originally published in a Jersey newspaper. I think it merits publication here too.

The Glasgow Lowland Regiment

In the last Newsletter, Mr G.W. Hinde writing about the 70th (Surrey) Regiment, said that in 1812 the Prince Regent approved the style of The Glasgow Lowland Regiment being added to the title of the 70th Regiment. Mr Hinde further stated that 'This only lasted until 1825, when due to various objections, the Regiment's own wish was approved, and the county title of 70th (Surrey) Regiment was restored'. Oddly enough this information though perfectly accurate, is not recorded in the Regimental History. The facts are however recorded in Cannon's Historical Record of the 70th Foot.

A number of interesting questions arise, the first of which must be why was this Scottish title imposed on the 70th in place of the subsidiary title of 'Surrey', which it had borne for 30 years. An inquiry to Mr Hinde has elicited the following further information: 'There was an attempt to turn the 70th into a Scottish corps by the Lieutenant Colonel and by some means, the Prince Regent, on behalf of the King, authorised the title "Glasgow Lowland" to be used.

The commanding officer of the 70th from 1803 to 1811 was Lieut Colonel Andrew Ross — a Scottish name if

ever there was one! After distinguished service in the 31st between 1781 and 1794, Colonel Ross was appointed ADC to King George III. On returning to regimental duty he assumed command of the 70th and commanded the regiment during its tour in the West Indies from 1803 to 1810. In June 1810, a recruiting depot formed from elements of the 70th was set up in Ayr under the command of Colonel Ross. The following year the depot was moved to Stirling Castle under Lieut Colonel Lewis Grant, the second lieutenant colonel of the 70th. Colonel Ross then left the 70th for a staff appointment in Spain. On 1st January 1812 he was promoted Major General, and died a few months later at Cartagena.

It is not known for certain whether Colonel Ross was instrumental in acquiring the title of The Glasgow Lowland Regiment for the 70th, but the inference is strong that he was the instigator. In the first place he was a Scotsman, and probably mindful of the 70th's Scottish origin, and secondly, he was the commanding officer and therefore the lieutenant colonel mentioned in Mr Hinde's second reference above. Lastly, he had been ADC to the King and may well have had some influence in Court circles.

The question of why the Prince Regent approved the change of title is more easily answered. Poor King George III had to withdraw from public affairs in 1811 by reason of blindness and brain trouble, and his eldest son, the Prince of Wales, acted as regent for the remainder of the reign. This accounts for it being the Prince Regent, on behalf of the King, who granted the authority for the title of The Glasgow Lowland Regiment. The Prince Regent would undoubtedly have known his father's ADC.

Andrew Ross may have been instrumental in getting the title of The Glasgow Lowland Regiment conferred upon the 70th, but he did not live to see the fulfilment of his ambition. He died in the spring of 1812, and the subsidiary title of The Glasgow Lowland Regiment was approved by the Prince Regent on 22nd October of that year.

It is evident from the first paragraph of this article that the Scottish title was not popular with the 70th and they succeeded in having the previous title of 'Surrey' restored in 1825. If further information is forthcoming, the Regiment's struggle to get their old title restored will be the subject of another article.

P.G.E.H.

The Attack on the Panheel Lock Gates on 14 November 1944 1/7th Queens by a Military Observer

Before the British 2nd Army's eastward thrust towards Germany could begin it was essential that certain lock gates on the canal west of the Meuse River should be reached, secured and held against the enemy. If the lock gates were opened, draining the level of the water, the pontoon bridges which had been built to specific measurements to carry the main attack force over the canal further North would have been rendered useless.

This is the story of the attack on the lock gates as told to me by 2nd Lieut D. Wilkinson-Cox, of 17 Polworth Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and certain other men of the infantry company taking part. Wilkinson-Cox recently transferred from REME to the infantry, and November 14, when his initiative was chiefly responsible for making possible the general offensive, was his first day in action.

The company advanced after a heavy artillery barrage with two platoons forward and Wilkinson-Cox's platoon in reserve. His objective, when the forward platoons had

neutralised two enemy strong points covering the approach, was to sweep straight through the centre, ascertain the condition of the lock gates, and send back a report immediately to battalion headquarters. He was supposed to wait on the start line until he received orders to advance from his company commander, but when ten minutes passed and he had received no instructions he decided to set off on his own. Later he discovered the company commander had been wounded in the early stage of the action.

Meanwhile the right hand platoon had run into very heavy German mortar and shell fire, and one of the first casualties was the platoon officer. Although this platoon secured their first objective, and took several prisoners, the advance on the right was held up.

The left hand platoon advanced through a similar defensive barrage, the men moving together as a body. They, too, reached their first objective, dragged six Germans out of a complicated trench system, and then the platoon officer in moving forward was shot at and wounded slightly by a machine gunner. Lance Corporal R.D. Lawrence, of Blackmoor End, Braintree, Essex, borrowed a hand grenade from his officer, crawled behind a ridge and threw it without knowing the extent of his success. When the officer tried to move forward for the second time he was again shot at, the machine gunner raised himself to take aim, and this time the lance corporal made certain of success with a truly aimed rifle bullet. Sergeant D.N. Orum, of 45 Bedford Road, Hassle, East Yorks, from whom the description of the part played by the left hand platoon was obtained – took over command from his officer, and all but reached his final objective.

While the two platoons on the flanks were being delayed by heavy fire, the centre platoon under the command of Wilkinson-Cox was sweeping forward heavily 'stonked' by the enemy throughout their advance. Halfway to their objective they came across another part of the trench system. Here, one of the section commanders, Private L.R. Harbour, of 18, Huntington Place, Tynemouth, Northumberland, saw two Boche arriving down a long winding trench. These were disarmed and sent rearwards as prisoners. Then a third German poked his head over the ridge. Harbour fired, the German fell back, and, in the soldier's own words, I'm pretty certain he's dead! A fourth tried to come over the ground towards the section and Harbour fired again, wounding him in the arm.

Sweeping on, the centre platoon reached the canal but owing to the difficulty of seeing through the thick smoke screen laid by our artillery they found they had reached a point one hundred yards to the left of the lock gates. Immediately Wilkinson-Cox right-wheeled his men, reached his final objective, the lock gates were examined, found intact by a sapper officer, and within 20 minutes of the start of the attack the vital message was back at headquarters.

The Corps of Commissionaires

Most readers will have seen on duty at theatres, large department stores, offices, exhibitions and sporting events men dressed in a military style uniform and in many cases wearing insignia of rank. These men are members of The Corps of Commissionaires.

This organisation was founded with the object of giving employment to ex-servicemen and for providing attendant and security services for those who wish to employ them. Although the security side has now largely been taken over by private security companies the demand for members of the Corps is still high.

In 1859 Edward Walter a retired Army Captain was concerned with the difficulty that ex-regular members of the Royal Navy and Army had in finding employment. The Government would do nothing for these men apart from providing them with a small pension and the public fought shy of them. Capt Walter had for a number of years been urging Members of Parliament to adopt some scheme to help these men but as his one man campaign did not get results he resolved to do something to remedy the situation. His first effort was to canvass employers and secure positions for 8 men, 7 soldiers and 1 sailor, each of whom had lost a limb and on Sunday, 13 February 1859 he marched his men to Westminster Abbey to give thanks to God for what had been achieved.

The word "Commissionaire" is French and was imported into England by Capt Walter, the literal translation of the word means someone who can be trusted with a message, money or a post of responsibility. Thus in 1859 The Corps of Commissionaires was born.

Bearing all the expense of the organisation himself Capt Walter rented premises off The Strand in London and organised his men into a uniformed group and instituted in them the principles of thrift and self-help. By 1864 the Corps had 300 members and it became apparent that an office staff was wanted for administration purposes. Capt Walter then made the only public appeal for funds that has been made on behalf of the organisation. The appeal received a generous response from Army Officers who had been watching Capt Walter's efforts with interest.

The uniform remains the property of the Corps and on joining a commissionaire receives a full uniform including two suits, a cross belt, a cap, two shirts and a raincoat or greatcoat. A new suit, cap and shirts are issued each year. So a member of the Corps is always smartly turned out!

In the early days Capt Walter, at his own expense, converted premises in Maiden Lane, London into sleeping quarters, a canteen, reading room and recreational room. As years passed and conditions changed fewer men used this accommodation and all property was sold to obtain their present headquarters at 3 Crane Court, Fleet Street, London.

Capt Walter was knighted for his services in 1885 and created KCB in 1887. He died in 1904 after 45 years working for the Corps and making it grow from 8 men to 3,000.

A member of the Walter family has been connected with the Corps since its foundation. The Corps is now controlled by an Administrative Board elected from among the Governors. The Chief Life Governor is the reigning Sovereign, the President is General Sir Dudley Ward GCB, KBE, DSO, DL and the Commandant is Colonel Geoffrey Pring.

Although administration changes have been made over the years the fundamental principles of the Corps remain those that were laid down in 1859.

Three times the Corps has paraded and been reviewed by Royalty, the last time being in 1959, the centenary year when HM the Queen reviewed members at Buckingham Palace and paid tribute to their work.

In 1918 with the formation of the Royal Air Force the Corps opened its ranks to this service and in 1969 ex-members of the Police, Fire Brigade, Merchant Navy, Coast Guard and Civil Defence were admitted and in 1974 ex-members of the Women's Services were welcomed to the ranks.

The example of the Corps has been copied by similar organisations founded in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. In addition to the London division, outquarters have been established in most large

provincial cities. Some of the duties are today performed in civilian clothes.

Many members re-joined the Services and gave their lives during the first and second World Wars.

When members of the Corps are seen on duty today one knows that their employers realize the value of employing men who have a discharged service character of not less than "very good". Members of the public can be assured of a helping hand and courtesy from men who are proud to wear the uniform of the Corps of Commissionaires.

This in itself is a great tribute to the foresight, generosity and persuasion of their founder, Captain Sir Edward Walter KGB who helped improve the conditions of his fellow men.

Book Review: "Anzio 1944: An Unexpected Fury"

A new account of the battle of the Anzio Bridgehead, January to May 1944, was published in November, written by Major Peter Verney, the Regimental Historian of The Irish Guards.

The Battle Honour of "ANZIO", which is borne on The Colours of the Queen's Regiment was largely won by the 2/5, 2/6 and 2/7th Battalions (Territorial Army) of the former Queen's Royal Regiment, of which at the time the 2/5th was commanded by the late Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Fergus Ling, while Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, our President, was serving in the 2/6th.

Major Verney's book pays a special tribute to these Battalions who, as part of the 56th London Division, were rapidly extracted from the battles on the Garigliano to be fed round by sea to help prevent the almost overwhelming German counter-attacks, which threatened to destroy the Bridgehead. All three Battalions played a notable part in saving the situation, and to the 2/7th went the special task of relieving the 2nd Battalion, 157th US Infantry, who were cut off and holding out in an isolated position well forward of the Bridgehead forward defence line. The 2/7th's successful action held back the German advance for a further vital 24 Hours after the relief of the Americans, but led to the almost complete loss of the Battalion.

To the modern reader the Battle of Anzio may have a continuing interest in underlining the vital need for a proper understanding of the ground. At Anzio, as elsewhere in Italy, the ground gave great advantage to the defence and influenced the outcome of many actions even when seemingly overwhelming force was deployed in attack. The ground at Anzio in places resembled the fields of Flanders and the fighting possibly echoed that of the First Great War as did no other campaign of World War II. Small rises, irrigation ditches and the notorious "Wadis", which did not seem important or were not shown on the maps became vital ground. Lines of attack were channelled by these features, and they could be held defensively by determined groups, and indeed individuals, provided they could receive support from other localities and their links to the guns were maintained. For the soldier on the ground, as Major Verney brings out, it was often confused, dangerous and uncomfortable, with a horizon that was strictly limited to the survival of one's own small group.

As to whether the operation was a success opinions still vary. It was not the master stroke to capture Rome and unlock the door in Italy which some, including Winston Churchill, expected: however neither was it the disaster it might have turned out to be. There is no doubt that it exacerbated the problems of the German High Command, dragging more Divisions needed elsewhere into the running sore of Italy, while the presence of the Allied force

behind and on the flank of the main German positions helped to ensure the rewards for the final battle for Cassino, and the subsequent pursuit to Rome and to the Gothic Line, north of Florence.

J.W.S.

Songs of India

In the last issue of the Newsletter was printed a song familiar to soldiers serving in India before the 1939 - 45 War. It started,

'Sixteen annas one rupee,
Damn and blast the bobaji.'

I wondered if the word 'bobaji' (or 'bobajee') came from 'babu-ji', a term of respect for an Indian clerk. Several old soldiers have written that the word means 'cook'. Mr L.C.A. Moxon BEM remembers the Cook Sergeant being known as the Bobajee Sergeant. Another old Queensman, Captain C.R. Mountjoy MM, whose knowledge of Urdu derives from his service in the 10th Baluch Regiment, writes,

'I must take issue with you on your interpretation of 'bobaji'. This word is pure Anglo/BOR for 'cook' and not a clerk. The word 'bobaji' actually comes from the word 'biwarchi', hence 'bobajee-khana' for cookhouse.

Captain Mountjoy also supplied the following version of the 'Hamare waste' song:

'Along the road so dry and dusty
Came a bibby, hamare waste.
Close behind her who should I see
Uske hamare waste bhi.'

Other songs which have come to light are 'Bombay Bibi', which unfortunately is not suitable for reproduction in these pages, and the Punkah Wallah's song, which is not unlike Rudyard Kipling's poem 'Gunga Din'. The chorus runs:

'He's squatting on the verandah all day long,
Humming very silently some Hindustani song.
He'll bolo, 'Bahut achcha, Sahib.' and never budge
an inch,
While Tommy from the bungalow shouts, 'Kinch
you heathen, kinch.'

P.G.E.H.

The Crossing of the River Selle and Subsequent Operations

During the third week in October 1918 the 1st Queen's were in billets in Troisvilles and whilst here Lt Col H.H. Lee, DSO., left to take command of the 1st Battalion of his own regiment, the Cameronians, his place being filled by Lt Col Hon H. Ritchie, DSO of the Scottish Rifles.

At this time the enemy was holding the difficult wooded country east of Bohain, and the line of the river Selle north of it in great strength, his infantry being well supported by artillery. During the first two days his resistance was obstinate; however the attacking British and American troops made good progress. By the evening of October 19th, after much severe fighting, the enemy had been driven across the Sambre-et-Oise Canal at practically all points south of Catillon, whence our line followed the valley of the Richemont east and north of Le Cateau. It was at this time that the 33rd Division was again brought forward, with orders to cross the Selle River on the night of October 22nd, concentrating east of the river, and getting into position ready to attack on the 23rd.

On the evening of the 22nd October 1918 the 1st Queen's marched up towards the line preparatory to making an attack on the enemy positions the following morning. We reached our assembly positions in rear of the

small town of Forest at about eight o'clock in the evening. The moon (which was nearly full) was shining brightly. We had to clamber over a railway embankment, to take up our positions in slit trenches in a chalk quarry, and I remember thinking, that we must have been nicely silhouetted against the skyline for anyone, including enemy machine gunners and artillery observation officers, to see. But the operation was carried out as quickly as possible without any untoward incident.

As the company I was in ("C" Coy), was in support, with "A" Coy in front line, our Company Commander (Lieut Clarke), considered that it would be sufficient to have only one sentry at a time posted to keep a look out, and every man throughout the Company would take it in turn to do a quarter of an hour only, on sentry duty in the neck of the quarry, which was at the nearest point to the front line. Soon after we arrived the enemy commenced to shell our positions, and the chalk quarry being well known to the enemy artillery was subjected to an intense bombardment, which was continued throughout the whole of the night. I was in a slit trench with Lance Corporal Busby and Private Staff. My turn for sentry duty arrived at midnight, and a lance corporal came and told me to go with him. There was no ceremony of "Sentries pass" or handing over. He just took me to where the other sentry was, said to me "Stand there until you are relieved" and departed in haste with the other man. I did not blame him as it was not a very nice position there. Enemy shells were arriving and exploding every few seconds, each seeming to come closer than the previous one. There was no shelter there, and I thought I would be lucky if I were to survive for my quarter of an hour. I crouched down below the rim of the quarry, with only the top of my head and my eyes above, so that I could see if anyone were approaching from the direction of the front. The time passed slowly, with me expecting every minute to be blown to pieces.

When, after a lapse of what I was sure must have been at least a quarter of an hour, no relief appeared, I began to wonder if possibly the NCO who had been detailed to change sentries had forgotten, or perhaps been wounded or killed on the return to his quarters. I was undecided what to do, but did not like to leave my post to investigate, at least for the time being. After a much longer period (which in my opinion must have been at least half an hour), during which time the bombardment became even fiercer if possible, and when one shell exploded almost on top of me, I decided that as we were only in support and not in the front line, I would take a chance of being put on a charge and go back and find out what was happening.

I returned to the section of trench which I had previously left, and just as I arrived there and rejoined my comrades, we saw a number of our men hurrying along towards the further end of the quarry. We called out and asked what was happening, and one of them shouted to us that, because of the heavy shelling, they had been told to take shelter in a tunnel under the railway embankment. We asked "by whose orders" and, receiving no satisfactory reply, decided to remain where we were and take our chances. The bombardment continued, with some near misses for the three of us, who were in the small trench. At about 2 o'clock in the morning it was necessary for me, as a matter of convenience, to leave the trench for a short time. Whilst I was out, a shell came over and exploded some distance behind me. As soon as possible I returned to where I had left Busby and Staff. There was no sign of them, but where I was sure the slit trench had been was a smoking shell crater. I called out "Staff! Staff! Where are you?" Then I heard moans from underground and realised

that Staff and Busby had been buried alive. Sergeant Deveraux and another man were in another small slit trench just above, and I called out to them for assistance. They came running down, and we all started digging with our entrenching tools, then, fearing that we might injure the two who were buried, by striking their heads, we discarded the tools and tried to grub them out with our bare hands. Whilst we were doing this, enemy shells kept falling closer, until at last one fell and exploded within a few feet of us. The smoke swarmed up around us and the other man was blown flat on his back by the concussion. I thought he was dead, but, to my surprise, after a few moments he rose to his feet saying that he was unhurt. I think that for a moment we were all three suffering from shell-shock (It is no small ordeal to be subjected to a terrific bombardment for several hours). After a hurried consultation among ourselves, we decided that it would be best to go and inform the men in the tunnel of what had happened. Sergeant Devereux did so and a rescue party was hastily despatched from there to the scene of the disaster.

They succeeded in unearthing Staff down to his shoulders, but by that time he was dead. Busby also was in like case. In the morning when it was daylight I obtained a small stick, made a cleft in the top with my jack-knife and inserted a Field-Service Postcard with the names, rank and unit of the two men who had been killed written on it and stuck the stick into the ground close to Staff's head.

We then advanced to the village of Engelfontaine, a distance of about six miles. We occupied a position on a sunken road on the southern outskirts of the village. The battalion was by now greatly reduced in numbers owing to the casualties we had received in the attacks we had made on the enemy positions during the past five weeks. Our effectives for front line duty were down to about eighty. The survivors of "B" Coy were incorporated into "A" Coy and similarly those of "D" Coy were incorporated into "C" Coy. Each of those two companies — "A" and "C" — were now at a strength of about 40 only. At midnight that night (23rd October) the battalion made an attack on two enemy machine gun posts a mile or so to the eastward of the village. The posts were captured and a number of prisoners taken with some casualties on our side.

During the next day (24th October) the 1st Queen's marched back to billets at Troisvilles.

Our casualties during the three days totalled 109 all ranks.

Our CO (Lt Col H. Ritchies, DSO) and 20 other ranks were killed or died of wounds.

8 officers and 78 other ranks were wounded, 1 man was missing and 1 officer and 1 man gassed.

V.E.F.

Deaths

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

Balchin—Ernest Balchin, aged 84. 5th Queen's Royal Regiment 1914-18. Served in Mesopotamia — lived in Guildford.

Birdsall—On 22 February 1979, Major George Edward Birdsall MBE, aged 77. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1919-1955. He was RSM of the Depot The East Surrey Regiment from 1936 to 1940, when he was granted a Commission as Quartermaster. As Quartermaster of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment he saw service in UK, North Africa, Italy and Austria. During the North Africa campaign he gave particularly distinguished service at the Battle of TEBOURBA and was awarded the MBE. On the

reconstitution of the Territorial Army in 1947 he was appointed Quartermaster of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) which appointment he held until his retirement in 1955 after 36 years service. (See Obituary).

Chaffer—On 15 March 1979, CSM Henry Thomas Chaffer (6132470), aged 70. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1914-1936 and again from 1939-1944. Father of RSM Jack Chaffer, late The Queen's Regiment.

Chitty—On 21 December 1978, Major (QM) William Henry Chitty, aged 93. Enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1906, he became a WOII and was then commissioned as Lieut (QM) in 1923 retiring as a Captain in 1937 having served mainly with the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Recalled in 1939, he again served until 1945 as Camp Adjutant at Embarkation Port — Avonmouth. He was wounded in the 1914-18 War and was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Dine—On 20 November 1978, L/Cpl Sidney Frederick Dine (6084737), aged 65. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1931 to 1941 and with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1941 to 1946. (See Obituary).

Huggett—On 20 October 1978, in New Zealand, Cpl Jasper Henry Huggett (6086172), aged 62. Served in the 4th, 2nd and 1/6th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1935 to 1946 and was in the 16th Brigade (CHINDITS) in Burma in 1945.

Ives—On 22 February 1979, RSM (Jimmy) James William Ives BEM, (6768926), aged 72. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1926-1954. Saw service with the 2nd battalion in UK, Malta, China and Malaya, and was with that battalion at the fall of Singapore. On release as a Japanese POW he returned to the Depot in 1946, serving there until 1948, when he was attached to the Army Legal Services at the War Office until 1954 when he was appointed RSM of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He retired from that appointment in 1973. Awarded the BEM in June 1968, he was a familiar figure to all television viewers when annually in November he led for so many years the entry of the In-Pensioners into the arena at the Albert Hall for the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. (See Obituary). (See also Issue No.23 — May 1978 — Page 7)

Jackson—On 20 November 1978, Sgt Tom Leslie Jackson (6084310), aged 64. Served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1937 in China and India, and from 1939 to 1945 with the 2nd Battalion.

Jones—On 19 January 1979, Hugh Jones (3779824). Served in the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1945.

Kealy—On 1 February 1979, Major Michael John Kealy DSO, aged 33. Served in The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment from 1965 to 1979. Saw service with the 1st Battalion of those Regiments and with the Special Air Service. His last appointment was that of a Squadron Commander at Depot, Special Air Service, Hereford which he took up in November 1978. Awarded the Distinguished Service Order as a Captain on 9 April 1974, whilst serving with the Special Air Service. (See Obituary).

Parker—On 20 November 1978, Pte E. Parker (6086193). Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1933-1939 and in the Royal Engineers from 1939-1946.

Read—On 12 January 1979, Sgt Charles Frederick William Read (6133216). Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1946.

Short—On 17 March 1979, Major Walter John Short, aged 90. Served in the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1916-1919, having originally enlisted in The Royal Sussex Regiment in August 1914.

Woods—On 8th October 1978, Dmr Frederick Frank Woods (6084198), aged 68. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1928 to 1935, and again from 1939 to 1945.

Wright—On 12 February 1979, Sgt Leslie Wright (6081070), aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1922 to 1961 in India, the Sudan, China and Malta. He was awarded the LSGC and Clasp (38 years) in 1958.

Obituaries

Major George Birdsall

The last paragraph of page 242 of the History of the East Surrey Regiment reads:—

"There were many other notable officers and men who were especially remembered and not least among them the two remarkably efficient quartermasters, Captain S.J. Thompson MBE who had kept the battalion so well supplied under great difficulties in Belgium, and Captain G.E. Birdsall MBE who had achieved miracles in keeping supplies and comforts flowing in the varying circumstances since the landing in Algiers".

Hundreds of Surreys and their wives will remember George Birdsall with very deep affection. He joined the East Surrey Regiment just after the end of the 1914-18 War; the beginning of the 1939-45 War found him as RSM at the Depot, Kingston. In 1940 he was commissioned as Quartermaster and joined the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. In the 1st Battalion he was a tower of strength not simply as a Quartermaster but as a friend and helpmate to all, officers and men, and especially in integrating into the battalion newcomers and fresh drafts. And when battle was joined it was good to feel confident that whatever the conditions and circumstances, George would be at hand with all supplies when wanted. He had a long and difficult war — UK, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Austria, but in spite of much frustration George always retained his cheerfulness.... And it was good to visit 'B' Echelon and have a nip of rum with George — he was far more warming and rejuvenating than the rum!

In 1947 on the reconstitution of the Territorial Army, George was appointed QM to 6 Surreys TA where he served until his retirement in 1955 — and how well he served that Territorial Battalion. Many part-time soldiers including Z reservists will have happy and affectionate memories of George. He was a man's man — or should it be a soldier's soldier. He did not suffer fools gladly. He was intensely loyal, devoted to his family and his Regiment. A believer in tradition, he had a great respect for authority — a respect confined to those occasions when he considered authority was working in a rational manner!

I am lucky to have been one of the many who are proud to have served with George in peace and war.

T.A.B.

Major N.C. Bunch, TD

Norman Bunch died very suddenly from a heart attack on 4th June, 1978 at his home in Cobham, Surrey, aged 50. He joined the Army as a volunteer in February, 1945 straight from the City of London School, was commissioned and served with the Essex Regiment and the Wiltshire Regiment. Shortly after demobilisation he

received a Territorial Commission and served in 6th Bn. The East Surrey Regt, (TA), then on the staff of HQ 131 Inf. Brigade (TA) and finally as GI (Civil Defence) at HQ 47 Inf. Bde, (TA) at Duke of Yorks HQ. He was awarded the TD in 1958 and because of pressure of civilian work transferred to TAOR in 1964.

In civilian life Norman was a Director of a large company controlling several motor car salesrooms and garages. His job entailed a good deal of travelling but he still made time to participate in local affairs and enjoy his hobby – trout fishing. This was both a personal relaxation and, as an invariably hospitable host, provided pleasure for his guests.

Norman was a big man in every sense of the word and as was apparent from the hundreds of people attending his funeral will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathies go to Valerie his Wife and Julie and Martin his children.

S.F. Dine

Sid Dine, better known to his close associates as "Johnnie", died on 20th November 1978 after a heart attack. Enlisting in The Queen's Royal Regiment from Deptford with ten of his mates in 1931 (known as the "Deptford Lads") he was posted to the 1st Battalion and served in China and India with the Machine Gun Company until his discharge in 1938. Recalled in 1939 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion with which he served until 1941 when he was transferred to the RAOC, taking his final discharge in 1946. A staunch supporter of the Regimental Association he only missed attending one reunion – that held on 3 November 1978 where his presence was badly missed by all his old pals. Those still left of the original "Deptford Lads" were present at Sid's funeral to pay their last respects.

J. RUMBLE

RSM J.W. Ives BEM

The late James William Ives, after retirement from The East Surrey Regiment, served as the Sergeant Major of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea from 1954 to 1972. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life and work was held in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital on 23rd March 1979. It is a measure of the regard in which Jimmie Ives was held that the large congregation included four generals and a great number of his friends in the Army and the Regiment and the In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital. In the Bidding Prayer, the Chaplain referred to RSM Ives's life of service to his country and his fellow men, his kindly wisdom and unfailing support to all who lived in the Royal Hospital and to the sterling worth of his character and the happiness he brought to so many comrades and friends.

General Sir Frank Simpson, GBE, KCB, DSO, Governor of the Royal Hospital from 1961 to 1969, in a moving address, spoke of the Sergeant Major's dedication, his concern for others and of his enthusiasm to inculcate

the soldierly qualities of smartness, self-respect and high morale in the old soldiers in his care. The bearing of the In-Pensioners whom he led into the Albert Hall at the annual ceremony of Remembrance was evidence of the success of his efforts. The General recalled Her Majesty The Queen's award of the British Empire Medal which he had presented to RSM Ives before a full parade of the Royal Hospital.

A tribute to RSM Ives appeared in the May 1978 issue of the Newsletter.

Major M.J.A. Kealy DSO, 1945-1979

Mike Kealy died on active duty during a S.A.S. training exercise on 1st February 1979. His tragic loss leaves a great gap in the Regiment in which he was so highly regarded and to which he brought such distinction. It is a tragedy too of the modern age that the story of his gallantry and dedication has not been generally told, and that his country has thereby been deprived of the inspiration and uplift that knowledge of the deeds of a true hero can give.

Mike was at school at Eastbourne College where he is still remembered with affection, and then after his time at Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in July 1965. What is allowed to be told of his all too short service in the Regiment and in the 22nd S.A.S. Regiment, to which he had very recently returned as a Squadron Commander, is well known (including the snakes!). Perhaps therefore his best memorial at this time is to quote from the appreciation by the Director of The Special Air Service, which was read at his Memorial Service:

"As Director of the Special Air Service I speak for all of us in the Army, in the Queen's Regiment and in the Regiment to which Mike gave his all, the Special Air Service. We have lived and worked with Mike and we have drawn inspiration, whether our rank be Trooper or Brigadier, from the qualities of courage, of dedication, of service and, above all else, of selflessness, which were his make-up. Such is the love and respect which we all had for him that we shall continue to live and to work by his example.

What more can a man give than that his life should be a beacon for others to strive towards after his death?"

Mike is survived by his wife, his two daughters and his son William, to carry on the Kealy name. To them all, and to his father, Colonel John Kealy, and his mother, the Regiment extends continuing deep sympathy.

J.W.S.

Stop Press

Mr Ernest Hetherington referred to in "The 8th Surreys in the Battle of the Somme" was invested by Her Majesty the Queen on April 10th with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order. Warm congratulations are sent to him upon the award of this honour.