



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

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Regimental Association
Newsletter

Editorial

Once again the time has arrived to produce another Newsletter – how it flies by! I seem to have had another good supply of interesting copy. Please keep it coming, but make sure it comes to my present address – I left the previous one two and a half years ago. Also help me not to misread your letters and thus suffer unnecessary worry. I reported my good friend and contributor from New Zealand – G W Hinde – as having suffered from two strokes when on holiday here last year. I was pleased and relieved to hear from him that the correct word was “strikes”.

Copy for the May issue should be sent to me at 50 Ashdene Road, Ashurst, Hants SO4 2DN by 31st March.

President's Notes

Do you remember Battle Drill? I seem to recall that one of the phases was Consolidation, which came before things like Hot Meal and Blankets.

As I see it, this year we have been in the consolidation phase in our relations with The Queen's Regiment. We reached the objective on New Year's Day when we officially became part of The Queen's Regiment and since then we have been “going firm” and securing our position in a very positive way. We all learned in the past not to advertise our arrival on the objective, and so it has been in 1981 that quietly without fuss we have been digging in – with our TA Battalions at Southwark last November (alright so that was November 1980 – securing the start line?) when we were invited to find our own contingent at the Laying Up of Colours of the old 3rd and 4th Battalions, and again at Ardingly in July when we were invited to be at the presentation of new Colours to 6th/7th Queen's. Similarly we have been included in two great events in London with the regulars, first when we saw the Massed Bands of The Queen's Division Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade and shortly afterwards we provided a contingent to march past the Lord Mayor at Mansion House and lunch at Guildhall. Then in August for the second year in succession, 1 Queen's were hosts to the Old Comrades of all the former regiments at Canterbury. That was an excellent day with the administrative bugs of the previous year all ironed out and we can only feel sorry for those who did not attend.

I wonder how many of you have noticed that ALL other Regimental Associations have now followed our lead and bound themselves in closer association with The Queen's Regiment. I have no doubt this trend is right and it must be a continuing process. Indeed administratively our

Association has long been an integral part of RHQ Queen's at Canterbury and to my mind it is unthinkable it should be otherwise. Even so we can and do maintain our independence where it seems of importance to our members, and the prime example of this is benevolence.

As the years go by the calls for aid continue to grow and we are lucky still to have Major John Reed taking a personal and caring interest in the welfare of our old comrades. The heart of a Regimental Association will remain strong only so long as its members know that each one of them can count on sympathetic understanding, genuine interest and speedy support when they are in need of help or advice. So I am sure it is right that our benevolent funds remain under our control and welfare matters remain in the hands of someone who has been known and trusted by us all over so many years. Quite apart from the many cases he has dealt with which do not involve financial assistance, I think you will be interested in the following figures he has just given me.

In 1980 our Association made grants to 137 people to a total of £8,441. In the first 8 months of this year grants were made to 85 former members, widows and dependants of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment amounting to £6,626. In addition we shall be handling about £2,000 in supplementary allowances from the Army Benevolent Fund made mainly to our widows during the course of this year.

Some have criticised my policy of moving forward towards closer association with the Regiment of to-day, and we are all entitled to question the actions of the management since we hung up our uniform, but time does not stand still and we must have the courage to keep up with the realities of life if we are not to sink without trace in a sea of nostalgia. Even so I wanted to take this opportunity to make it crystal clear that I am only willing to reach out from a firm base and the well being and interests of our old comrades will always remain with me the vital ingredient to keep our base secure.

Museum Notes

By the time the Newsletter is published the Museum's second season at Clandon Park will be over. While the House is closed the Museum remains open to anyone who would like to visit it during the Winter, but before they do, it would be wise to ring either Major Reed at Canterbury or one of the Committee Members to ensure that entrance is possible.

Having had two seasons at Clandon we now are beginning to feel at home there, and the National Trust

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FORECAST OF EVENTS 1982 – REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND OFFICERS' CLUB

Date	Place	Event	Detail
6 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Spring Meeting & A.G.M.
6 June	Guildford	Regimental Association Church Service	Guildford Cathedral 11.15 am
8 July	Blackmoor	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Match v. Royal Marines
1 October	London	Officers' Club Dinner	To be issued
14 October	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society	Autumn Meeting
5 November	London	Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Union Jack Club To be issued
14 November	Guildford Kingston Battersea	Remembrance Day Parades	

equally consider us very much part of their House. The number of visitors to the Museum has kept up well during the Summer and by the end of September almost 16,000 had been recorded.

It is particularly nice that more members of the Regiment, both old and new, have visited and it is very much hoped that all who have any connection with the Regiment will sign the visitors book in the Archive/Medal Room. Very many of the ordinary visitors sign the general book on Admiral Lord Howe's desk, and recently these have included a Russian, A Captain of the French Navy and a Lady from China. Except for the last, whose writing we cannot translate, all have made complimentary remarks – although it must be admitted that some visitors comment on the excellence of the restaurant, the porcelain and the gardens for which the Regiment can take no credit!

The major event of the Museum's season took place in April when Brigadier and Mrs Curtis received the Lord Lieutenant, The Lord Hamilton of Dalziel MC, the Mayors and Mayoresses of our three Freedom Boroughs of Kingston, Guildford and Reigate and the GOC South East District and his wife, now Lieutenant General Sir Paul and Lady Travers. Amongst the other guests we were particularly pleased that Major General F J C Piggott, the Senior Colonel of the Regiment, and Major General and Mrs F A H Ling could attend. Major General R S N Mans was at the time unfortunately temporarily laid low.

During the Summer by the good offices of the Army Museum's Ogilby Trust we have acquired a distinguished miniature of Major Robert Raitt who served in the 2nd Queens Royal Regiment from 1770 until dying in Martinique in 1795. We have though not been able to afford an officer's cap badge of the 31st Foot dated 1822 which would have been very nice to have. While acknowledging the continuing generosity of many this emphasises that contributions and donations remain most welcome.

In the coming winter it is hoped that the layout of the Museum will be further improved and working parties will meet on most Thursdays. Help from any member of the Regiment will always be welcome and if anyone thinks they may have time to spare they should contact Major and Mrs P G E HILL who will be coordinating the work.

J.W.S.

Extract from the catalogue of Norman W Collett – a well-known War Medal dealer in the City of London:–

Just recently I visited the Surrey Regiments (2, 31 & 70 Foot) museum; this has been opened at Clandon Park, a National Trust property 3 miles east of Guildford on the A247: I was delighted with the museum for two reasons; firstly, there was much evidence of great care and time in the exhibits, and secondly I was pleased that a regimental

museum was in a position that enabled thousands of people to visit it each year. When the house is open, so is the museum, thus standardising opening times which are variable at some other museums. I would recommend anyone interested to visit the museum, and would suggest that, with the increasing costs of running a separate museum, that the future of museums within such country houses will see much progress in the number of members of the public visiting and taking away some new interest in British military history.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

1. Subscriptions for next year's Newsletter should now be paid. The Subscription for 1982 has been increased to £1.40 due to rise in printing and postage costs.
2. No action is required by
 - a. those who have already paid in advance
 - b. members of the Officers Club whose Club subscription covers the Newsletter.
 - c. those who pay by Bankers Order, except to check that their Orders cover the present cost.

Regimental Museum Appeal

The Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum thank the undermentioned gentlemen for their generous donations which have been received since March 1981:

Major J M Woodhouse	Mr M S Leahy
Councillor G P Naish	Brigadier T Hart-Dyke
(Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames)	Mr A E C Merrett
Brigadier P H Richardson	Captain C W Cheeseman
Colonel D C Snowdon	
Lieutenant Colonel G M Elias-Morgan	

The total received up to 18 September 1981 and since the Appeal was first launched in May 1977 is £1094.25.

News of the Associations

5th Queen's Old Members Association

The Reunion held at Sandfield Hall, Guildford, on the 9th May was another successful evening. 150 Old Members again came from all over the country to be with their pals who they had spent so much time with forty years ago. It is a shame that more local people don't make the effort to attend just once. I'm sure they would

continue after the first time, but it does give the committee great satisfaction to see the figures keeping up. We have opened it to all Queens R Regt Btns now, so if anyone is interested further details can be had from Doug Mitchell.

The Chairman, Lt Col H M W Harris, welcomed everyone and reported that General Mans was unable to attend due to illness and was sure the gathering would wish him a speedy recovery. Brig H C Millman OBE, ADC, deputised for the General. Also unable to be with us was Brigadier Stafford, who would have celebrated 70 years with the Battalion, but 90 year old Colonel Wigan who had also been associated with the Battalion for 70 years was with us. Lt Col Harris hoped that everyone would have a very enjoyable evening. He then introduced Brigadier H C Millman OBE, ADC, who gave a resume on the Queen's Regiment. He hoped that as many members as possible would attend the Reunion at Canterbury in August. When thanking the Brigadier the Chairman said he would also like to offer thanks to Major E Holmes, TD for permission to use the Hall, to Major Oldfield, of the Cadet Btn, Jack Homersham, Geoff Register, Jimmy Patterson, Ron May (Treas.) and the hard working Secretary Doug Mitchell, and to Pearls the Caterers and staff who had laid on such a first class meal. All particulars of the Association can be received from Doug Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey.

The Cathedral service in June was well attended, and it was nice to meet so many in the Refectory afterwards where refreshments were available.

The Association will be attending the Armistice Parade and Service in Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, and the wreath laying ceremony. Anyone wishing to join us would be welcome.

1/6th Queen's O.C.A.

The strength of the Association remains fairly constant due to the fact that we are still recruiting members with war time service in the Battalion and this gives the members of the Committee a great deal of pleasure.

The year started quietly with the first Lottery in March, run to finance the visit of "La Sarcelle" later in the year. The visit was made in May to climax on the 29th May as near as possible to The Glorious First of June. The Belgians stayed at the Union Jack Club with trips to the Tower of London (for the Ceremony of the Keys), Clandon House and Guildford Cathedral. Their last night was spent at the Reunion Dinner where many old friendships were renewed and impressions were formed of the Association's activities.

The many Regimental functions during the summer were supported by the Association.

In September the reciprocal visit to Ghent was made, but with a smaller party. Not much sleep was had but we made up for it by winning (the dictionary meaning) several prizes in their raffle. The highlight of the trip was the finding of the War Graves Cemetery at Esquelmes, north of Tournai where many old friends of the T.A. Battalion are buried. They were casualties of the engagement on the Escaut in 1940. There are 38 members of the Queen's Royal Regiment, mostly 1/6, in a small hallowed plot that is forever England. Most, if not all, the headstones and graves were photographed by two members who were present in 1940; it was a touching experience. Our Bugler, a one time member of the Regiment but who went to France in the West Kents sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The one regret was that we had not been able to obtain a wreath in time but we were there.

The rationalization of the Association is more or less complete. We now have two each of Newsletter, Lottery and Dinner/Dance a year and we have managed to synchronise the despatch of the items to effect a saving in time and money.

The finances of the Association show a steady improvement, in fact this is the only sector where there is room for change.

For the rest of the year there are the Reunion of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, The Ladies Night and Remembrance Sunday, unless a social is arranged for December.

The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

The title of this very active association dates from around 1947 and has proved to be a very appropriate choice. The strength at the beginning of the year was 91 life members and 223 annual subscribers. The annual dinner was held in March at the Union Jack Club with 86 members dining, Lt Col W D Griffiths, DSO, MC was in the chair and Major Frank Snowdon, TD was the guest of honour. Two points of unusual interest were mentioned in his after-dinner speech. They referred to five officers of the pre-war battalion who joined the R.A.F. and the number of brothers who served together in the battalion. He also suggested that consideration should be given to the future transfer of welfare funds and responsibility to the Queen's Regiment, leaving the Association to organise only its social functions.

Other activities which were well supported were the Canterbury Reunion and the Southwark laying-up of colours ceremony. Other annual events are the Northampton Social and the September trip to S. Niklaas where wreaths are laid on the memorials there. All events were very enjoyable and well supported.

The Remembrance Day parade will be held on 8th November 1981.

2/7th Queen's O.C.A.

Over fifty members attended the 35th annual reunion dinner at the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, S.W.1, on Saturday, 28th March, 1981.

The guest of honour, introduced by the President, Brigadier M E M MacWilliam, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, was Major Eric Henton, DSO who commanded 478 Battery of 113 Field Regiment RA which so often supported the Battalion in its actions in North Africa and Italy.

A large party of members and their families, arranged by the Chairman, Major O H Scammell, MC, attended the Queen's Regiment Night of the Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade by the Massed Bands of the Queen's Division on Tuesday, 9th June. A memorable occasion on one of the few sunny evenings that month!

The Battalion was represented by W (Gary) Lockwood, DCM, their popular old RSM, in the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment old comrades contingent, when the Queen's Regiment exercised the 'Privilege' of marching through the City on Wednesday, 8th July.

The Queen's Regiment

The period under review has been full of "highlights": on three evenings in early June, The Regiment's Bands and Corps of Drums were massed with those of our sister Regiments in the Queen's Division and Pipers of The Ulster Defence Regiment on Horse Guards Parade

for a most impressive display of Beating Retreat – 600 musicians in all; and on 8 July, the 2nd Battalion exercised the Regiment's "Privilege" by marching through the City of London with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying. This was followed by a luncheon in the Guildhall for all those taking part, including representatives of our affiliated OCAs.

The 1st Bn, safely returned from an operational tour in Belize, exercised the Regiment's "Freedom" of Canterbury with a march through our "Home City" on 1 Aug; and on the following day they hosted a Grand Reunion of past and present members of the Regiment and its forbears at Howe Barracks.

The 16th of July was an important day for the 6th/7th (V) Bn when they paraded at Ardingly Show Ground for the Presentation of New Colours by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk; two days later, their old Colours – formerly presented to the 4th/5th Bn, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt (TA) – were laid-up in the latter's Regimental Church at All Saints, Maidstone. Lt Col Richard Putnam TD has now taken over Command of 6/7 QUEENS from Lt Col Mike Dudding.

The 3rd Bn has settled down extremely well in Fallingbowl, BAOR, where the Colonel of the Regiment visited them in early September. Later in the same month, the 5th (V) Bn were honoured by a visit from HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark whilst they were in Zeeland for annual camp.

Veterans Company

1. A very successful (Cassino Day) Reunion was held on Saturday 9th May at the WOs and Sergeants Mess, 6/7th Bn The Queen's Regiment (V), Farringdon House, TA Centre, Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey. Approximately 50 members attended. It is proposed to make this an Annual affair.

2. Forthcoming Events for 1981 are:-

Sunday 8th November 1981 – Remembrance Sunday Parade. Details –

a. 10.30 am outside BENTALLS, Wood Street, Kingston-Upon-Thames and afterwards at the Orchard Room, The Training Centre, Portsmouth Road.

b. 10.45 am outside Battersea Parish Church.

Guildford Cathedral Service

Again the weather played the game for us and was good. This event continues to be well supported and enjoyed, especially in the refectory afterwards. The lesson was read by our President, Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, OBE, MC, and a good sermon preached by the Sub-Dean of the Cathedral, the Rev Canon L E Tanner, MA. The collection was taken by members of the 5th Queen's O.M.A.

Congratulations

In the last issue the award of MBE to Major L M Wilson was announced. This time we are very pleased indeed to mention his promotion to Lt Col (QM). His contributions to this Newsletter are sadly missed, but his new appointment is keeping him very busy indeed.

Massed Bands Display

After watching the weather, both forecast and actual, with mounting concern the evening of the 9th June was, fortunately, dry. The spectacle and music were both

very fine, and combined to form a most memorable occasion. The only moan was that "they didn't play our tune," which could have been one of so many of the marches of the old regiments now forming the Queen's Division.

Canterbury Reunion

This event was hailed by all as a great success. Lessons from the previous year had been applied with good results. The only failure was the arrival of a certain ice-cream van, but next year two will be ordered – at least one should get through! Truly an event which I am sorry to have missed.

Canterbury Bells

The appeal for contributions towards the provision of a new Ring of Bells for Canterbury Cathedral, referred to in the last Newsletter, was good. The Bell donated by The Queen's Regiment is named Thomas. It is 2 feet 5½ inches in diameter and weighs 6 cwt 2 qrs 20 lbs. No metric nonsense here! It rings the note F.

The East Surrey Regiment Dinner

A dinner was held on 9th July 1981 at the East India, Devonshire, Sports & Public Schools Club, 16 St James' Square, London SW1. for officers who had served in The East Surrey Regiment. 47 officers had expressed their intention of attending but, owing to a fire at Clapham Junction which caused delays and cancellation of trains, followed by a freak thunderstorm in the afternoon which caused further breakdowns in transport, only 42 officers managed to be present. However 50 officers sent their regrets for inability to attend and hoped that on a future occasion, if one occurred, they would very much like to be there.

Colonel F A H Magee presided and the evening appeared to be such a success that there was a general wish for the dinner to be repeated – perhaps next year.

Any officers who did not hear about this event and are interested in any such future reunion of the old Surreys should contact Major Peter Spearing, 3 Meryon Court, Rye, East Sussex or Lt Colonel Tony Hannaford, 19 West Hill Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

It was emphasised that should this occasion be repeated it was hoped that officers would continue to support events of The Queen's Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

From Here and There

Former Bandsman **Mr S.R. Murray** (22289682) who served in the Band of 1st Bn Queen's Royal Regiment under Bandmaster GAINES from 1949-1953 will be glad to hear from any former members of that Band who served with him. His address is Box 1035, Murray Bridge, South Australia, 5253.

Mr Fred Wynne, as a new recruit of 18, was stationed in the old barracks at Dover on the Western Heights in 1915. Part of the training was to run up and down the Grand Shaft, famous for its triple stairway. He recalls a story that if a wife became pregnant she was confined to barracks until the child was old enough to climb the steps. After training, Mr Wynne joined the East Surrey Regiment in France. He would be glad to hear from any contemporaries. His address is 20 Kendal Close, Cowplain, Hants, PO8 8ET.

Mr L.H. Wood (6081858) served as drummer in the 1st and 2nd Bns and the depot from 1924 to 1931, and was well known for his sporting activities. After 32 years in the Ministry of Defence he retired in 1972, receiving the Imperial Service Medal from Her Majesty the Queen. He would be glad to hear from any of his old comrades. His address is 77 Norwood Avenue, Maltby, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S66 8JW.

Mr R.J. Shears was at Stoughton Barracks in 1937 before transferring to the R.A.S.C. He served in Malta from 1939 to 1943 and upon a recent return visit he found some Queen's badges cut into the rock at Floriana. He is still active with the Royal British Legion in Leicester.

Mr T.R. Kienzle writes that although the Reunion at Canterbury was a great success, and that the arrangements were very much better all round, he still had one moan. His wife knocked his beer over! Due sympathy was doubtless expressed at the time. Anyway, he looks forward to next time.

Mr G.W. Hinde from New Zealand gives details of a book which contains much information about the Queen's and East Surreys in the 1918 Offensive by the Germans. Written by Martin Middlebrook it is called "The Kaiser's Battle". He has also met ex C.S.M. E MOULE who was in Burma 1944 with 2nd Queen's. Ernie Moule would like news of an old friend Bill ORMISTON who lived at Guildford. His address is: E. Moule, 63 Hogan's Road, Glenfield 10, North Auckland, New Zealand.

Harsh Misfortune

The two following letters were sent in by Mr E G Camp, MSM, who was the Orderly Room Sergeant of 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya 1942. During their period of captivity he maintained under impossible conditions a roll of the battalion survivors. This roll is in the possession of Major John Reed at RHQ and has proved invaluable when dealing with FEPOW matters.

Dear Mr Camp,

Thank you for our long telephone conversation last week.

As promised, I enclose a photo-copy of the letter that I received from Canon Eric Scott (I am sending another copy to Lt Col Wallis). Canon Scott is a most interesting man. He officiated at the wedding of Captain John Graham, 1/8 Punjab Regiment, in Penang in the Summer of 1941. All the officers who attended the wedding, the CO, the 21C and the Adjutant, were killed in action at Jitra. Captain Graham was killed in action at Kampar, where he should have been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. Canon Scott stayed on in Penang after the evacuation, as indeed did several other Britons, and he was later imprisoned there.

6142270 Corporal Richard Edwin Nowell HAWKINS, who died on March 1st, 1945, is buried at TAIPING War Cemetery - Plot 2, Row H, Grave 12. Many East Surreys are buried there, mostly those who fell either at Gurun or in Captain Vickers' brave counter-attacks at Kampar.

I thought that you would like a copy of Canon Scott's letter, knowing the meticulous care with which you compiled the Battalion's records while in captivity.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Evans

From Canon Eric Scott
Holy Name Cottage
Kampong Rukam
Lundu, Sarawak

Dear Mr Evans,

Your letters act like a tap and turn on a flood of reminiscences. Your reference to those buried in Thailand reminds me of my post-mortem acquaintance with two such unfortunates. My work as Field Welfare Officer in the Kedah and Perlis division of the British Military Administration, October 1945 - April 1946, took me at times to Kroh on the Kedah/Thailand border, so curiosity compelled me to cross over the border to visit Betong in Southern Thailand. From there I visited a village called Cheropatai, where I was met enthusiastically by a Chinese Merchant Mr Lee, who took me to his house. There he gave me a long document to read, written by Lance-Sergeant Shorthouse. This described how he, L/Sgt Shorthouse RA, and one Corporal Hawkins (I may have got this name wrong - it was something like that) got trapped behind the Japanese lines and instead of going south with the retreating British Forces went north where they arrived at Cheropatai. Here Mr Lee and his sons heroically offered them shelter, and took them into their house, where they dug an underground shelter which they covered with floor-planks where the two soldiers could be hidden if any Japs were reported in the vicinity. Mr Lee showed me the shelter where he had hidden them.

But things became too dangerous, so the Lees took Shorthouse and Hawkins away into the jungle where they constructed a hut for them and showed them what jungle fruits were safe to eat and what were dangerous - in fact the elementary laws of jungle survival; they also promised to visit them every two or three weeks and bring them rice.

Here the two men survived until nearly the end of the war, then tragically both went down with malaria. Hawkins died first and Shorthouse buried him in a clearing in the jungle - his diary ended "Now I am alone". He died soon after and the Lee boys coming to bring them rice found his body in the hut in a bloated condition. They dare not touch it, so they retrieved the diary and burnt the hut over the body.

As Welfare Officer I reported direct to our CO, Col. E V G Day who was thrilled and said "Lee and his sons deserve a big reward!" When the War Graves Commission came to Kedah Col Day informed the Major in charge who went to Cheropatai; he met the Lees and read the Diary, which Mr Lee had refused to part with. The Lees never received the reward which they so richly deserved - they had risked their lives for these two men. So I pass on the story to you hoping that it may be published.

To continue my part of the story, the Lees took me to visit Hawkins' grave, lovingly made by L/Sgt Shorthouse in a clearing in the jungle, where I read the Burial Service over the grave, then to the burnt-out hut, where scrabbling among the ruins we collected L/Sgt Shorthouse's bones. These I wrapped in my shirt and carried back in my car to Kroh in Kedah where the Malay Hospital dresser made a beautiful little coffin where we placed the bones in their correct position "Cranium - at the top; patella - in the middle; this is a toe joint - at the end", all in a coffin two feet long. This I took to St Thomas's Chapel on a rubber estate in Kedah, where I put it under the altar, until a War Graves Commission came to collect the bodies. They insisted in digging up Cpl Hawkins in spite of my objections and both men lie in one of the long rows of the War Cemetery in Taiping, Perak. May they rest in peace - I hope you can do something to perpetuate their story, heroism on the part of the two men who so nearly survived,

heroism on the part of the Lee family who risked their lives.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Eric Scott

Editor's Footnote: A minor excision has been done in the name of discretion.

Loos Reflections

Mr H E Hannan who served with the 9th East Surreys (The Gallants) has written some of his memories. They give an interesting on-the-spot picture of some aspects of 1915-16.

The November 1980 issue of the Regimental Newsletter contained for me two things of interest re "The Gallants" and Sgt Youngman at Wulverghem. I hope the enclosed will be of interest.

Following Loos the Bn moved out into rest area around Locre, Fletre, Dranoutre and Rheningelst (forgotten correct spelling). Our Company "D" were billeted in the lofts and barns in a very large and clean farmyard in the latter. We left here to take over front line duty at St Eloi. I remember that I still carried my first issue gas mask which was a piece of gauze with two tapes attached to tie round the nose and mouth. I mention this because at a later date, going up to relieve in the same sector we ran into a heavy German gas attack, but on this occasion I had the hooded type tucked into the neck of my tunic. We breathed through a mouthpiece and had trouble keeping the eye pieces from misting over. They were quite efficient providing you kept them on until the gas had cleared. Some of the older men and heavy smokers found this hard to do and we had a few who had to report sick. The effect was like walking through a very heavy white mist and we had orders from front to keep contact going forward, to take hold of the equipment of the man in front. The attack was repulsed and our Capt Ashton later received an MC. This winter 1915-16 was exceptionally cold, frozen conditions for most of it. In places especially at Hooge, the trenches were rather shallow so we had to raise the sandbagging. One very cold morning after dawn stand to, I was persuaded to take my rum ration, I didn't drink or smoke and usually gave my ration to a pal. The officer gave me a generous ration and I proceeded to do what I had seen others do, open mouth and toss down throat 100% SRD. The next few minutes were the most frightening I had known to date, fighting for breath. That was my one and only rum ration.

When on working parties we used to go into Ypres and from the asylum near the burnt out Cloth Hall collect our gum boots, tools etc., etc. We also had to run the gauntlet at the notorious Menin Road with its enemy machine gun trained on it. At St Julian we came across an Abbey or Convent that had been desecrated - with the coffins still laid strewn about. At Dickebusche with its crossroads and working windmill we often got shelled. It was believed that the Belgians signalled troop movements via the mill. The light gauge railway to the right led up into the line. Zillebecke where the bullets used to ricochet over the water.

Two young subalterns arrived and were posted to our company on the same day somewhere in Ypres area. We were strengthening sand bags and one of them was in charge. He kept taking unnecessary risks in exposing himself above the trench and despite repeated warnings from an N.C.O. he exposed himself once too often and a sniper's bullet got him. Killed on the day of his arrival, he tried to prove himself too soon. The other officer survived

the War and I met him again on one of our reunion dinners. His name is on one of the menus, but I am not sure which. I just cannot remember names after 66 years. I remember this next incident because it happened on the same day.

In our platoon there was an exceptionally tall soldier, 6ft 3 or more. He was very smart, very clean in habits and a fresh air fiend. Just behind the front trench was a small area which we used for washing of self and clothes on fine days. He was there stripped to the waist and washing. There was a call for stretcher bearers! Was it the same sniper's bullet that caught him? His height must have been responsible because we used the same ground and nobody ever sniped us. We must have spent most of our time in this area before moving on to Wulverghem.

When we first took over there we were told by the troops we relieved that it was a quiet area. They thought a Saxon regiment was opposite. It was rather quiet for a time and then the Saxons, if they had ever been there, must have been relieved because things soon hotted up on both sides with the resultant crop of casualties. Just behind the lines was a place called R.E. farm. In this our R.S.M. had a sandbagged dug out as his HQ. This received a direct hit and he was killed - just a random shot we were told later. About this time our R.S.M.'s seemed to come and go very quickly, but I do remember one named King, the other Black, but I am sure it was King who was killed. Two Salvation Army chaps were allowed to visit us in the actual front trench in uniform. They had gifts from the Mitcham Tobacco Company - Mitcham shag for pipe smokers and Richmond Gem cigarettes for others, plus chocolate and sweets from the people of Surrey. We admired them, but wondered who had let them up. Three miles back was the nearest I had ever known any of their canteens.

We had previously experienced the delivery of the odd German Minnenwerfer - to me the worst of all his weapons. On one occasion here he set up a battery of eight and gave us two salvos of eight in the air at once and about 50 yards apart. The blast could kill you - no shrapnel. He must have known our range to a yard, but not one hit the actual front trench, all behind. Neuve Eglise is a small place behind Wulverghem and on a hill. Two or three of us are here suffering from scabies. The treatment was sulphur and clean clothes etc. for about 7 days to cure it.

May 26th 1915 I was in Kingston Barracks for about two days and about a dozen of us were waiting to be posted to Devonport or Colchester. Sergeant Sadler the Provost Sgt was in charge of us and he was telling us about soldiering in India. He must have been a boxer because he mentioned some 2nd Bn champions - Sgt Martin, Cpl Creamer, the other was a musician either Bandsman Price or Bugler Lake. We were posted a few days later to Miani Barracks, Plassey Fields, Colchester.

It is now one year later and I have survived for nine months and reached my 16th Birthday 1916. We marched down to the Somme and Guillemont Aug 14, 15 and 16th. I think it was on the 15th at dawn that we moved up into an advanced front trench - no room for movement, very hot day, fierce sun. We have coloured streamers from both shoulders denoting regt and brigade. A strip of polished metal was fixed round my neck and laid on top of my pack so that aircraft could identify us. I had been a bomber for some months and so the pouches of my webbing equipment had been enlarged to enable me to insert Mills bombs. I had five on each side plus some in a canvas bucket and I carried my rifle with loose clips of ammo in my pockets. All the time we had been waiting here somebody had kept pot shooting over the heads of my pal and myself. Zero time approached and a rum ration had been called. Perhaps it was the heat but not one man in our section of trench took it.

Zero! The whistle has gone and we are up and over.

Our left flank has more ground to cover than us on the right and we are supposed to advance at such a pace that our line meets the German line at the same time. We have not gone more than a couple of yards when my pal goes down. Thinking he has stumbled I bend to help him up. He has a bullet hole in his temple – no blood and the cleanest and swiftest death I have seen so far. I have to leave him and go on, but strangely I feel nothing at his death. Have I seen too much of dead men to be so unmoved when my pal has gone? The advance proceeded and later on I myself was wounded. Fortunately my entrenching tool and water bottle had saved me from a bigger wound, but I still wound up in England. I have one memory of that day – the number of the bodies laying around of the Liverpool Scottish. I don't know how long they had been lying there, but the stench from them was awful.

When we had left England in Sept 1915 it was as a group of volunteers who had been trained as Machine Gunners and Bombers, about 20 of us. We were trained on the Vickers German converted M.G. and were so efficient that we could locate and repair any of its seven major stoppages blindfold. The bombs were the No.1 G.S. with streamers attached, the Newton Pippin and the cricket ball type – with this we had a striking device attached to the wrist to ignite the fuse. They also for some unknown reason had included semaphore in our training, but this was soon dropped; about half of us could send but not one could read. From the day I landed to the day I left I never saw a German Vickers Converted M.G. let alone fire one.

With the introduction of Mills bombs I became a bomber. This had one advantage as we were excused trench sentry, but had to go out on nightly patrols and also covering parties for wire repairing. It gave you more time to yourself in the reserve trench. A couple of raids were attempted with the object of obtaining a prisoner for identification purposes. We killed and wounded a few Germans and lost a few ourselves getting back, but we got no prisoners!

Lt Col De la Fontaine was the CO and was very popular with all. The following incident concerning the Col. is true and caused me to both admire and respect him. As a company bomber I was relieved of a lot of firestep duties with the exception of stand-to at dawn, when all were on duty. We had to go out and act as listening patrols to cover the wire etc. These were usually two man affairs for about 1 hour at a time. We had a sergeant – I am sure his name was Flanagan – who, I believe, later became a "King's Sergeant". He was as mad as a March Hare when sober, but a real menace when the rum was in him – we never liked going on any of his patrols. This particular night another private and myself were preparing to go out when he said "hold it, an officer is coming with you". This officer turned out to be the CO, De la Fontaine. We had no rifles, just Mills bombs and a club studded with barbed wire and nails driven in. He had just a revolver and the inevitable cane. He did not take over, gave no orders but told us to carry on normally. He asked questions, we answered and after about half an hour he came in – us with him. As soon as the Col. thanked us and left, the sergeant sent us back out again to finish our shift. We found out this was not an isolated occasion. He had done the same on the other Company fronts, but little things like that cause you to both admire and respect a person. This sergeant took a fiendish delight in often sending us out on patrol on our own. I think he was trying to test our nerves, but we never questioned his right to do this. It was an order and we obeyed, but half an hour on your own between the lines 80 or 90 yards apart, where every sound represents a threat to your safety, is not very pleasant. One man did it so we all did.

An Unauthorised Transfer

Dear Captain Brooks

During my holiday in France and Belgium, one of the places I visited was Le Touret, a village near Festubert where one of the battles of the First World War was fought in May 1915. The 2nd Battalion the Queen's, at that time in the famous 7th Division, took part in this battle sustaining no fewer than 454 casualties, all ranks, including among those killed Major H R Bottomley and five other officers. Also the gallant private who had enlisted under the name of Thomas Hardy.

Private Thomas Hardy proved to be Captain Hugh Smart of the 53rd Sikh Regiment, who failing in repeated applications to exchange his post on the Afghan frontier for active service on the European front, had risked his rank and reputation to offer his life in the cause of freedom. Efforts to trace him in India and elsewhere having failed, he was formally removed from the service, but this order was cancelled when the secret of his identity was revealed and the heroic manner of his death made known, the London Gazette of August 6th 1915, giving the full circumstances of the case. There is a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Le Touret with a large number of graves of soldiers who fell in the 1914-18 War, also a Memorial with the names of 13,482 with no known grave inscribed on it.

Captain Smart's name is inscribed on Panels 4 and 5 in the lists of the Queen's Regiment of all ranks without known graves. (I am afraid that I did not count the number of names but I know that it was quite a long list). In the action at Festubert the 2nd Battalion Queen's Regiment went in at a strength of 795 and came out with 341. At the end of the battle 11 Officers and 153 NCO's and Men had been killed or died of wounds and 8 Officers and 231 other ranks wounded, 42 men were missing, 2 were missing believed killed and 1 man was wounded and missing. The 2nd Battalion's losses in this battle were the highest except in the second Battle of Ypres, some time previously, when the losses of the Battalion reached the total of 676.

The inscription of Captain Smart's reads as follows:

Smart Captain H.S.
53rd Sikhs
served as Hardy T

The date was given at 16th May 1915.

I am, yours sincerely
V. E. Fagance

"The Harvest Home"

It may be of interest to know that Captain (Q.M.) C W Cheeseman is now mine host with his son Brian at "The Harvest Home", a couple of miles west of Tavistock in Gulworthy on the A390. When climbing up the hill outside Tavistock it is on the left, nearer the top than the bottom. A good selection of beer and food are available – together with a warm, friendly reception.

Regimental Museum Requirements

There is no picture in the Regimental Museum of L/Cpl George Henshaw, of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, whose George Cross was awarded for his conduct during and after the earthquake at Quetta in 1935.

Would any reader who has a photograph of L/Cpl Henshaw in uniform, preferably on his own, but a group picture would be acceptable, please contact Mrs Daphne Hill at The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum,

Clandon Park, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ. Alternatively any information as to the address of any of his family would be very helpful.

See separate article about the Quetta earthquake.

Quetta Earthquake 1935

As George Crosses are rare in the infantry a word of explanation would perhaps be of interest to readers unfamiliar with this operation.

First, for medal collectors – it is appreciated that the George Cross was inaugurated in September 1940, when it replaced the medal of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry. This was known as the EGM for short. Two of these medals were awarded – one to L/Cpl G. Henshaw and the other to Pte A. Brook. In addition certificates were awarded to Sergeants Chapple and Manners, L/Cpls Dakin and Gowman and Private Rainsbury.

At the time of the earthquake, i.e. at 0300 hours on 31st May 1935, the battalion was returning from night operations. Although marching along a good tarred road everyone was thrown flat to the ground. An officer described how, as he was lying prostrate, a large chasm opened in the earth within reach of his hand and then slowly closed again. The seriousness of the situation was not realised until after the barracks had been reached – these were intact – and breakfast had been eaten. At 0730 hours a staff-officer arrived with orders for the battalion to undertake rescue work.

The city had been razed to the ground and corpses lay everywhere in the hot sun. Injured people were taken to hospitals and the dead were buried in graves dug by the battalion. On the third day medicated pads had to be worn over faces as protection against the smells and infection, but almost all survivors had been evacuated to refugee camps. The city was cordoned off by barbed wire and military patrols enforced martial law which had been declared. Looters could be shot on sight!

By 12th June all British women and children had been evacuated, together with ten thousand injured and many thousands of refugees, nearly all over the single line railway on which most of the staff were casualties.

The appreciation of the Indian Government was recorded in a certificate presented to the battalion in May 1936.

The C.O. Sails for Home – Did it really happen?

Mr D James who served in 2nd and 2/6th East Surreys wrote a very nice tribute to the memory of Col H G Duncombe DSO under whom he served in 2nd East Surreys. He also produced the following yarn which did in fact appear in a London evening newspaper in 1957.

You are left to decide for yourself whether Col Duncombe had his tongue in his cheek as well as a twinkle in his eye.

Until this moment I have told no one about this episode. My parents-in-law knew about it, of course, because they were there, and they told my wife. No one else knew – not even my faithful and devoted second-in-command, from whom I normally had no military secrets.

I was commanding a battalion stationed in the Canal Zone at the time. It was shortly after the war.

I had received a letter from my wife telling me that her parents, recently released after four years in a Japanese concentration camp, were being repatriated in the troopship "Empress of Scotland". The ship was to pass through the Canal, and my wife suggested that I should go on board to see her parents.

In due course the ship tied up at Port Said. The embarkation authorities told me that she would be there

all day and would sail late in the afternoon. Having obtained a day's leave from my Brigadier I set off by car for Port Said, a distance of about twenty miles. I arrived at about 11.30 and, when I received my permit to go on board I was told she was due to sail at 4.15 p.m. This was confirmed twice more when I mounted the gangway.

I soon found my wife's parents and we sat comfortably in the saloon enjoying cool drinks. We had a very great deal to tell each other and an hour or so passed quickly.

It was about noon when my mother-in-law, who was facing the port-hole, suddenly said: "I think we're moving."

I replied, knowledgeably, that when in harbour the slight rolling motion of the ship often gave that impression. We went on talking for several minutes, until my mother-in-law said, "I'm sure we're moving now." I glanced casually over my shoulder, just in time to see the De Lesseps statue slip past the port-hole at about ten knots!

I scuttled out of the saloon in search of a ship's officer, and met one outside the ship's orderly room.

"Has the ship sailed?" I asked breathlessly.

He looked at me patiently. "What ship?"

"This one, of course," I said.

"It has."

"What is the next port of call?" I asked.

"Liverpool."

And there I was in the clothes I stood up in, with one day's leave from my unit, bound for Liverpool, eight days' steaming distance.

I ran to the rail and looked over the ship's side. The distance to the shore was only about a hundred yards. I was wearing only light tropical uniform of shirt-sleeves and shorts. I am a strong and expert swimmer, and the prospect of swimming for it presented no real hazard. But another idea occurred to me, and I ran back to the ship's officer.

"Has the pilot gone off yet?" I asked.

"No. He will be going away in about two minutes."

"Do you think he would let me go ashore with him?"

"I don't know. They don't like it, but we can ask him. If we go to the deck below we can wait for him at the top of his rope ladder."

Very soon the pilot appeared and the ship's officer explained the situation. After some hesitation he agreed to help. "I can take you off," he said, "but you'll have to transfer to some other craft in the harbour. I can't put you ashore."

He disappeared over the side and I prepared to follow.

Thrusting my regimental cane into my Sam Browne belt, I gripped the rope-ladder with both hands and began to climb down. Terrified, I swung and swayed, dangling in space. Was I never going to reach the bottom of the ladder? At last I landed – with a bump on the floor of the launch.

The launch immediately steered away from the liner's side.

I looked up. The bridge seemed to be an incredible height above us. At least two pairs of binoculars and one telescope were trained on us. The distance between ourselves and the liner increased.

"I can't put you ashore," the pilot said. "There might be some embarrassing questions. In any case I have to go on board another ship."

He hailed a small rowing boat in mid-harbour. Our coxswain said something in their own language to the two Arabs in the boat.

"He's told them not to land you near any of the usual landing stages. You would almost certainly be arrested by the harbour police for landing without a landing permit," said the pilot. "There was trouble the other day at Suez

when two senior officers landed. These chaps will put you down on the beach somewhere and it will be up to you to steer clear of the police."

I thanked him for his kindness, and transferred myself to the rowing-boat. The motor-launch sped on its way and we moved towards the shore. I left matters entirely in the hands of the boatmen, who appeared already to have made up their minds as to the most suitable point for my disembarkation.

They ran the boat ashore on a stretch of dirty sand. I handed out some backshesh and the boatmen immediately pushed off in the boat leaving me standing on the beach. I took a quick look round.

About 30 yards away from my left stood a native policeman. He leaned on the carbine which he held in his right hand. With his left hand he was picking his teeth. He was half-turned away from me, had not noticed the landing operation.

A few feet from me lay a small upturned boat. I knelt beside this on the policeman's blind side and began to weigh-up the position.

About 40 yards of dirty sand stretched between me and a flight of six stone steps leading to the top of the sea wall and the waterfront street. This space I should have to cross.

If I simply made a run for it he would certainly notice and he would almost certainly raise a commotion. I might just walk casually across the sand in the hope that he would not be interested, but the risk of his challenging me was too great.

I decided that my best bet was to produce a minor diversion.

A little beyond the policeman and slightly to his rear was a small wooden hut. At the end of the hut, facing my direction, was a glass-paned window about four feet square. I glanced around the ground in my immediate neighbourhood. Among the litter and stones on the dirty sand I saw a pebble.

Remembering my grenade training, I seized the pebble in my right hand and assumed the correct position for "Throwing from Behind Cover." A cautious look over the keel of the upturned boat to obtain direction, and the pebble sped on its way with magnificent trajectory.

The luck which had been with me throughout the afternoon still held. The point of impact was almost dead central, and there was a rewarding crash.

The effect on the policeman was dramatic. His dental explorations ceased forthwith. He turned his back in my direction and made off at a jog-trot.

Simultaneously I started at something rather more than a jog-trot, for the steps. Having gained the street, I crossed quickly and began strolling quietly along pausing to look in the shop windows. When I reached the main entrance of a big store, I went in and left immediately by another entrance. Hailing a two-horsed gharry I was driven to the landing stage where I had left my car.

My faithful driver was still there waiting for me, immersed in the inevitable "comic."

"Hullo, sir," he said. "You're back early."

"Yes, the ship sailed sooner than I expected."

"Lucky you got off in time," said my driver. "It would be funny if the CO went absent without leave, wouldn't it, sir?"

"Very funny," I said.

The Unforgotten Story

When the war with Germany was declared on August 4, 1914, I was twenty years of age and a corporal serving with "D" (Captain R F S Stanley-Creek's) Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West

Surrey) Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 1st Division, quartered at Bordon in the Aldershot Command. The Battalion entrained at Bordon on August 12, 1914, about 26 officers and 1,000 or so other ranks, en route for Southampton where we immediately embarked on the Union Castle line ship, BRAEMAR CASTLE, for Le Havre, France. The Battalion disembarked the following morning and marched through part of that seaport to a plateau outside the town with drums beating, led by Drum-Major Winter, fifes playing martial music and "La Marseillaise" repeatedly to the cheering crowds which lined the streets. A camp was pitched on the plateau. Later in the morning the Battalion paraded and the Commanding officer, Lieut-Colonel D Warren, read the King's message to the troops, and sections of the Army Act about looting, molesting women; he emphasized the punishment for such crimes. On Sunday, August 16, the Battalion entrained in trucks made to convey ten horses or forty men and eventually arrived at the small station of Le Nouvion. We detrained and marched to Laschelles where we stayed for about six days waiting concentration of the Division. My platoon was billeted in a barn on the outskirts of the village. Some evenings the farmer would invite two NCO's and myself into his cottage to have a glass of cider. The Battalion moved off along the road through Guise, Avesnes, Maubeuge, through a gap in the massive barbed-wire entanglements to the French-Belgium frontier into Belgium. We took up a position on high ground near a convent on the road leading to Binche. An attack was expected from our right, but it did not occur. The Battalion was not involved in the fighting around Mons but we had a distant view of the battle. A small German cavalry patrol approached our position, a few cartridges were expended, and they were off at the gallop. The Battalion received orders to withdraw during the morning of August 25; we fell back on Maubeuge, bypassing the fortress on our left. During the withdrawal from Mons, we endured very long marches, wearing full marching order equipment in Summer heat. We had orders to sit or lie down to rest at every opportunity. On one occasion when the Battalion was the rear guard, an order was given to fix bayonets and prod along any stragglers. Very few men fell by the wayside. One period we marched for nearly thirty-six hours without respite or sleep in very hot weather and at the end in drenching rain to Landrecis. The Battalion arrived at a hamlet not far from Landrecis nearly exhausted and a halt was called as it seemed impossible to move on. Just as we were bivouacked at dusk, there was an alarm that we were about to be attacked. There was confusion and a sharp outbreak of rifle fire which was quickly controlled. It proved to be a false alarm - nerves! At Villers-Cotterets we were ordered to discard the valises of the webbing equipment containing our overcoats and other necessities. They were to be sent by train to the Base. The progress of the withdrawal was slow owing to the road being congested with troops, vehicles of all sorts, refugees with their chattels, cattle and our own breakdown commandeered commercial lorries containing supplies (i.e. 7lb tins of corned beef, cartons of Oxo cubes, etc.), all left by the roadside for the German Army. Had there been facilities to obtain and boil water, the cubes of Oxo would have been very acceptable. We were prohibited from taking water from buckets held by some peasants standing at the verge of the road. A precautionary measure to prevent drinking of contaminated water. But supplies in bulk were too heavy and cumbersome to be carried by the men. We were just stumbling along, choking in the dust, nearly exhausted, always short of food and sleep, but never demoralised. We were continually harassed by German cavalry patrols. During the withdrawal, we passed through St. Quentin, Le Fere, Soissons to Coulommiers. At the beginning of September

we had another hard day of marching and after a night march, arrived at Meaux. I believe The Queen's was the only Battalion of the Brigade to finish that march. We often heard the sound of guns, sometimes near, sometimes far away.

We advanced in support of the French Army towards Chateau-Thierry. The Battalion did not take a very active part in the Battle of the Marne, which turned the tide of the First World War. There was strong resistance by the Germans all the way during the advance, especially at some points along the River Marne. We continued to advance and somewhere near Bourg had to clamber along the girders of a partially destroyed iron bridge over the River Aisne under heavy fire. At this point l'Aisne seemed very wide, swift flowing and deep. The hot weather had now broken, we advanced in pouring rain up the slopes of the river bank. September 13 was a very unlucky day when the Battalion forced the passage of the river with the loss of many killed and wounded. The Battalion took up position along a road, Chemin des Dames, overlooking the Aisne valley. In front, half-left, there was a sugar-beet factory occupied by the Germans causing a nuisance. The factory had become a fortress which the Sussex Regiment attacked and were ambushed by the old trick of the white flag. With the help of reinforcements and our artillery, we soon put an end to the defenders of the factory. It was here that we were introduced to the German howitzer shells that were nicknamed "Black Marias" and "Jack Johnsons". The shells were of large calibre and made deep, wide circumference craters. The noise of the explosion was very nerve-racking and the blast very powerful and dangerous. September 17 was another bad day for the Battalion. The Germans attacked our position with great force. The Moroccan (Zouaves) troops on our right retired and left the flank unprotected. The French artillery 75 mm shells commenced to drop on our position. The Moroccan troops returned later, reinforced by French troops and took up their position again. The Battalion remained steady in spite of the tremendous onslaughts by the Germans. We sustained heavy casualties. The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel D Warren, met his death by a sniper's bullet in the heart. The Adjutant, Captain C E Wilson, was killed by shrapnel at the Regimental Headquarters near a haystack. Owing to Major H C Pilleau, DSO, being severely wounded and dying of his wounds later, Captain C F Watson, DSO., took over the command of the Battalion. For our work on this occasion, the Battalion received a message from Major-General Lomax: "Bravo The Queen's. I compliment you on a splendid defence".

During the afternoon of September 18, I was wounded by a shell splinter in the nape of the neck at the base of the skull. I was knocked unconscious. When I came to it was dark and I made my way with the help of another wounded comrade to the First Dressing Station. I was taken by ambulance to the Casualty Clearing Station in a church at Paissy where the splinter was removed. Early next morning the Germans started to shell the village. The wounded were hurriedly removed by whatever transport was available to the railway head at Braisane. I travelled with several other wounded comrades in a lorry. It appeared to me a very long, rough journey. At Braisane a train eventually took the wounded to Versailles arriving there after dark on September 21. I was admitted to No 4 General Hospital (Trianon - Palace Hotel) and discharged on November 11 en route for home via No 8 General Hospital (a convent and marquees) Rouen and the British hospital ship, ASTURIAS, from Le Havre to Southampton. After nearly thirteen months in various hospitals and a seven day leave, I reported to the Depot, Guildford on November 5, 1915 and stayed there

until March 31, 1919. Travelling Medical Boards made surprise visits to the Depot, once and sometimes twice a month, but my medical category, C.iii - Home Service, sedentary work, was never raised to a higher one. On two occasions it was classified lower but my services were still retained at the Depot.

C S A Avis

Deaths

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

Allen-On 18 May 1981 L/Cpl Stanley John Allen MM (17178), aged 86. Served in 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Machine Gun Corps from 1914 to 1921. He also served in the Merchant Navy from 1926 to 1936.

Allfree-On 15 August 1981 Lt Col Denys Julian Allfree, aged 84. Served in the 1st, 2nd and 10th Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1946.

Bailey-On 17 July 1981 Captain Henry Leonard Bailey, aged 66. Enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1933 and promoted WO 3 (PSM) in 1940. He was commissioned in the Regiment as Subs/Lieutenant in 1941 and retired in 1948. Widow lives at: 5 Garbetts Way, Tongham, Runfold, Surrey.

Bhur-On 14 August 1981 Captain Richard Anthony Omar Bhur, aged 42. Served in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment TA, The 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment and the Parachute Regiment (Volunteers) from 1964 to 1970.

Clifton-On 15 May 1981 Sgt H T Clifton (6139068). Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1929 to 1945 in India, France, Belgium and North Africa. Mr A E Moore writes: 'Sgt Clifton was a dedicated and extremely smart soldier much respected by all his comrades.'

Cribbes-On 13 March 1981 in Australia, ORQMS William Wallace Macaulay Cribbes MSM (6077042), aged 80. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1945, in the 1st, 2nd and 30th Battalions and at the Depot.

Drew-On 28 June 1981 Captain Ernest Douglas Drew, aged 89. Commissioned as a regular officer to The Queen's Royal Regiment from the Territorial Force in 1912, he served with the 1st Battalion until retirement in 1920. He had been a staunch supporter of the Regimental Association from then until his death.

Gardner-James Gardner, MT Corporal with 1/5th Queen's 1939 to 1945 died at his home after a long illness. He was a member of the OMA.

Jackson-On 19 May 1981 Charles (Chucker) Jackson, aged 90. He joined 5th Queen's in 1911. He was a member of the OMA and the Royal British Legion for 60 years. He was buried in Stoke Cemetery.

Newton-Edwards-In July Harry Newton-Edwards, at his home in Ewhurst, Cranleigh. He was a member of "C" Company 1939 Cranleigh attending regularly the 5th Queen's reunions. He was also a member of The Dunkirk Veterans' Association, Woking branch.

Oram-On 20 September 1981 WOII Lawrence (Peachey) Oram MM (6137743). Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1928 to 1947. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry whilst serving with the 1st Bn in North Africa in 1943. Brother of Major Frank Oram. See obituary.

Oxley-Boyle—On 16 April 1981 Colonel Rupert Frederick Courtney Oxley-Boyle DSO MC, aged 84. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1916 to 1947. See obituary.

Steadman—On 16 April 1981 CQMS George Frederick Steadman (G/2513). Served in the 8th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1918 and was Secretary of the 8th Queen's Old Comrades Dinner and (later) Luncheon Club until 1974.

Tucker—On 15 August 1981 William James Tucker (9945), aged 84. Served in the 8th and 13th Battalions The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1919 and took part in the famous "football attack" of the 8th Battalion on 1 July 1916 on the first day of the First Battle of the Somme.

Regimental Families

Deaths

Montanaro—On 5 May 1981 Mrs Joan Mary Montanaro, aged 81. Widow of Major R A F Montanaro MC, late The East Surrey Regiment.

Ray—On 23 September 1981, Mrs Pauline (Paula) Mary Ray, wife of Lieut-Colonel Bryan Ray MBE, late The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Stephens—On 3 October 1981 at her home Joan Millicent Stephens, wife of Major Ronald Stephens ERD, late 42nd Royal Tank Regiment and Secretary of the 42nd R.Tanks/23rd London Regimental Association.

Obituaries

Major H A V Elliott

Harry Elliott died on 7 April 1981, aged 80. He was educated at Harrow and Magdalene. He was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment on 30th April 1922. He served with the 1st Bn in China in 1927, the 2nd Bn in Aldershot in 1931/32, and the Depot 1932/33. He then transferred to The Irish Guards.

He went to France with the BEF and was captured early in 1940. He made three escape attempts in four months and the third earned him a place in Colditz in November 1940 having just failed to get to Switzerland. His never failing good humour made him immensely popular. An avid learner of languages, he spoke French fluently, he was popular too with the other nationalities imprisoned with him. He feigned duodenal ulcers for two years before being repatriated.

He married Bettine Parsons in 1930. She died in 1938. At the end of the war he married Rosemary Pinney (nee Segrave). He left the Army graded C3 and took up farming in Dorset and settled in Wallingford in 1962. He leaves a widow and four children.

Lawrence Oram MM

The recent death of Lawrence Oram will sadden many former members of The East Surrey Regiment. A member of the well-known ORAM family of that Regiment, his father was Provost Sergeant of the 1st Battalion which Lawrence joined as a boy soldier in 1928, to be followed by his younger brother, Frank, in 1937.

Lawrence was a quiet dependable man, an all-round sportsman, playing both football and hockey for his regiment in the 1930's.

Courage and dependability was recognised by the award of the Military Medal whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in North Africa in 1943.

I first met him in 1944 in Italy when I assumed

command of 'B' Company of which he was the Company Sergeant Major, and his battle knowledge and experience was a god-send to a comparatively young Company Commander, particularly at a time when our reinforcements consisted of untried, quickly trained, converted line-of-communications Anti-Aircraft gunners and Royal Army Service Corps soldiers who had been pitch-forked into the extremely uncomfortable, and sometimes frightening, life of a front-line Infantryman. Lawrence taught them the "know-how" and probably saved a lot of them from injury or death in the hectic battling months of late 1944 and early 1945.

Retiring from the Army in 1947, he joined the publishing firm of Sir Ernest Benn & Sons as House Manager, an appointment that he relinquished in 1975 when that firm vacated its London offices.

As to the Regiment, he gave them the sterling service that one had come to expect from him.

He will be remembered as a good soldier and a staunch comrade.

F.J.R.

Colonel R. F. C. Oxley-Boyle DSO MC

"Billy" was senior subaltern when I joined 2 Queens. I shall never forget his kindness to me at Rawal Pindi railway station. We were both on our way to join the battalion at Ladaa; he from leave in the UK, I from the Depot at Kyragali. I had become separated from my baggage and was completely lost; he rescued me in more ways than one. As a man he was tolerant, patient and understanding. I never knew him to 'blow his top' though he had many occasions to do so to my certain knowledge. I believe he was imperturbable in action wandering about under fire slapping his leg with a swagger cane. I pay tribute to his memory and offer my sympathy to his widow and family.

L.C.E.

A Past Colonel of the Regiment

It was while reading "The Smoke and the Fire" by John Terraine that I came to realise the importance and scale of the achievements of General Sir Charles Monro Bt, GCB, GCSI, GCMG, ADC, before becoming Colonel of the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1920. He served as Colonel of the Regiment until 1929.

General Sir Charles Monro was GOC 1st Army in France before being sent to the Dardenelles in 1915, where his mission was to study the situation there and report on the advisability of evacuating the Gallipoli peninsula. His recommendation to evacuate was supported virtually unanimously by all the senior officers on the spot. The decision was not appreciated by Winston Churchill, however.

The next appointment of note was as Commander in Chief India which commenced 1st November 1916. Upon the outbreak of war in 1914 the strength of the Indian Army was 159,134 men. Only three new battalions had been added by the time General Sir Charles Monro took up his appointment. Really severe difficulties had meanwhile been experienced in reinforcing the Indian Army Corps in France during 1914-15 and the units in other theatres of war. C.T. Atkinson states in "The Empire at War" that:—"It is from the autumn of 1916, when General Sir Charles Monro arrived in India, that the development of a new system of recruiting, the consequent expansion of the Indian Army, and the great increase in India's share of the Empire's burden should be dated As a result