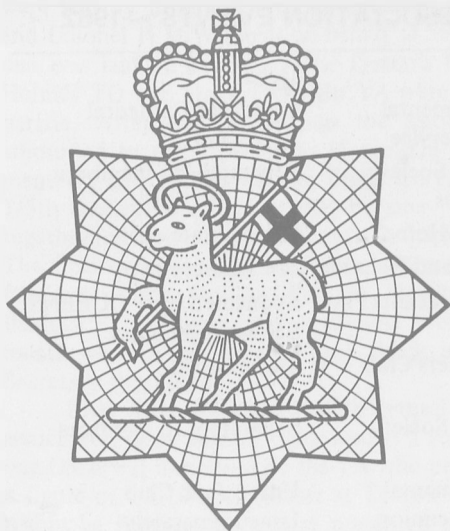


# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



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Brigadier G. B. Curtis, OBE, MC  
*Chairman*  
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Regimental Association  
Newsletter

## Editorial

Winter seems to be retreating and the sun shines — what a welcome change. There is, however, no despondency here. Thank you again for your articles and encouraging letters. The response has been such that I am being forced to prune entries in order to fit in as many as available space will allow.

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

## President's Notes

Can it really be 40 years ago in July that my train steamed into Long Melford station and for me life with The Queen's had begun? With that strange mixture of excitement and apprehension which besets the young, I was reporting from Sandhurst OCTU to the 2/6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Fully equipped with shiny pip and highly polished Sam Browne; a dab hand at stripping the Bren gun; and trained to carry a wooden mock-up of the Boyes anti-tank rifle, I was about to take command of some 30 Bermondsey boys whose experience of life in general, and soldiering in particular, out-weighed mine by nigh on 100%.

Six weeks later we were on our way to the Middle East and what tales there were to tell by the time we next saw England!

I have been fascinated by the First World War stories which have been appearing in our Newsletter for some time, and feel sure it would be of interest to many if you would write of your memories and experiences of 40 years ago. Please send in your contributions to the Editor — not all serious because there was so much fun amongst it all.

Looking ahead now, I should like to draw your attention particularly to some of this year's events. On 6 June we shall have our usual service in Guildford Cathedral at 11.15 am. This always seems to me to be a particularly happy gathering of old chums. This year the new Archdeacon of Surrey, the Venerable Paul Barber, will be preaching, so I do hope that there will be a good turnout to hear him and meet him over a drink in the Refectory afterwards.

A few years ago I remember raising at a Regimental Committee Meeting the suggestion that there should be some sort of gathering when the Old Comrades of all our former regiments could meet with the soldiers of to-day. This idea has proved to be so popular that it seems to be becoming an annual event, for this year 2 QUEENS at Colchester will be hosts in Hyderabad Barracks on 1 August. For some I expect this will be too far afield, but others may

find it more convenient. Please support the 2nd Battalion for whom this will mean a great deal of work, if you possibly can manage it.

This is going to be an important year for the Warrant Officers and Sergeants who will be tying another knot in the bond between past and present when they hold their Dinner Night for both serving and retired members. I hope we shall be strongly represented at Canterbury on 11 September when 1 QUEENS sponsor this event.

Finally, may I remind the officers of the Association that this year we shall be holding our Dinner for the first time at Simpsons-in-the-Strand. As many of you know, the cost of dining at Claridge's was becoming prohibitive — both for you and for the Officers' Club subsidies. However, when I said we could no longer afford to have a dinner there was such an outcry we decided to look for a less costly alternative. Simpsons promises to be very good and I do hope we shall have a fine gathering there on 1 October.

## Benevolent Work of the Regimental Association — 1981

The number of cases in which a grant was made was 130 and the total amount of money disbursed was £9,963.

In addition, the Association administered Army Benevolent Fund Supplementary Allowances for 21 former members and their widows totalling £1,738.

## Veterans Company

The (CASSINO DAY) Reunion will be held on Saturday, 8th May, 1982, at 7.30pm at the WOs and Sergeants Mess, 6/7th Bn. The Queen's Regiment (V), Farrington House, TA Centre, Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey.

Ladies will be welcome.

There will be no buffet, but Crisps and Nuts will be provided.

(Bus Route 80 from Sutton Station: Bus Routes 80, 93 and 293 from Morden Tube Station).

## Band Reunion

Ex-Sgt. Harry DRAYTON who served in the Band of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1931 — 1956 and 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment TA from 1958 — 1969 proposes to organise a Reunion for all ex-Bandsmen of the former Queen's Royal Regiment, East Surrey Regiment, and Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Those interested should write to him at: 98 HILL RISE, SUNDON PARK, LUTON, BEDS, or to BRIAN

## FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREYS ASSOCIATION EVENTS — 1982

Date	Place	Event	Detail
6 June	Guildford	Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Church Service	Guildford Cathedral 11.15 a.m.
8 July	Blackmoor	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines	Separately to members
10 July	Bassingbourn Barracks	Queen's Division "At Home"	See separate entry
1 August	Colchester	Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion	See separate entry
11 September	Canterbury	Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past and Present Dinner	Sponsored by 1 QUEENS See separate entry
1 October	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Dinner	To be issued
14 October	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Separately to members
5 November	London	Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Union Jack Club Issued separately
14 November	Guildford Kingston Battersea	Remembrance Day Parades	

PACKHAM (who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1954 — 1962) at the ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, KIBWORTH, HARCOURT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

### Queen's Division 'At Home'

It is proposed to hold a Divisional 'At Home' at Depot The Queen's Division at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts, on Saturday 10 July 1982. The event will be built round "Bassingbourn 82" (the Army Schools Exhibition) running from the preceding three days. There will be arena displays, weapons skills event and a tug o'war tournament. It is also hoped that the Depot will produce some traditional sideshows. Whilst the event is primarily designed for the public, it is hoped that OCA and Regimental Association Branches within reasonable distance will join the throng. The gates at Bassingbourn Barracks will open at noon and the day will end with a Beating Retreat Ceremony at 6 pm. All proceeds will be in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and Regimental Charities.

### The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion 1982

This will be held at HYDERABAD BARRACKS, COLCHESTER, and sponsored by the 2nd Bn. The Queen's Regiment on Sunday 1 August 1982 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Assembly 11 am — 12 noon. Open to all Queensmen, past and present, Old Comrades of the former Regiments and their families. Bars and Refreshments will be available.

#### Outline Programme:

- 12 noon — Drumhead Service (Old Comrades participating should arrive by 11 am.)  
Miscellaneous Displays and Arena Events.  
Display of Modern Weapons and Equipment.
- 4.30 pm — Beating Retreat by Massed Bands and Drums.

### Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past and Present Dinner — 1982

1. The above Dinner, sponsored by 1st Bn. The Queen's Regiment, will be held on Saturday 11 September, 1982 at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, and will be open to all serving and ex-Warrant Officers and Sergeants of The Queen's Regiment and of the former Regiments of The Queen's Regiment.

2. The maximum seating capacity at 1 QUEENS is 270, so it is therefore essential to book early through the Chief Clerk (C/Sgt. D S BAILES), 1st Bn. The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent (Telephone: Canterbury 57411 Ext 236).

3. The cost of the Dinner including wine will be £7. Cheques should be made payable to "Central Bank 1 QUEENS" and should be sent when booking seats. Tickets will be issued once payment has been received. If seats are unavailable money will be repaid immediately.

4. For any further information required, please apply direct to 1 QUEENS.

5. Dress — Lounge suits, no medals.

6. Limited overnight accommodation will be available. Applicants should state their requirements when warning in.

### Honours and Awards — Mr. Paul Shonfeld

We congratulate Mr Paul Shonfeld on the award made to him by Her Majesty The Queen in her New Year's Honours List for 1982, of the British Empire Medal for his service to the Regiment. Mr Shonfeld retired in 1981 after 15 years as Secretary of the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association. Prior to that he had been assistant to the previous Secretary, Mr. Ernie Organ.

### News of the Associations

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

The Association will be holding their annual reunion dinner on 8th May at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford. As in past years this will be open to any past or present serving member of The Queen's Regt. and of any Bns of the Q.R. Regt. We look forward to a good attendance, hoping to exceed the figure of 150 that we had in 1981. The Regimental Association church service at Guildford Cathedral has now become an annual reunion. Our own association will be in attendance and we look forward to meeting more of our Old Comrades this year.

Twenty-five members attended The Armistice Service at The Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, and the wreath laying ceremony at the Castle grounds. The congregation included The Mayor who took the salute in the High Street on the march past to the Memorial. He was accompanied by the Mayoress and Town Council. Wreaths

were laid by Brig. G. Curtis on behalf of The Regtl. Assn. and Colonel H M W Harris on behalf of 5th O M Assn.; and one was laid on behalf of The Queen's Regt. Major E R Holmes TD and Major G Wright TA were in charge of the parade. After the proceedings the association members adjourned to the local Public House. On October 24th 40 members and visitors of The Cranleigh (1939) contingent 1/5th Queens, which eventually became "C" Coy gathered together for their annual dinner at the Cricket Club pavilion. The Chairman, Les May, welcomed everyone including the President Lady Mullins, Col. H. Merriman and Mr. F. Baldock. This was a very enjoyable evening; all arrangements were carried out by Jack Petch in the absence of Secretary Reg Hubbard.

RSM Jack Homersham MBE retired after 48 years in association with the TA. Jack who is a staunch member of our OMA was honoured by the TA who presented him with a figure of a QUEENS soldier at Tangier. The Cadets with whom he finished his service presented him with a set of miniature medals. Having served from 1934 in the 1/5 Bn he made a transfer to the 1st Bn during the war and saw service in the Far East. Particulars for The Old Members Association can be had from the Secretary Doug Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey.

### The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

The Remembrance Sunday Parade last year was well attended. After the church service and parade members adjourned for a buffet lunch at the Drill Hall. It was with great pleasure that several members of 1/7th Queen's with their wives were welcomed to the gathering.

Several members of the Association supported the re-badging of 72 Queen's Cadet Company A.C.F. on 5th December 1981. The new badges were presented by the Deputy Colonel The Queen's Regiment, Brigadier H.E. Millman, OBE.

In May a group from La Sarcelle, Ghent, will be visiting U.K. again. The Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Union Jack Club on May 29th. This event now includes ladies and friends. In September there will be the reciprocal visit to La Sarcelle. Two more social events are planned for later — another Dinner/Dance on October 23rd and a Christmas social — the date of which is to be announced.

### 2/6 Queen's O C A

The annual reunion was held on 19th September 1981 at the Union Jack Club and more than 60 Old Comrades attended. We were gratified to see the Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Major General Rowley Mans. Since he is the Colonel of the "big" Regiment, and he also has the Regimental Associations of six "old" regiments and over 40 battalion associations like ours, it is wonderful to think he can find time to visit us. He was at one time a 6th Battalion man, first of all in the Lebanon and later at Bermondsey.

Colonel John Kealy headed our own cast, and RSM Sid Patten, CSM Togo Hearnden and CSM Bert Troster, (one of our two DCM, plus MM) were again present. Wally Lake managed to get time off from his pub in Hampshire. The writer spent most of the evening with his Company Clerk, Arthur Medhurst, his MT NCO John Kennedy and his CSM Joe Peasley, who as a Captain, was rewarded for gallantry when he was with 1/5 Queens at the Volturno.

The sum of £65 was collected for Arthur Lawrence, who has been bed-bound at the Star and Garter Home for such a long time, and his wife.

Frank Peart was again congratulated on his faithful devotion to our organisation, this and every year. He had been running the evening single-handed since 1961. It is

with deep regret that his obituary is given in this issue of the Newsletter.

This year we shall meet on 11th September.

### The Queens (Southwark) Regimental Association

On 6th March 1982 the Annual Reunion was again held at the Union Jack Club and was highly successful. 99 members and guests were present and many had travelled long distances from Cornwall, Nottingham, Northampton, Derby, Skegness and Leeds to contribute to the very friendly atmosphere. The guests of honour were Sgt. Ivor Andrews DCM., Sgt. Joe Crangles DCM and Major E.G. Sandys all from the Anti-tank platoon of 1/7 Bn The Queens Royal Regiment. Mr. Jim Jones and Mr. Fred Nasen from the Royal British Legion Club, Braganza St., Southwark were also welcomed as guests. Major General D.S. Gordon, CB, CBE, DSO as usual graced the re-union by his presence. Lt. Colonel W.D. Griffiths DSO, MC, our President, was in the chair and made the evening a most memorable event. He recalled that it was 39 years ago on 6th March 1943 that 1/7th Queens held firm against the mighty armoured thrusts of Rommel's Panzer Army, which resulted in 27 enemy tanks being knocked out on the Battalion's front, due in particular to the fine actions of the 6-pounder anti-tank guns commanded by Sgt. Andrews DCM and Sgt. Crangles DCM, under the excellent leadership and planning of Major Sandys, and CSM John Bromige.

Major Sandys gave a very full picture of his master plan and graphically described the events of the battle which resulted in the defeat of Rommel's attack. He highlighted the prominent part that CSM John Bromige had played in the anti-tank platoon.

Sgt. Joe Crangle DCM said that a high-ranking German officer prisoner had said to him, in perfect English, "you had a very good days shooting".

The climax of the evening was when the President announced that Major R. Fairbairn (who was badly wounded at Alamein) and Major E.G. Sandys had been appointed as vice Presidents of the Association.

### From Here and There

Mr. J. Hylands of Newport, Gwent, writes to say that as a newcomer to the Association he is very impressed with the warm welcome he has received. He is deeply appreciative — as he says that is what the Association is all about.

Mr. R.S. Sharp points out that his name is NOT repeat NOT Murray as given in the last issue of the Newsletter. He is anxious to make contact with any members of the band of 1st Queen's 1949 — 54. His address is still Box 1035, Murray Bridge, South Australia, 5253.

Mr. A.W. Metson lives about 3 miles from Southend-on-Sea in a small 2 bedroom bungalow. He would be interested in meeting somebody who would like to share it with him — on an expense sharing basis. He is 67 years old and served with 1st Queens at Quetta and Allahabad before the war. Please contact him if interested.

Mr. L.S. Duncan had a very pleasant surprise when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited New Zealand in October last year. He was invited to Government House, Auckland, as a member of the Burma Star Association to meet the Duke — Patron of the Association. Many new friends were met. Best wishes are sent from himself, Lance Bennett, Charlie Gillet, Harry Reeves and Bruce Heogh.

Mr. H.E. Hannan's memory was stirred by Mr. Wynne's references to Grandshaft Barracks at Dover. In 1917 following discharge from hospital he was posted there as a bombing instructor. He remembers well the entry into

harbour of HMS "Broke" and HMS "Swift" after their successful action against German destroyers.

**Mr. C.S.A. Avis** — my South African correspondent — raises an interesting point with a request for information. He joined the 1st Queen's in April 1910 and at that time there were eight companies — A to F, H and K. There was no "G" company. When he enquired as to the reason he was informed that it was to commemorate the loss of the "Birkenhead" on 27th February 1852. The companies of the 2nd and 3rd Bns were lettered consecutively A — H at this time.

Editor's Note. Has anybody any information on this point? The Regimental History does not cover it, but does show the use of "G" in the 2nd Bn in 1880 and the use of "K" in the 1st Bn in 1896.

**Captain A. Birtles** informs me of some battlefield tours in Northern France and Belgium. They are organised by P & O Travel Ltd., Beaufort House, St. Botolph Street, London. The tour which he accompanied was well-attended and well run. It was accompanied by Lyn MacDonald who is known to some of our members. Any interested party should contact the organisers direct.

**Captain Cyril R. Mountjoy MM** is anxious to undertake some research into the operations of 2nd Queen's in Syria 1941, with a view to recording some more details for posterity. Would any members of 10 Platoon "B" Company — or any other person who may be interested and can contribute — please contact Cyril at "Pant Villa" 55 Aberdare Road, Cwmbach, Alberdare, Mid Glamorgan CF 44 OPG.

Cyril would also like to know if any other Queensmen are "stricken" by the amateur wireless bug? If so he would like to hear from you.

**"Knocker" Knight (6085742)** joined the Queen's at Stoughton Barracks, — Corunna Platoon — in 1933 before joining the 2nd Bn. He would like to know if any of his contemporaries are around. His address is D.A. Knight, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, London SE18 5HZ. "Knocker" sent me two newspaper clippings about a photograph of "B" Company, 4th Queen's taken in Greenwich 1938. The owner — Mr. John Hayward — was a member of the battalion and the photograph has now been handed over to the Old Comrades Association.

**Mr. J.W. Hinde** has kindly sent in a very interesting story taken from his local newspaper in New Zealand which will be published in due course. It deals with Major-General Sir Trevor Chute's hazardous expedition against the Maoris. Major-General Sir Trevor Chute was an officer of the 70th Foot.

**Ex-Sgt. Bill May** — 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment — would like to hear from any old comrades of 1922 in the Sudan and India. His address is: — Mr. W. May, The Senior Citizens Flats, Alfriston Road, Manurena, South Auckland, New Zealand.

**Mr. H.F. Paxton (6079610)** served as a drummer in 1st and 2nd Bns and the Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1922 to 1929. He would be very pleased to hear from any of his old comrades. Address is: — Three Ways, 6 Windsor Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

**Mr. William Parry (10329)** who joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Kinsale in 1911, must be one of our oldest soldiers. He describes Kinsale as a very pretty place with a fine deep-water harbour, where the young soldiers used to watch the liners sailing to and from America.

He remembers seeing the Titanic passing the Old Head of Kinsale on her maiden voyage to America in 1912.

Bill Parry went to France with the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in August 1914. He was taken prisoner but managed to escape in April 1918. After the War, he and his wife to be worked at The East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades Association under Colonel H. D. Lawrence. Mr. Parry has been in Australia for over 60 years, but still takes an active interest in Regimental affairs.

His address is 8 Willow Crescent, Ryde 2112, New South Wales, Australia.

## Museum Notes — March 1982

By the time these notes are published the Museum will be well into its third season at Clandon Park, and we hope donations from our visitors will be flowing in. Money remains one of the biggest problems for the Museum as expenses are inevitably large. During the last winter we have improved the Museum in a significant number of ways, while there is a continual requirement for straight maintenance purposes — by mid-March we had expended £908, with some largish bills still to come. For the long term too the Museum Committee are conscious of the need to build up funds so the Museum can become as self-supporting as it can be, and so that we will be able to acquire special items when they come on the market.

Throughout the winter the normal working party has met every Thursday, and we continue most reliant on the enthusiasm and work of Major and Mrs. P.G.E. Hill. Others who have joined "the workers" this winter have included Lt. Col. Tony Hannaford and Captain and Mrs. Noel Tannock. Lt. Col. Les Wilson has continued to be helpful in many ways, while we are indebted to Captain Jonathan Riley of 1st Queens and Mr. John Woodroff for detailed help over the identification of badges.

During the winter a new National Trust Administrator has been welcomed to Clandon Park. He is Mr. Christopher B.H. Barford, who has a Royal Navy background. We look forward to working with him.

J.W.S.

## Museum Requirements

### Dress

Can any reader help the Regimental Museum in the following matters?

### Badges

Particularly wanted is the cap badge of The East Surrey Regiment with the Queen Elizabeth crown. Other badges, collar 'dogs', brass and cloth shoulder titles of both our Regiments would also be welcome.

### Formation Signs

Information is sought on the signs worn by the following units in the 1939–45 War:

#### 203 Independent Infantry Brigade

15th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment served in this brigade, which ran a marshalling sub-area for 21 Army Group. Did this brigade have its own sign? If not, what sign did they wear?

#### 11th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

Served in Aldershot Command from 1939 to 1943. What sign did they wear?

#### 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

During their service in Northern Ireland, did this battalion wear the Northern Ireland flash of the Bird on the Nest?

#### 10th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

Between December 1943 and August 1944, the



battalion ran camps near Hambledon. Were they Army or Corps troops, and what sign did they wear?

#### **Regimental Depots and Infantry Training Centres** What formation flashes were worn?

Any information and any spare flashes, please, to Mrs. D.G. Hill, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ.

#### **Regimental Museum Appeal**

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

Major D.W. Adkins

Brigadier F.E. Stafford

Major R.W. Gieve

Lieut-Colonel M.A. Lowry

Mr. B.F. Keogh

The total amount received up to 18 March 1982 and since the Appeal was launched in May 1977 is £1135.55.

#### **The Queen's Regiment**

Although still based at Canterbury, the 1st Bn (Lt Col David Dickins MBE) has sent parties to Edinburgh (Guard Duties), Cyprus and Norway; and, by the time this is in print, another party will be spending a month in California, USA.

On 24 July, 1 QUEENS are Trooping the Colour at Canterbury when Lord Astor of Hever (The Lord Lieutenant of Kent) will be taking the Salute. In late November they will be off to Omagh, N Ireland, for a two-year tour under a new Commanding Officer — Lt Col 'Paddy' Pantan.

The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Peter Packham MBE) was visited, in Cyprus, by the Colonel of the Regt in April. They will be back at Colchester at the end of May, and on Sunday, 1 Aug, will "host" the Regiment's Grand Reunion '82 in Hyderabad Barracks. From Jan '83 this Battalion will also be stationed for two years in N Ireland (Londonderry) as one of the 'Resident' Units.

The 3rd Bn (Lt Col Richard Graham MBE) will soon be starting their second summer in BAOR in a mechanized role; in June, General Rowley Mans will be spending a week with them on an official visit.

#### **A Surrey Subaltern's Introduction to Warfare**

Clausewitz wrote that war is the continuation of policy by force. True, the "Phoney War" of 1939/40 was by Britain and France the continuation of the policy of appeasement. The British army was deployed along the frontier of neutral Belgium digging defences facing north. The French manned their Maginot Line, with a screen of outposts just inside their own frontier with Germany. One small sector of this was allotted to Britain, facing the Saar. Into this at three weekly intervals went a British Brigade allowing each Bn. a week in the front line, another in support, and one in reserve. All offensive action was taboo, but the round trip was designed as a relatively painless introduction to warfare and a necessary fairly tough training exercise for troops softened by the Brasseries of Roubaix and Lille.

Before we entrained for Metz, the jumping off point for the British sector, we were given a few talks on "Life in the Line" with special reference to the successful raid made by the Germans on the posts at the edge of the woods which were to be our position. Great emphasis was laid on the nervous strain of night in the forest, though the raid actually took place in broad daylight just after stand-down. For nights afterwards bombs were being thrown and Brens emptied at rustlings in the dark. It is easy to be supercilious

about these things. Soldiers are entirely human beings whose nerves can and do get strained on dark nights in woods full of mysterious little noises which always might, just might, be the enemy.

On the night of 10th March the Bn. moved by Coys in RASC lorries, at 5 mph without lights. I was in command of "C" Coy, "Buster" having been sent up the Line to command a Coy in 10 Bde, who were shaken by the successful raid. Bde had also taken our other subaltern "Jack" to be part of the Special Patrol unit who had the monopoly of night patrolling.

We arrived at the bridge over the stream before Monneren at midnight and guides led us to our billets without noise or fuss. These were in bare and dirty little houses gutted by their previous occupants. Coy Cmdr's conference at 0130, returned and gave orders to Pl Cmdrs, had a stiff brandy and went to bed on my lilo in my sleeping bag for an hour's sleep.

**11th March.** Hot tea and shaving water from my pocket primus at 0700. The first time I used it and not the last time. I blessed it, strongly recommended to every officer leaving civilisation.

From Monneren the road climbs over bare hills between Lanmersfeld and St. Francois and was under enemy observation until Hargarten. Thence to Waldweistroff; the country is flatter and out of observation. So far the only shelling in these areas has apparently been counter-battery work, against the innumerable positions the French 75 and 135 batteries have among the woods. Once a position has been used the guns pack up, leaving dummies behind that are meant to appear on air photos as emplacements still occupied.

I moved in my PU truck at 0900 hrs followed 7 minutes later by the Pl Cmdrs in a 15 cwt. The troops marched via the Railway which stuck to the lowground. The posts taken over were in the Ligne de Soutien (Support Line) and consisted of Pl and Sec posts in support or protection of French MMGs and AT guns, with a guard on a minefield manned by French sappers. No. 14 Pl in the forward posts had a liaison officer and were nominally under the command of a Lt of the French 93rd Regt. manning the MGs and ATs in the same area. No. 15 Pl found the minefield guard and the defence of two of the entrances to Waldweistroff and No. 13 protected 2 sections of MGs and one AT gun. It was double sentries by night, no movement or lights after dark, stand-to at dawn and dusk. For leave and other reasons the sections were understrength, one post consisting of a L/Cpl and 3 men. I was also the only officer in the Coy. This meant very hard duty for all.

**12 March.** Went out with the rum ration and my CSM "Pinkie" at 0615, visited No. 13 Pl and most of No. 15. Returned for breakfast and a shave, then saw the rest of the Coy., started them on clearing up their posts, burying the stale food about the place, digging and making shelters around proper latrines. Took a look at my own Coy HQ and found a dead horse under a heap of straw. The manure heap outside the window was 7 ft high and growing daily. Thank God the frost was still in the ground! Coy HQ accordingly heaved ordure of every description, while the CO went round the positions with me in the afternoon. The CO laid down priorities — (1) manning posts by double sentries at night. A single look-out at the East end of the forward wood and the East gate of the village by day. (2) Immediately after stand-down, clean arms, breakfast, wash and shave. Compulsory sleep till 12 oc. Then lunch, 1400 to 1700 work, first on repairing and completing wire, then on bullet-proofing and improving selected posts. We kept this routine throughout our stay in the support and contact lines, but I seldom got the chance to use it again in subsequent comings and goings in Africa and Burma!

**13 March.** Coy truck back to Metz to pick up Major "Buster" and 2nd Lt. Jack. With it went "Lorry" Lawrence the MT NCO with our order for 2 doz eggs, 10-lbs flour, tinned sausages, butter, salt and beer. The flour for the men, the beer partly for the officers' mess and partly for the Coy Canteen which ran throughout the time we were in the line, doing a hot trade in cigarettes, chocolate, H P Sauce, liver salts and beer. The Brigadier saw our ration party going up with this, and asked if we'd like a cinema and a brothel. We paid out the Coy by P1's in the afternoon, 14,000 francs and had 3,000 francs back in the Coy canteen by the following evening. How glad I was to see the Major back, it's no joke running a Coy without officers. When HQ want situation reports at 0245, 0630, 1030 and 1630 it's hard to find time to eat and sleep. There was some shelling that evening. The room next door to the mess contained 250 fused anti-tank mines and there was a minefield 15 yards away, facts we never failed to mention with relish to visitors before offering them a drink. However this was the close season for shelling villages, a pity, as the best thing that could happen to these stinking hamlets is to be blown to bu . . . . . y and rebuilt on reparations after the war.

**14 March.** 2 bombs thrown by No. 14 P1 at a noise in the night, and a shot fired by No. 13 P1 after a challenge had gone unanswered. A regular fusillade from the direction of Obsterwald and Bizing was reported to be a furious battle between A & B Coys. 0630 I took a patrol down the valley to Flastroff church and back by the hill slopes to Waldweisstroff. Plenty of pig track and rootings, but no enemy signs except perhaps a curious square drinking glass. Brought it back and put it into immediate use.

Buster decided to dig the minefield guard out of their cushy job and put them into the wet and muddy post held by the isolated section of No. 13 P1, and made the move at 1700 hrs when the sun was behind the forest and shining into the faces of possible enemy observers.

No. 15 P1's dog, a pointer of amiable disposition, vanished at stand-to into the forest, presumably deserted to the enemy or killed in action. It had joined the Coy at Leers, and showed a curious fondness for Mills bombs, which it always chased and then searched happily around after the explosion for the game it was certain must have been killed.

The night No. 14 P1 again heard noises and reported 3 men seen running over the skyline at dawn.

**15 March.** Decided to spend a night there myself, raised a scratch section, my batman, the Coy clerk, one runner and 2 MT drivers. Filtered in by dribblets around 1400 and put in 3 hours work sandbagging the Bren post. The posts were all on the edge of a wood, only a few feet from the edge, separate pits for each rifleman, two of them snugly roofed in and with trench stoves, but none of them bullet proof. A sort of gipsy encampment wood and corrugated iron hut, heavily camouflaged with branches, 20 yards to the rear, was furnished with looted mattresses and a charcoal-burning kitchen range. The whole was surrounded by thick belts of waist high wire 30 yds out from the posts. The forest was young spruce at the edges, but inside was all deciduous trees and one felt very bare and open to the planes which, very very high, and almost out of sight, kept circling all day. A heavy howitzer section was in action behind the forest. Wham, whee overhead, rumbling slowly into the distance, silence, a long wait, then a heavy crump as the shell hit out of sight.

A gunner corporal of the French 31st Regt. came over. We invited him into tea for the sake of his Regimental number, good old thirsty worst!

1745 saw the French post commander. Told him of tomorrow's proposed dawn patrol. A reserve Lt., Catholic priest by profession, anxious that I should ask his CO and

mine permission to say Mass in the Church on Easter Sunday. The CO came up and asked who was in command of the post. I reported I was doing section Corporal and told him who I had brought with me. "Good show" he said.

Evening "stand-to" and PSM Gibson with the rum ration which is ½ scale in the support and full scale in the contact lines. This is about one third of a half-pint glass and about all a soldier can stand at one swig. We found it best to split it into two, a tot at evening and another in the morning.

I did 2 hours as a sentry from 2300 to 0100, visited the other posts at 22.30 and posted all reliefs myself. How the last half hour of that 2 drags, hands numbed with the cold and eyes straining into the darkness. It's only after practice you get to ignore your eyes and trust your ears only. When you reach that stage you can do 3½ hours easily as we did in the contact line, but it takes nerve to ignore entirely the weird tricks eyesight can play at night. The keeping awake to make reliefs is less bother. Even dozing a few minutes, I woke up at 20 mins. before the time — it needs a good ten minutes to get the average man awake. He blinks, says UH, goes to sleep again at once. Shake him hard, he sits up, then falls back again. Order him to get up and get dressed, he snorts and starts fumbling; eventually dressed and equipped he blunders about snuffling for ten minutes before his wits are really focussed on the job. Maybe its these slow reactions which make him such a good private soldier.

**16 March.** A cold pale yellow dawn with mist thick in the dead ground. 0600 hrs, half light, take the patrol out in single file through a gap in the wire, extend to arrowhead, 20 paces between each man. Move slowly down the valley searching all the old workings, moving and halting on hand signals. Up to Flastroff church, back down the stream, find nothing. Return to breakfast and a phone call to be back at Coy HQ by 0900.

Actually it was the Coy Clerk Buster wanted more than his 2nd in command. The leave party had returned with a draft of 5 militia, as the prewar 1939 call-up were named. Comforting to be able to make up all sections to 6 and a cpl. which means at least four hours sleep for everyone in the ranks at night. Organized baths for all men in half wine barrels we found in a stable, heating the water in two coppers taken from kitchens in the village.

**17 March.** Heard at breakfast of Lt "Baaba's" blightly wound. In the small hours he was leading the Brigade patrol back down the road from the Winkelmurter wood to Halstroff village. Two Northumberland Fusilier sentries challenged and fired at the same time. A bullet went through Baaba's face and he lost a lot of blood. His patrol disarmed the sentries and took their AB64's! Within 2 hours he was back at Metz CCS, the bullet was out by 1000 and he was on his feet in 3 days. A lucky escape for him, but Brigade kept our subaltern "Jack" to replace him in the Patrol group. The French started shelling as soon as they had finished morning Mass and Sunday lunch.

**18 March.** 2 i.c. of "C" Coy L.F. arrived 1000 to take over our positions. Our reserve P1 left in MT at 1100 and took over from their reserve in Halstroff. Their reserve relieved our forward P1. The rest of the Coy collected Waldweisstroff and marched to the Winkelmurter wood. One 15 cwt covered, and the 8 cwt PU came with the Coy, the rest of the tpt going into laager at Lacroix. A shell passed close over the 15 cwt and burst 200 yards beyond near a disused French battery position. Probably counter-battery work as the roads are heavily screened with scrim alongside and overhead. Only an astronomer's telescope could detect movement and even our Coy HQ in Halstroff must have been out of German MG range.

Met Major W. . . . . of "C" Coy L.F. and took the section commanders to their posts. 2 hours later our men



in two and threes came across the valley from the Winkel-murter wood to the western edge of the Grossenwald forest where I was waiting for them with guides to lead in our two platoons. A breathless L.F. runner arrived saying "the enemy are attacking". I could hear a few rifle shots but could get no indication of numbers, so I passed the message down and carried on. A minute later the L.F.'s came pouring back past us, mostly dirty and unshaven. We walked into empty posts, with no more information about the enemy except highly coloured tales-told the Sec. Cmdrs that the woods were full of them at night. We stood-to and investigated the alleged attack. It appears that at 1400 the enemy dropped some shells to the rear of the left-hand forward post which my Cpl Pike was relieving which somewhat hastened the desire of the L.F. 2nd Lt in the command post to retire to the rear of the wood. Cpl Pike looking through glasses was struck by a dark patch in the right edge of Lohwald wood, thought he saw movement and reported it to the Sec. Cmdr he was relieving. Hence the fusillade.

We stood-down and started settling in. Tea in containers, greatcoats and blankets came up in bundles and were fetched by sections from the west edge of the forest, together with fresh straw. We put on the trench store gumboots, found ourselves ten pairs short, with the inevitable awkward individual who wanted size 11 — he got his within 2 days. Promptitude I never met again. I gave the code signal for Relief completed at 1630.

The command post for the two Pls had a couple of signallers with a D5 and a Fullerphone. The wire trailed from tree to tree, could easily be cut, and we were told had been twice before. Speech on the D5 was limited to routine matters, and all else had to be sent in code on the Fullerphone. The post itself was a breastwork 3 sandbags thick with a shelter of rough logs supporting corrugated iron covered with one layer of sandbags at each end of the post. The other posts were similar except that they had only one shelter each. There were still patches of dirty grey snow about, but all the posts were surrounded by pools of water in which floated bread, tins and faecal matter.

There was not enough room in the shelters for the whole garrison at night, and no room for surplus equipment. All arms were mounted loaded on the parapet, with each man's gas cape, respirator, pouches and equipment draped beside his weapon. Grenades were tucked in little cubby holes in the sandbag walls. In each Sec post one rifle was kept with a discharger cup permanently fitted. We had no H.E. bombs at that time for the 2" mortars and had accordingly left them behind at Coy HQ.

**19 March.** We had 2nd Lt McKay, a subaltern attached from some Jock TA Regt and myself in the Command Post, so, to allow ourselves some sleep we called in Sgt. Hannington of No. 13 P1 and Cpl Burns of No. 1 Sec. Off duty, we all slept fully dressed, bandoliers on, boots on. No need to wear equipment, which hung by each man's weapon. Kept the straw in the sleeping quarter clean by pulling an empty sandbag over each boot. At 0545 we stood-to and at 0615 took our tot of rum. At 0630 I took Vickery (my batman), PSM Gibson of No. 14 P1 and Pte Juett with a Bren. No. 1 Sec were posted at the edge of our forest to cover us through our wire and into the Lohwald wood. We crossed one at a time and once in the wood advanced slowly in line 10 paces apart. Worked up to the northside along the east and back by the west, searching all the old trenches and shelters. All we found was a packet of Gold Flake cigarettes, which we concluded would not have been dropped by a German patrol.

Back to the Command post to find breakfast not yet ready. After months of occupation no unit had contrived a cookhouse, and it was deemed unsafe to light a petrol

stove until 0730 in case the flash should be seen. So at 0830 while the men cleaned their arms and then had 2½ hours compulsory sleep, Sgts. Hannington, Hartley, PSM Gibson and myself set to work to drain a place to build a cookhouse. Beneath a tree with a low overhanging branch we drove in four 10ft saplings cut from behind our posts, stretched our canvas latrine screen round them, flung a roll of roofing felt over the low branch and contrived two shelves with a few duckboards. Rather "kutcha" but it pleased us.

The Intelligence Section had a little green steel shelter made of 1" plate right at the edge of our forest. At 1020 the OP reported some men apparently pumping water out of a trench in front of Biringen. In spite of the distances, about 2 miles, they thought they could see white patches on the backs of some of the men, the distinguishing mark of prisoners employed on works. The French artillery started shelling, no doubt to discourage such activities. The OP saw another working party that afternoon which was similarly discouraged.

All the afternoon we worked digging drains round the posts, clearing up and burying much and propping up sandbags where these were sagging. The Jock subaltern departed, and 2nd Lt "Toby" came up with the evening rations to take command temporarily of "Jack's" P1.

*(To be continued)*

## A Brief History of The London Queen's Cadet Battalion

### Part I 1886 – 1924

- 1889 1st Cadet Battalion "The Queen's" (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.
- 1909 1st Cadet Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's).
- 1930 1st London Cadets "The Queen's" City of London Cadet Brigade (A & B Coys forming the Southwark Cadet Corps).
- 1931 1st Cadet Battalion (The Queen's).
- 1937 1st (London) Cadet Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- 1961/68 1st (London) Cadet Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

## The Queen's Return to Bermondsey

*by Major Edward W. Dawson — Queen's Regiment*

The historic connection of the Queen's and Bermondsey has been revived after an interval of fourteen years, when D Company of the 3rd Queen's left the TA Centre in Jamaica Road.

The connection is revived by a Queen's Company of the Army Cadet Force, who are proud to inherit the traditions of the Regiment and its predecessor the 1st Cadet Battalion 'The Queen's', the second oldest Cadet Battalion in the United Kingdom, which was established in South East London in 1889, which inheritance they share with the Stoke Newington Queen's Company.

Whilst the uniforms have changed from scarlet jackets to woolly pullies and combat jackets, the enthusiasm and professionalism remain 92 years later. Likewise the training which seventy years ago and through to the Thirties, comprised of Easter marches to Kingston to the Depot of the East Surrey's, and sometimes to Stoughton, the Depot of the Queen's Royal West Surrey's, with annual Camps

at Chatham, Walmer and Worthing, with the Territorial Battalions of Kent and Surrey, and in later years, with the OTC's of Haileybury, Westminster and Sherborne Schools.

Today's Cadets undertake adventurous training in the hills of Kent, living out and finding their way across country with map and compass, and take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's (their honorary Colonel) Award Scheme.

There is nothing very much wrong with the youth of today who give their time to the Army Cadet movement, whose activities includes adventurous training, sport and community projects.

The origin of the Bermondsey Queen's Cadets dates back to 1886, with the formation of boys clubs in Southwark by Miss Octavia Hill. She persuaded Captain, later Colonel, A.L. Salmond of the Derbyshire Regiment, to form the boys clubs into a Cadet Corps and an inaugural meeting held in Southwark in May 1889 at the Red Cross Hall was chaired by Field Marshall Lord Wolseley.

Colonel Salmond enrolled two Companies, which were attached to the 4th Volunteer Battalion (The Queen's). The two original Companies quickly grew to four. In July 1890, the Corps attended its first Camp at Churn Down with the Home Counties Volunteer Brigade under the command of Lord Wantage, and in November of that year, the Corps became the 1st Cadet Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

The long and happy association with some of the leading public schools started with the formation in 1896 of The Haileybury Boys Club by Princess Henry of Battenburg, and D Company of the Battalion was raised at the Haileybury Boys Club. In 1897 150 Cadets of the Battalion lined the Mall for Queen Victoria's Jubilee procession.

In 1899, Streatham Grammar School Cadet Corps became attached to the Battalion and in 1900 Lt Col Albert L. Salmond, the Battalion's first Commanding Officer, assumed command of the 3rd Derby Militia (Sherwood Foresters) and sailed for South Africa, where regrettably he died of wounds in 1902. Also in 1900, the Battalion took part in the first Royal Military Tattoo at Olympia, whose 80th Anniversary was celebrated two years ago.

In 1904, a Westminster School Company was raised at Napier Hall and a tablet was unveiled by Field Marshall Lord Methuen in Southwark Cathedral in memory of Colonel Salmond and ten former Cadets of the Battalion who lost their lives in the Boer War.

By 1905, the Battalion had eight Companies with its headquarters and A and B Companies at Southwark, C Company at St. Pancras and Vincent Square, D Company at Stepney, E Company at Chelsea, F Company at Pimlico, G Company at Bethnal Green, and H Company at Hackney, and at a review in Hyde Park of 5,000 Cadets by the Duke of Connaught, the Queen's Battalion led the Division.

By 1909, over 7,000 boys had passed through the ranks of the Battalion. In 1910, the Cadet movement became affiliated to the Territorial Association and officers were granted Lord Lieutenant's commissions and in 1911, the Battalion was granted official recognition by the County of London Territorial Association, and the Battalion became known as the 1st Cadet Battalion of the London Regiment (The Queen's), and khaki uniform was adopted.

In August, 1912, with the death of Miss Octavia Hill, the Battalion lost a faithful friend and a constant benefactress, whose work for over a quarter of a century in the interests of the boys of South East London, was commemorated by the building of the Octavia Hill Memorial Hall in Notting Hill.

By the twenty-fifth year of the Battalion's existence in 1914, over 11,000 Cadets had passed through its ranks and some 3,000 had joined various branches of the Services. With the declaration of War in 1914, the strength of the

Battalion doubled and every eligible Cadet joined up, and most of the Officers of eligible age also joining the colours. By the end of 1915, 22 Officers and 472 Cadets had joined the Forces, with a further 17 Officers and 313 Cadets by the end of 1916.

In 1917, an ex-Cadet of the Battalion was awarded the Victoria Cross, Sergeant William F. Burman, serving with the Rifle Brigade in France.

By the end of 1918, a further 5 Officers and 367 Cadets had joined the Forces, bringing the total to 1,370 Officers and Cadets enlisting during the Great War.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1918, the Battalion continued with its training but fewer numbers were forthcoming, but the Battalion could still muster 235 all ranks for the Annual Inspection.

Annual Camp was once again held at Haileybury College, who had played host to the Battalion for its Annual Camps from 1915 onwards.

By 1920, the Battalion became once more affiliated to the 24th Battalion of the London Regiment (The Queen's) at Kennington, and Easter Camps were once more resumed at Kingston Barracks with the East Surrey's. In November 1920 the parent Regiment's title was changed to The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).

In 1920, Camp was at Shoenbury, a London Territorial Brigade Camp organised by the TFA for 8 Cadet Units.

The Battalion now had 7 Companies located at:—

- A at Southwark
- C at Paddington
- D at Stepney
- E at Westminster
- F at Chelsea
- G at Islington
- H at Kensington

the latter located at the Octavia Hill Memorial Hall, Notting Hill.

In 1921, owing to the disturbed state of the affairs of the country, all Cadet work was suspended by the War Office although the Unit managed its annual Easter visit to the East Surrey's and Camps with the City and County of London Cadets at Newhaven.

In 1922, B Coy. was remustered at Southwark. The Bn held its usual Easter and Summer Camps. However, the Government Grant given to Cadets, modest as it was, was withdrawn in the interests of economy.

In 1923, despite the withdrawal of a grant from Public Funds, the Battalion continued its Easter and Annual Camp programmes.

In 1924, HRH Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, consented to become President of the Battalion.

*(to be continued)*

### Further appreciation of Colonel R.C.F. Oxley-Boyle DSO, MC

As a result of the obituary published in the last Newsletter further letters have been received with requests to say a little more about the man. Mr. A.J. King who was the Colonel's driver in the desert and the Syrian campaign remembers an incident at Quetta just after the earthquake. Captain Oxley-Boyle was mounting guard as Adjutant when suddenly one of the men let out a yell and charged him with rifle and bayonet. Apart from pushing aside the rifle and bayonet he remained at attention while the man was overpowered — when he then continued the parade as though nothing had happened. In action he was invariably cool, courageous and very tolerant and understanding — especially where the rank and file were concerned. In Mr. King's view, there was only one Oxley-Boyle. Mr. J.



Robertson-Walker who joined 2 Queen's in 1940 as a very incompetent amateur subaltern (his words, not mine) wishes to stress the outstanding nature of Billy Oxley-Boyle's service to the regiment. Called to take command at the critical moment in the Syrian campaign — the battalion was pinned down in a rocky valley which was part of a French gunnery range where every movement could be seen by French OPs perched above — he visited virtually every forward section. Despite heavy fire and resultant casualties "he so maintained the morale of the Bn that we would all have done anything for him". When the Bn was pulled out of the line a few days later the Adjutant drew up a citation which was signed by all officers recommending the award of the DSO. He duly got it and no man could have deserved it more.

Even forty years later he still appears to be the perfect example of a first-class CO of a fighting unit.

## Deaths

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

*Arnold*—In January 1982 Leslie Arnold at Crawley. Served in the 1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to the end of hostilities. He was taken prisoner during the African campaign. He regularly attended the OMA reunions.

*Bradley*—On 15 January 1982 Ronald James Bradley (6102686), aged 69. Served in the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1940 — 1946. A staunch supporter of the Regimental Association.

*Budd*—On 9 November 1981 in Guildford Hospital, Charles Budd. Served with the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1938–46 in the MT Section and then in the Regimental Police as sergeant.

*Cahill*—On 18 October 1981 WOII Thomas James Cahill BEM (6137941), aged 68. Served in the 1st & 2nd Bn and Depot The East Surrey Regiment, and in The Queen's Royal Regiment 1929 — 1950.

Was a Japanese POW 1941 — 1945. On retirement from the Army he joined the Staff of The Royal Hospital Chelsea where he was Quartermaster Sergeant 1950 — 1978.

He was an active member of The Regimental Association and of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

A man of great courage and integrity.

*Drane*—On 9 November 1981 Major Jefferey (Jesse) Clayton Drane, aged 94. Joined the Territorial Force in 1909. Was commissioned to The East Surrey Regiment in 1914 serving in France with the 3rd and 8th Battalions of that Regiment 1915 — 1917. Was Chemical Adviser at London District 1918 — 1920 when he was invalided from the service. Honorary Secretary of The East Surrey Regiment Golf Society and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society 1947 — 1967. (See obituary)

*Evans*—In January 1982 Jack Evans after a long illness at Nottingham. Served from 1934 to 1946 in the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. A keen supporter of the OMA and the Dunkirk Veterans. He was a past secretary of the Woking branch of the latter Association. The Associations were represented at the funeral.

*Gardner*—On 14 January 1982 C/Sgt Ray Gardner (22806684), aged 47. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1952 — 1959, 1st Bn The Queen's

Royal Surrey Regiment 1959 — 1966 and 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment 1966 — 1969. A boxer of outstanding merit, he boxed for his regiments 1952 — 1965. His son is an NCO serving with 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

*Herbert*—At the age of 97 Reginald Herbert. He served with the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during 1914–8 in India and Mesopotamia.

*Hogan*—On 25 October 1981 Major J.J. Hogan MC (RAMC). Regimental Medical Officer of the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1943 — 1944. (See obituary)

*Homewood*—In November 1981 Reginald Homewood. Served in MT Section of 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1939–46, acting as driver to "B" Company Commander.

*Hunter*—On 11 November 1981 Brigadier HMA (Michael) Hunter CVO, DSO, MBE, aged 68. Commissioned to The Wiltshire Regiment 1933. Was Second-in-Command, and Commanding Officer, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Italy and Austria 1944 — 1945. Colonel, The Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment 1968 — 1976.

Son of the late Brigadier HNA Hunter DSO, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*MacDonnell*—On 9 December 1981 Captain Edward Geoffrey Randal MacDonnell, aged 92. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 3rd Special Reserve and 10th Battalions in Belgium, France and Italy 1915 — 1919. (See obituary)

*Moule*—On 29 January 1982 C/Sgt (ORS) John (Jack) Moule (6078114), aged 81. Served in India and the Sudan with the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and at the Depot from 1919 — 1938. In 1938 on retirement from the Army he became the civilian clerk at Depot The Queen's Royal Regiment which appointment he held until 1959 when the Depot closed. He then became Chief Clerk of the newly formed Regimental Headquarters of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment until his final retirement in 1967. Giving continuous and dedicated service to his Regiment for over 48 years, he was a well-known regimental figure and a life-long supporter of the Regimental Associations.

*Patmore*—In April 1981 Bombardier Benjamin Richard Patmore (6136110), aged 77. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1922 — 1930 and in the Royal Artillery 1942 — 1946. A staunch member of the Regimental Association, and honorary member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

*Peart*—On 9 January 1982 CQMS Frank Albert Campbell Peart (6090469), aged 68. Served in the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1939 — 1945. For very many years since the end of World War II he had organized the annual "Salerno Reunion" and published the 2/6th Queen's OCA Newsletter. He was also a staunch and dedicated member of the Queen's Surreys Regimental Association and his enthusiasm in soliciting support for regimental occasions will be sadly missed. (See obituary)

*Sanger*—Captain Gerald Sanger at the age of 83. He served with the Royal Marine Artillery in Flanders 1916 — 9 and then with the Queen's Royal Regt. in the Second World War. He was a Justice of the Peace and County Councillor for many years. Between the wars he was editor of British Movietone News.

*Tripp*—on 11 December 1981 Captain Basil Howard Tripp, aged 78. Served in the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal

Regiment (TA) 1920 – 1923 and in the 4th (Cadet) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1946 – 1949.

*Wallis*—On 26 October 1981 Lt Col Clive O'Neill Wallis MC, aged 68. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regiment 1935 to 1959. Awarded the Military Cross in Malaya 1941/42. Was Adjutant of the British Battalion in Malaya in 1942. Commanded 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1955 – 1958. (See obituary)

*Willmott*—On 9 March 1981 L/Cpl Sidney Willmott (6082949), aged 72. Served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Queen's Royal Regiment 1927 – 1936.

## Regimental Families

### Deaths

*Dowler*—On 13 October 1981 Dagmar, Lady Dowler, widow of Lt Gen Sir Arthur Dowler KCB KBE Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment (1946 – 1954).

*Girling*—On 22 November 1981 Mrs Helen Girling, widow of Colonel F.E.B. Girling, late The Queen's Royal Regiment, and mother of Major M.E. Girling, The Queen's Regiment.

### Obituaries

#### E. Bradish

Known to us all as Ted, he served with the 22nd Queen's during the 1914/1918 war, one of our last surviving members of that period. Ted was always to be seen at the Drill Hall on Armistice Day and at the Annual Dinner, travelling to these events from Whitstable, Kent. He fitted in with us all and was never more happy than to be with us. Ted was a credit to his age group, always smartly dressed, medals clean, and with his well-polished silver walking stick. Many of you will have read his articles on events of the Great War period. His passing leaves a gap in the O.C.A. which cannot be replaced.

Ted was cremated on the 30th December, 1981, and the funeral was attended by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association.

#### A. Brown

One ninety Brown, as he was christened by RSM P.G. Smith, to avoid confusion with the many other Browns, typified all that was best in the character of the pre-war Territorial. Loyal, conscientious, willing and able to take responsibility, cheerful and good humoured at all times, what more can one ask of a man.

One must assume that he enlisted in the old 22nd London Regiment in 1927, as his first re-engagement was in 1931. He was posted to 'B' Company with which he served until it became the nucleus of the 2/6th Queen's. His qualities were soon recognised as he was promoted L/Cpl in 1931, Cpl in 1933 and L/Sgt the following year; moving up to Sgt in 1936 a year before the move to New Cross. He was always a tower of strength at such occasions as week-end camps at Shoreham and Kemsing.

He was one of the first to join the O.C.A. when it was re-constituted, and though his modest manner never led him to seek office, he was a regular attender at the Annual Armistice Parade. He will be sadly missed.

#### Major J.C. Drane

Jefferey Drane will be remembered with great affec-

tion by all those who played golf with the Regimental Golf Societies. In particular he is recalled with gratitude by those of The Queen's who he ensured were welcomed and absorbed with much friendship into The East Surrey Regiment Golf Society, when it was retitled to be The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Society in 1960.

As a man we remember him as straight and true and uncomplicated, as was his golf. He set high standards on the golf course and played with enjoyment, and dedication to the game. As many of his distinguished generation he did not countenance weakness, and one recalls his horror when it was suggested that the programme for the second day of the Regimental Meeting in the Autumn should be curtailed to 9 holes in the afternoon. To him there was no problem in completing 72 holes in the two days and still being on parade at Claridges, in white tie and tails, for the Regimental Dinner at 7 for 7.30 on the Friday evening.

He continued to play golf well to a good age, and his record of winning the Golf Society's Veteran's Halo with 49 Stableford points at over eighty is one unlikely to be surpassed.

J.W.S.

#### Major J.J. Hogan, MC, RAMC

There will be very many members of the 2nd/6th Queen's who will be saddened by the news of the death in Ireland at the age of 80 years of Doc Hogan.

He joined the battalion in 1940 after service with 44 Div. in France, where he won his MC, and spent four years as the R.M.O. He was liked – even loved – by those who knew him, and he was the best known figure in the battalion, as his work touched all companies and all ranks. He was the confidant of many and was the recipient of many personal secrets.

In Italy it was a great comfort to see him in the R.A.P. He was particularly active at Salerno and the Garigliano, where the unit history reports, due to German Schu mines he had to deal with an unprecedented number of foot injuries. He was indeed a soldiers' man and the writer is proud to have been his friend. He was great fun and showed many officers how to play poker!

After the war he returned to his civilian medical practise in Camden, and it was he who, with Frank Peart, organised in 1961 the first annual reunion which continues to this day. A grand chap and a sad loss.

S.W.P.

#### Captain E.G.R. MacDonnell

I first met Geoffrey at the Tercentenary Dinner in 1961 when he was already 71 years old, having been born in 1890. He attended the dinners for several more years, but then age began to tell – and we missed him. A most unassuming, sincere gentleman.

He served with the 1st Canadian Contingent from August 1914 to May 1915. He was then commissioned to the 3rd Bn (Special Reserve) of the Queen's. His service in Belgium, France and Italy was with the 10th Queen's – with whom he was wounded on the Somme in March 1918. He returned to civil life, but gave further service during WW II as a major in the Home Guard, attached to the Devonshire Regiment.

His two sons took regular commissions in the 15/19th Royal Hussars and the 12th Royal Lancers.

Geoffrey was a loyal supporter of the regimental association and of the Royal British Legion. He will be missed in the community.

K.W.B.

### Sgt. F.A.C. Peart

Frank Peart died, aged sixty eight years, in January 1982. He joined the 2/6th Queens when it was formed at New Cross in 1939, and served in France in 1940, Iraq, Enfidaville and Italy. He was named in Hugh Pond's authoritative book "Salerno" and felt honoured when he was asked, together with General Ling and Lt Col Peet, to take part in a battlefield tour in 1969 run by the 3rd Division for young officers. His humour and graphic description of the battle made him a hit with everyone.

After the war, with Major J.J. Hogan, RAMC, he founded the battalion annual reunion and continued to run it with devotion, single-handed for the last twenty years.

In spite of major heart surgery nine years ago, Frank continued to enjoy life with his wife Joyce, whom he met whilst serving in Kent in 1941. She was later to say proudly that he lived for the Queens.

He was the kindest of men and gladly spent much of his spare time in seeking out fellow colleagues who had fallen on hard times. In particular, he was a constant visitor to the Star and Garter where we have a very badly incapacitated old comrade – Sid Lawrence.

Frank was an example of loyalty to his war-time friends, many of whom were present at his funeral.

To his wife, son and daughter, we send our deepest sympathy.

S.W.P.

### E.F. Townsend MBE

Eddie Townsend enlisted in the old 22nd London Regt. on the 28th May 1929 and was posted to 'D' Coy. He was promoted L/Cpl in 1931 and qualified for the Machine Gun Badge in 1932. Considering his ability and subsequent career his early promotions were surprisingly slow as he was not made up to Corporal until 1935 and to L/Sgt in March 1939. It would appear that his special qualities were not fully recognised until mobilisation and the move to Yeovil where he must have made the transfer to HQ Company and a distinguished period of service in the 'Q' Dept.

When it was decided to re-form the Old Comrades Association in 1955 it is not surprising that Eddie with his long record of faithful service as RQMS should volunteer and be elected at a meeting on the 5th December in that year to undertake the office of Secretary, a position which he held until 1968. We should all remember the great debt we owe him for the stalwart work that he put in, helping, with his great knowledge of both war time and pre-war members of the battalion, to consolidate and expand the membership. We remember him for his unfailing patience and kindness to everyone, for his gentle speech and dry sense of humour and for his love of all things pertaining to 'The Queen's'.

### Lieutenant-Colonel Clive O'Neill Wallis MC JP

The sad news of the sudden death of Clive Wallis whilst on holiday in Ireland, came as a profound shock to all his friends.

Born on 10 October 1913 and educated at Cranleigh School, he was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment from the Supplementary Reserve in 1935 and joined the 2nd Battalion at Shorncliffe Camp. A fine all round athlete, it was at Rugger that he excelled, winning his cap for Ireland in 1935 and representing the Army for four successive years until accompanying the Battalion to Shanghai in 1938.

In August 1940, after the fall of France, the British garrison was withdrawn from Shanghai, the Surreys moving to Singapore and shortly afterwards to Tanjong Pau, in Kedan, in the extreme North of Malaya, where together with 1st Bn The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, they were to become the first British regiments to face the Japanese invasion a year later.

Throughout this short disastrous campaign, first as a Company Commander and then as Adjutant of the "British Battalion", Clive displayed those qualities of courage and leadership for which he was awarded the MC and which were to identify him during the following three and a half years of captivity, part of which was spent working on the infamous "Burma Railway".

After qualifying at the Staff College, Camberley in 1946, Clive filled various staff appointments in the Middle East and in Greece until 1949 when he was selected as an instructor at the RMA Sandhurst with the responsibility of furthering the interests of the Regiment, a task for which he was eminently suitable. On completion of three years in this appointment, he qualified for a tour as 2IC 1st Bn The Parachute Regiment and in 1955 he was promoted Lieut-Colonel and given command of 1 Surreys in BAOR. On handing over the Battalion in 1958, Clive was appointed Commandant of the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot, again a happy choice, which he filled with his customary enthusiasm until his retirement from the Army in December 1959.

Not for Clive, however, a time for rest and relaxation after twenty-four years of strenuous regular service. He immediately set to work on a new career with Arthur Guinness & Co. in which he achieved the position of Executive Manager before his final decision to "hang up his boots".

Despite numerous civilian interests and activities including those of Justice of the Peace and member of his local Parish Council, the Regiment remained Clive's first and greatest love, as was demonstrated by his unflinching support of all its events, whether military, social or sporting, and from which no obstacle or personal inconvenience was permitted to interfere with his attendance, and so right up to the end Clive's generous, warm-hearted nature, his forthright and uncomplicated personality, his sense of fun and joy of living, combined to make an impact on all who knew him and for whom his loss has meant something irreplaceable.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary and all members of his family in their sad bereavement.

F.A.H.M.

During our 3½ years captivity I came to know Clive even better, as we were together nearly all that period of toil and hardship. We worked on the infamous Bangkok-Moulmein railway in Siam, looking after each other during our many bouts of Malaria, Dysentery, Beri-Beri, and other disease, as we had no medical supplies, received no Red Cross parcels, and slept mostly on the ground. Clive's wonderful cheerfulness and personality helped to inspire and keep up our spirits in some of the most appalling conditions.

A.C.A.C.

### The Royal Star and Garter – Renewal Appeal

The Royal Star and Garter Home cares for up to 200 disabled ex-servicemen of all ranks and from all parts of the British Isles. Seventy per cent are ex-soldiers. The majority are veterans of World War II, but there are still 34 men from World War I, and sadly also now, men from Ulster and more recent actions.

You may know of a disabled ex-Serviceman who is



finding it difficult to cope at home, and may need a place at the Royal Star and Garter?

The Home, now 60 years old, urgently needs funds to renew 7 lifts and renovate kitchens and servery. The income from donations and legacies has been insufficient to meet annual running costs, let alone finance the renewal of worn out equipment. The work, to be spread over 3 years, will cost £300,000. The Army Benevolent Fund is a generous supporter of the Home. Even so, we urgently need individual subscribers. Please will you help with a donation or preferably a Covenant? Also, let us know of anyone who might need our help.

Rear Admiral J.W.D. Cook, CB., Appeals Director.

The Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey.  
TW10 6RR.

## The Surrey Star

The distinguishing sign of The East Surrey Regiment in the nineteen forties was a woven yellow eight-pointed star on a square black background. It was worn on the left sleeve in battle dress and shirt sleeve order, below the Divisional sign. It is believed to have been taken into use in 1941, and was certainly worn as late as 1948.

The Surrey Star is on display in the Regimental Museum, and information is sought on the following questions:

1. who introduced the Surrey Star, and when?
2. was it worn only by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment?
3. when did it cease to be worn?

Answers to these questions, and any other information on the Surrey Star, would be appreciated by Major P.G.E. Hill, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ.

## The Spences of the Thirty First Regiment

In a case in the Regimental Museum the medals of the Spences lie side by side. James Spence was about 24 years older than Frederick, and they were probably cousins. During their long and distinguished careers, both commanded the Thirty First Regiment. Although both officers are mentioned in the History of The East Surrey Regiment, the index is incomplete and inaccurate. First, there is no mention of James in the index; second, all the references to Frederick relate to James and third, there are many pages in which one or other of the Spences is mentioned in the text which are not listed at all in the index.

Briefly, James was commissioned in 1808 and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1848, while Frederick was commissioned in 1829 and retired as a major general in 1863.

The Regimental History shows James Spence in the list of officers who served with the 2nd Bn Thirty First in the Peninsular War, but this is doubtful. In the first place he did not receive the Peninsular War medal, and secondly he was known to be serving with the 1st Bn Thirty First at Genoa in April 1814.

Both Spences were with the Thirty First in the 1st Afghan War, 1839-1842, James as a captain and Frederick as a lieutenant. However, only James stayed on to serve throughout the Sutlej Campaign, 1845-1846. He assumed command of the Thirty First at the Battle of Moodkee, when the Commanding Officer was wounded. He remained in command for the Battles of Ferozeshah, where he personally led the attack on foot, Badowal and Aliwal. He was promoted lieutenant colonel in December 1845

and was appointed to command the 1st Brigade for Sobraon, the final action of the campaign. For his distinguished services, Lieutenant Colonel James Spence was made a Companion of the Bath.

Frederick served with the Thirty First as a major in the Crimean War, 1853-1856 and was at the Siege of Sebastopol. He was awarded the Legion of Honour in addition to the British and Turkish campaign medals. He commanded the Regiment during the China War of 1860, and on conclusion of the campaign he too was admitted to the Order of the Bath, and created KCB.

## 7th Surrey Rifle Volunteers

A copy of the Regimental Orders for October 1887 of this unit is in the possession of Mr. D. Jones who has kindly sent the following extracts. The orders were sent to his grandfather then living in Pimlico. Headquarters was at 71 Upper Kennington Lane, S.E.11 (closed on Fridays) with Colonel G.C. Porter commanding. The 4 page document gives full details of officers, NCO's and Buglers down for duty in October. Drills were held at Battersea, sometimes in plain-clothes.

"Sat., Oct. 1st - Shooting Saturday."

"Sat., Oct. 8th - March Out. Parade at HQ at 6 p.m. Marching order, forage caps and leggings."

Bands: "Both bands will parade on Oct. 8th and Oct. 29th."

Sat. Oct. 8th - Outpost Duty with the 2nd London Volunteers on Wimbledon Common, when the CO hopes there will be a strong muster.

Cycle Corps: "A circular having been received from the War Office regarding Volunteer Corps forming a Cycle Corps, and as it requires from 12 to 20 Privates to form such a Corps, Officers commanding companies are requested to send in as soon as possible the names etc. Each man must provide his own bicycle or tricycle.

Sword Exercises: (following a recently issued General Order) was for officers on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Falling-in: "The attention of the CO having been drawn to men not falling in on the sound of the bugle, it is to be distinctly understood that immediately on the last sound of the bugle, "fall in" every man should move smartly to his place with shouldered arms, and any men who are late should "double" to their place."

Efficiency: "Members are warned that the Volunteer year ends on 31st October, by which time everyone must be Efficient. Any member failing to make himself Efficient will be fined 30/- in lieu of the Capitation Grant."

## War Graves - Germany

Lt Col R. Graham MBE, Commanding Officer 3 Queens, has written a letter about a visit he made recently to Becklingen War Cemetery which is between Hohn and Soltau. It is well-tended and from the Regimental point of view it is of particular interest because it holds the graves of soldiers of all 6 former regiments except for the East Surreys. Those of 1/5th Queen's Royal Regiment are:-

L/Cpl J.A. Freeman	Pte. P. Hogan
L/Cpl A.F. Levy	Pte. A.E. Lucas
Cpl. R.B. Pass	Lt. T.H. Worton
Pte. F.A. Keeling	Pte. T. Pilkington
Lt. D.G. Wilkinson-Cox MC	

He stated that on last Remembrance Sunday he was able to place poppies on all the graves on behalf of our present regiment in remembrance of our forebears who fell so sadly in the very last days of the Second World War.