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Regimental Association
Newsletter

Editorial

Once more a bumper crop of articles and items which I hope you will find interesting. Next year is the 40th anniversary of Salerno and it would be nice to get some interesting yarns about the operation for the May issue. If typing is needed then I must have the articles in early so as to spread the load. Happy Christmas, in advance.

Copy for the May issue should be sent to 50 Ashdene Road, Ashurst, Hants SO4 2DN by 31st March 1983.

President's Notes

It will not have escaped the notice of many of you that next year will be the fortieth anniversary of the Salerno landings. With the three regular battalions of the Regiment overseas next September, it falls to our Association to take the initiative in marking the occasion in this country in proper fashion.

I hope the TA battalions will also participate which would be particularly appropriate as it was six TA battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment who earned the Battle Honour which is today borne on the Colours of all battalions of the Regiment.

I believe it was unique in the Second World War for six battalions of one regiment to take part in the same battle and so it is right that this great occasion in our history should be celebrated with pride 40 years on. We are still in the early stages of planning, but we hope to hold a lunch party for officers and their wives at Clandon House on 9 September and an all ranks reunion in London on 10 September. These will be the main events of our Association next year and I would be grateful if you would keep these dates clear.

At the end of this year Colonel John Kealy will be resigning as Chairman of our Officers Club. He has done a long stint in this appointment and we are grateful to him for arranging our events with such efficiency in times of mounting costs and reducing standards. We shall particularly miss his wise counsel and experience on the Management Committee of our Association. Lt. Colonel Desmond Wilson has kindly agreed to take over and we welcome him in his new role.

By the time this Newsletter is published another reunion will be upon us and I look forward to seeing you at the Union Jack Club on Friday 5 November.

Newsletter Subscription

1. Subscriptions for next year's Newsletter should

now be paid. The subscription for 1983 will be £1.60.

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 are amended to cover the present cost.

Museum Notes – September 1982

The Museum has continued to attract a good stream of visitors through the Summer. Figures to the end of September are about 14,000 who have donated some £1100 to the funds of the Museum. This amount together with the needed flow of contributions from organizations and individuals is keeping our funds in balance. Amongst donations the very generous decision of 5th Queen's OMA to give £100 from one of their available funds was particularly appreciated. A cheque for this sum was handed to the Chairman of the Museum Committee by Colonel Hugh Harris at the OMA Annual Dinner in May.

With the money received we are improving the exhibition in various ways. For those who served in Malaya perhaps the most significant change may be that the figure dressed in the jungle green of the mid-50's now has a proper head and looks much more the part. A major acquisition has been the purchase, with help from the Army Museum's Ogilby Trust, of a very distinguished miniature of an officer of the 31st Regiment dated about 1803. This is a delightful portrait in a locket, at the back of which is encased a lock of the officer's hair. Unfortunately the picture is not certainly identified. Additionally during the summer the display to illustrate the VCs won by members of the Regiment and our Allied Regiments in the 1939-1945 War, together with the GCs (converted from the EGM) awarded to two members of 1st Queens after the Quetta Earthquake, has been completed by Major Bill Deayton-Groom and Lt Col Bob Hill. We have received too a number of bequests of medals, and tribute here is especially due to Lt Col Tony Hannaford who has completed the recataloguing of all the medals in the Museum.

During this winter further improvements are planned and the working party of helpers coordinated by Major and Mrs Peter Hill will normally meet on Wednesdays.

We are delighted to hear that the Regimental Officers Luncheon next year is likely to take place at

FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREYS ASSOCIATION EVENTS - 1983

Date	Place	Event	Detail
5 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting	Separately to Members
5 June	Guildford	Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Church Service	Guildford Cathedral 11.15 a.m.
12 July	North Hants Golf Club	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines	Separately to Members
31 July OR 7 August	Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire	Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion	Firm date and details to be notified in May 1983 Newsletter
9 September	Clandon Park	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Ladies Salerno Luncheon	Separately to Members in May 1983
10 September	London	Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Salerno 40th Anniversary Reunion	Detail with May 1983 Newsletter. Replaces Annual Reunion usually held in November.
13 October	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Separately to Members
13 November	Guildford Kingston Battersea	Remembrance Day Parades	Separately to Members

Clandon Park so that some who have not seen it will be able to visit the Museum after Lunch.

J.W.S.

Museum Requirements:

Thanks are extended to donors of articles for the museum. Items still required are:-

- Other Ranks cap badge of 21st London Regiment ie. First Surrey Rifles.
- East Surrey beret badge with the Imperial crown, i.e. King George VI, 1951.
- Divisional flashes for 7th Armoured division (Desert period) and British Troops Berlin.

The Committee of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum are considering the production of the Regimental badge in a tapestry kit. The badge would be not larger than 14" x 11½" and would be worked in wool. It would be suitable for a cushion, picture or stool cover. The kit is expected to cost about £15.

Before placing an order with the Royal School of Needlework, the Committee would like to know whether there is sufficient demand to justify the outlay. Would readers who might be interested in buying one of these kits please inform Mrs. D. Hill, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford, GU4 7RQ.

Regimental Museum Appeal

The Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum thank the under-mentioned lady, gentlemen, and Association for their generous donations which have been received since May 1982:

Mr W. Parry	Mr & Mrs G.M. Ellis
Colonel L.C. East	Major J.M.B. Westing
Colonel M.J. Doyle	5th QUEENS Old Members Association

The total amount received up to 1st September 1982 and since the Appeal was launched in May 1977 is £1320.55.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society

Result of Annual Match versus The Royal Marines Golfing Society played at Blackmoor Golf Club on 8th July 1982.

Foursomes

Queen's Surreys	Royal Marines
Col J.W. Sewell & Lt Col S.T.W. Anderson	½
M. Power & Maj F.V. Sheppard	0
Maj W.J.F. Sutton & Maj Gen G.A. White	0
Maj B.A. Crutchfield & Maj Sunderland	1

Singles

M. Power	1	Sgt Brittain	0
Maj W.J.F. Sutton	0	O.C. Bates	1
Maj F.V. Sheppard	1	Cpl R. Day	0
Maj Gen G.A. White	1	Maj Gen Kay	0
Lt Col S.T.W. Anderson	½	W.O. Lewis	½
Col J.W. Sewell	0	Capt D. Hunt	1
Maj B.A. Crutchfield	0	R.J. Walters	1
Maj Sunderland	½	Lt Col Tweed	½
	5½		6½

The Royal Marines won by 6½ to 5½.

News of the Associations

5th Queen's Old Members Association

The annual Reunion dinner took place at the Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford, on Saturday 8th May, where 150 members had gathered, including two fresh faces from Wolverhampton and Walsall. Colonel Harris presided over the evening for the last time before handing over to the Association's new Chairman Lt Col Foster Herd. In welcoming everyone he made a special mention of the Colonel of the Queen's Regt., Major-General R.S.N. Mans who had honoured us by being present, also Lt Col J. Sewell, Chairman of the Queen's Surreys Regiment Museum committee. Colonel C.R. Wigan, who at the tender age of 90 years attended had two other

1914/18 veterans to keep him company. General Mans then gave a resume on The Queen's Regt. and their whereabouts. He said how pleased he was to see that our Association was still flourishing, and that this was a credit to the committee who must put a lot of work in to keep it alive. Colonel Harris retired after 5 years as chairman handing over to Lt Col Foster B. Herd TD, DL. He handed over to Col Sewell a cheque for £100 as a donation to The Museum Appeal Fund on behalf of the Association. He then presented a Book Token to Col J.B.H. Kealy for his services to the Association. RSM Jack Homersham was presented with a travelling clock for his services to the Bn and the Association for 50 years. The Colonel said that his stint had been made easy by his dedicated committee, of whom he would like to make a special mention. He hoped the reunion would continue for many years to come. Col Herd said he was looking forward to his term of office as chairman, and had pleasure in presenting Col Harris with a small gift as a token of the Association's appreciation.

A large gathering of members and wives joined the congregation at Guildford Cathedral for the annual service of The Regimental Association in June, it is a pity that more people don't attend. This was followed by the usual get-together in the Refectory for light refreshments, this is now a reunion for many of the other Bns members. Attending for the first time was Mr. Horder, aged 93 years, from Loxwood, Sussex who was a Sgt with the 5th Queens TA "C" Coy 1914-18, and was posted to Mesopotamia in 1914 with the Bn. Our able secretary Doug Mitchell arranged for the collection to be taken and also organised the Bar (which was something of a headache) on behalf of the Regt. Assn. Further particulars of the 5th Queen's R Regt. OM Assn. can be received from the Hon. Sec. Doug Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

Our year really took off with the arrival of the 'La Sarcelle' party from Ghent in May. After the usual get-together and a trip to Brighton we had the able assistance of the Deptford branch of The Royal British Legion in giving them something different. It quite made their day when they were presented to the members present.

Then the pace slackened enlivened only by The Annual Reunion Dinner at the end of May. The Association was represented at both Guildford and Colchester. A few of those qualified joined the WOs and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner.

The highlight of the year must be the annual trip to Ghent. This year 35 people, including the driver, made the pilgrimage. All the usual events took place, but the fact that the party was based on one of the University buildings was the master stroke. We once again made a point of visiting the cemetery at Esquelmes.

We are looking forward to the Ladies' Night on the 23rd October at the U.J. Club.

2/7th Queen's OCA

Nearly sixty members attended the 36th annual reunion dinner at the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1., on Saturday, 27th March 1982.

A special welcome was extended to Colonel C.J. Falk, MC, TD, the Battalion's first Commanding Officer upon its formation in May 1939. When the Battalion returned from France in 1940, Cecil Falk rejoined to serve as a much loved and respected Second in Command until we began to get ready for overseas service again.

Despite increasing ill health Cecil had continued to be a loyal and regular member of the Association and we were very sorry when we learned that he had died in May.

We were also very sad to hear in August of the sudden death of Major R.C. Carrington, MC, in Genoa. Ron Carrington was demobilised and continued to live in Italy after the war, but in recent years had made a special effort to attend our reunions.

The Battalion was represented in the Old Comrades' Parade at The Drumhead Service which opened The Queen's Regiment third Reunion at Colchester on 1st August 1982. Other members and their families enjoyed a brilliant day with interesting displays, concluding with an impressive Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands and Corps of Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

The Queen's Regiment

The 1st Bn (Lt Col Paddy Panton) was on duty at Bisley during most of July. On 11 Sept, their WOs' & Sgts' Mess ran a very enjoyable 'Past and Present' Dinner, following a Beating of Retreat. Having bade farewell to Canterbury, the Battalion left for a two-year tour in Omagh in October. (In mid Jan 83, Howe Barracks will be occupied by 1 Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt).

2 QUEENS (Lt Col Peter Packham MBE) 'hosted' a most successful Grand Reunion at Colchester on 1 Aug. They, too, are to spend two years in N Ireland from Jan 83 as a 'Resident' battalion (Londonderry). The 3rd (Lt Col Richard Graham MBE) - based in Fallingbostel in Germany - ended a busy summer season by sending companies to train in Western Canada.

Maj-Gen Rowley Mans, Colonel of The Regiment, has been granted an extension to his tour (to Dec 1984) and Brig Charles Millman, now retired, remains as his Deputy.

G.U.W.

The Late Colonel Hubert Hull – The Queen's Royal Regiment

A photograph of Colonel Hull with the late King George VI, taken when His Majesty visited Depot The Queen's Royal Regiment in September 1939, has been sent to RHQ Queen's by a Colonel J.T. Breckinridge late of the United States Marine Corps, with the request that it be sent to one of Colonel Hull's daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Wainwright, or Mrs. Noreen Fox. (Colonel Hull's Widow died in 1967.) If any of our readers are aware of the present address of either of these two ladies, will they please communicate with Major John Reed at RHQ Queen's, Canterbury.

Veterans Company

1. A successful (Cassino Day) Reunion was held on Saturday 8th May at the WO's and Sergeants Mess 6/7th Bn The Queen's Regiment (V), Farringdon House, TA Centre, Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey.

2. Forthcoming events for 1982 are:-
Sunday 14th November 1982 - Remembrance Sunday Parades.

Details:

- a. 10.30 a.m. outside BENTALLS, Wood Street, Kingston-Upon-Thames and afterwards at the Orchard Room Bar, The Training Centre, Portsmouth Road.
- b. 10.45 a.m. outside Battersea Parish Church.

From Here and There

Mr. R.A. May had to visit Stoughton Barracks earlier this year. He recalls 15th July 1939 when he first entered through the Keep as a young militiaman for six months training which extended into seven years service. His old barrack room "Palestine" now housed offices and staff. The square evoked memories of the CO – to whom even Chuck Sheffield and his pigs had to stand to attention during daily inspection. Although the barracks are to be demolished the Keep and gateway are protected by a conservation order – and will be kept as a museum piece for Guildford.

Col A. Wilkinson DSO, MC, GM is still going strong at 90, according to a newspaper cutting sent in by Major F.J. Snowdon TD. His First World War service was with the Coldstream Guards in France where he won the MC. As CO of 14th Queen's in 1940 while at Selsey he was awarded the GM for rescuing wounded members of a patrol who had mistakenly entered a minefield. In addition to the GM he got a "rocket" from the District Commander – who was Oliver Leese. In 1941 the 14th Queen's became the 19th L.A.A. Regiment, which he continued to command – taking them to Sicily. His life-long passion is still cricket, having been elected to the M.C.C. in 1913. He is an honorary life member of the M.C.C. and at 90 is the oldest member of the Free Foresters Cricketers' Club.

A Surrey Subaltern's Introduction to Warfare – Continued.

20 March. That night I had the watch from 0010 to 0240. At 0130 to our right front towards Rehfesche wood I heard an automatic fire a long burst, then two bursts of some lighter and faster weapon, then grenades and a few single shots, then silence. We learnt afterwards that this was Capt Hudson's successful patrol action. He had been allowed to take a patrol out beyond Zeurange on the condition it was purely reconnaissance. With the 6 members of the Brigade Patrol Group, he was lying low in some trees when he heard men approaching. A German patrol of 10 men then passed within a few yards. Hudson split his patrol in two and followed about 30 yds behind and on each side. Jerry heard them and went to ground in a clump of bushes on an open slope and opened fire on Hudson's group with a light automatic. Hudson fired back at the flash with his Beretta, emptied the mag of 40, changed mags, and emptied the 2nd one. The other half of Hudson's patrol threw grenades. The Germans threw 2 stick bombs and one of them came running at Hudson with a bomb in his hand. Fusilier Worsley shot him through the legs and he went down. The remaining Germans fled. The patrol counted and on the ground Hudson picked up one, but he started coughing blood so he put him down. The patrol brought back the man who was shot in the legs. Within the hour he was back in the Halstroff barracks and in 2½ hrs in our Metz CCS. He was an NCO in Hitler's SS. Hudson passed through Bizing on his way back, HQ of Maj "Wicks" "B" Coy who at once collected his Coy clerk, his batman and CQMS and the Brens and men of a Section of our Carriers. He went back with Hudson to the scene of the action, found 4 bodies, stripped them of their badges, arms and everything they could find in their pockets and returned unmolested. Next day at the Bde Conference, "Wicks" suggested placing grenades under the dead men's armpits so that anyone lifting the bodies would get blown to bits. Suggestion not taken seriously. The badges showed that one of the dead was an officer in a Jager Regt and that the other came from a motorized Recce Gp. One find was a diary giving the locations of the Divisions and Army Groups in which the owner had

served. Within a week Hudson and Worsley had their Croix de Guerre and shortly afterwards their MC and MM. Thoroughly deserved, but I think "Wicks" and his lads deserved more attention than they received.

The moral effect of this action was excellent. At 0550 the same morning we could see and hear lights going up and grenades exploding towards Rehfesche wood, a sure sign of nerves, as the patrols had long been home. Our own patrols became increasingly bold.

At 0600, going round with the rum, Cpl Pike of No.2 Sec reported he had stood-to since 0430 because the sentries had reported noises to their rear on their wire. Sent back to the command post for two men and went on with the immediate task, rum. The two men, my batman and Pt. Connolly arrived as we were visiting No.3 Sec. Off we went to search the forest behind No.13 Pl. As we were searching, we heard an explosion behind us which we took to be a shell burst. All we found was a black and white cow estimated dead 3 months. Later we learnt that the explosion was a light offensive grenade thrown by the French post 50 yds on our left. After many days in the line they were due to be relieved that morning and had seen nothing and fired not a round. They wanted to hear one grenade burst. They did, and it was 20 yds from No.3 Sec. parapet, who stayed under cover for ½ hour expecting attack. Vickery cooked me a marvellous bacon, egg and fried bread breakfast in a mess tin which I had in "bed". As the shelter roof was only 2½ ft above the straw, there was nowhere else to have it. He never allowed anyone to wake me from 0830 to 1030, following Busters dictum "never get up, even for General Gort, unless he asks for you personally". The gangway to my "bed" allowed sitting, but it had to house Vickery, my pocket primus and the signaller with his D5 and Fullerphone.

At midday Jack, with Cpl's Salmon and Pennicaird arrived in the odd attire the Bde fighting patrol affected. Jack borrowed our Beretta (a handy little sub machine gun with a magazine of 40 rimless .38 cartridges in the same place as a rifle magazine – better than the Thompson and our later Sten but it was Italian made). He took Toby and set out on a patrol to Lohwald wood. I finished my shave just in time to meet Bertie our CO. Went round the wire with him and had just reached our extreme left post when a gradually ascending whistle, a shriek, crump, cracking of branches in the forest behind us near the exit to the road. "That's a 105" said Bertie "fires a light alloy shell. Not near enough to bother us". At regular 2 min intervals the shells were coming over, as we walked back to the command post. Halfway there we saw the patrol running back up the hill, falling flat at the sound of every shell. We laughed. They were sure they had seen a man at the far edge of Lohwald who had spotted them and phoned back to have them shelled. "Nonsense" said Bertie, "none fell as near as a quarter of a mile of you. If you wore tin hats instead of those ridiculous little woolly things you'd feel safer". Jack returned with his two warriers to the Garde Mobile barracks at Halstroff, where he fell down the stairs injuring his knee, "C" Coys only casualty! But I thought there might be something in the stories of enemy observation from neighbourhood of Lohwald.

At 1630 the whistling and crumps started again, this time I thought it might be a mortar, from the direction of Waldwisse village. It could have been directed against parties of the relieving French unit, our neighbours, or it could have been registration. Got on to the French gunners by phone, but they would do nothing – close season for shelling villages. The shelling stopped our working parties making a proper double apron fence round the back of the posts, so at 1830 we took a reel of black thread and set strands across every possible entrance through the forest. At 0600 next morning it was all intact.

21 March. 0630 patrol down the Hermesbach (a small

brook) and up into the orchards of the Hermeswald. Big red hares sprinting away from us over the short yellow grass. I did not resist the temptation to take a rifle shot, a one for the pot shot. Some old digging and an uncompleted fence. We loaded up with wire and pickets as a working party of L.F.'s were due next afternoon. Meant to have enough to keep them busy.

0815 OP reported 2 men leaving the northern edge of Blauenberg wood going down to the stream, apparently drawing water. Also a sudden increase in the number and density of trees at the South to SE corner of the wood, assumed to be camouflage.

1130 visit by Capt Hudson, Beretta tucked under arm, himself immaculate in Service dress, polished buttons and blue forage cap, who gave us the information of the patrol action of the 20th. He also told us 5 pigs attended by 2 Germans had been seen on the Hermeswald. Showed him our OP in a tree overlooking the country towards the Hartbuch where Pte Martin, 14 Pl runner was keeping watch with a telescope – he reported “no swine seen”.

1230 Cooke of the Northants section of the Brigade Patrol came up, wanting to make a recce for a night patrol to the suspected enemy OP on Lohmuhl hill. Took him down into Lohwald wood. We pushed through to the far side, could see no sign of life on Lohmuhl hill, but through glasses thought we could see a lookout on the NE corner of Blauenberg wood. We could hear plainly the noise of tracked vehicles in our Grossenwald forest. A group apparently of 3 guns began shelling from behind Wissenwald. The French were using their tracked ration carriers, the Germans evidently suspected a tank attack.

1750 Buster had me brought back on the ration truck for a night's sleep and to discuss the move back to the Ligne de Receuil (reserve line). Coy HQ was in the Rectory at Halstroff. The stone wall round the garden had been loopholed and sandbag shelters made at the four corners, a mortar emplacement sat in the flower beds by the front door. All windows were heavily barred and shuttered at night. I found the floor hard, my Lilo having developed a puncture.

22 March. Woken by Buster at 0600 hrs and up with him to the command post in the forest. Made arrangements for the L.F. working party, Sgt Harrington to be in charge, to abandon work at his discretion if shelled or attacked. The L.F. party did a good job, new wire made the old look second rate. 1330 off by truck to take over details from “C” Coy 5th Northants of the Ligne de Receuil at Lacroix. Noted their mess was short of glasses and cutlery – voluntary discomfort not recommended. And that nobody seemed to take the defences of the Ligne de Receuil very seriously. Back at Halstroff by 1830 and a very fair supper of tinned sausages and tomatoes, pineapples (also tinned) and a soft white Alsatian cheese from the rations. 2100, whilst I was doing my 2 hrs on the phone, received a message about an amendment to a para in Brigade Intelligence summary, subject “Telephone in Lohwald”. As the circulation of this paper went CO, OCs A.B.C.D. Coys we reckoned we wouldn't get it till 0900 at the earliest (no movement was allowed at night). Buster said “They must have taken Jack's report seriously, we will have another look.”

23 March. Buster woke me 0800 and 0815 up we went to our Grossenwald forest. The command post was crowded, Capt Peter our MTO up for a night's front-line experience, 2 Jock TA officers each with a PSM. We discarded this additional amateur talent and took Peter and Ptes Bradford and Juett from No.13 Pl. Our Beretta sub-machine gun had been withdrawn for a grand raid by the Bde patrol on Zeurange the previous night, so we left with only rifles and grenades. I ducked through our wire, walked across to the edge of Lohwald wood, looked

around, then beckoned on the patrol. We went in line through the wood searching all the old workings till we got to the Eastern edge, and peered out over the open country towards the Railway embankment on which stood a long line of old railway trucks, no doubt pushed there as a tank obstacle. Nothing visible, but a magpie was squawking among the bushes along a little stream that flows into the Heltenbach. Cocked my revolver and walked out of the wood and down to the stream. 2 magpies flew away and there was nothing in the bushes, but where a little path crossed the stream a cut ash stick was standing with a cleft in its top, the signallers' normal method of passing a line over a brook. Perhaps there was something in this phone business! I waved to the patrol to stay put and followed the track up the Lohmuhl hill. The dew was silvery on the grass innocent of footmarks and a lark was singing above the apple trees along the track. Near the brook there was a slit trench apparently facing towards our Grossenwald but the old workings towards the crest were obviously sited to fire into Germany. Empty wine demijohns and French tins littered the surroundings, but no recent signs of occupation could be seen. Back to the wood and search along its Eastern edge. At the N E corner I could see two bushes up the hill, as Jack had said in his report. Sure enough under the further one there was a dark blob. Just cover it with his rifle and up the hill I started again. The object makes no sign or movement. I walk up to it and kick over an old tin that I hope will deceive no one else. Higher up on the crest I can see a brown earth parapet, something sticking over the edge. Drop down the hill and work round the north shoulder in dead ground. 30 yds on, crack, gedoing, from the direction of our Grossenwald. Round the shoulder, starting up the slope, crack from Waldwisse. Getting exciting, so up the hill and into the post with a rush. A pair of fieldglasses out of their case, something else longer in a leather case, a rifle with the bolt open and a cartridge gleaming in the breech, another lying on the parapet with the bolt closed. No-one in sight. Grab the lot, sling them over my head and back down the hill to the Lohwald wood. “What've you got there?” said Peter “and where the hell have you been?” “Collecting” said I and split the load with him. Back to the command post and then down to Coy HQ. Unloaded the rifles, cleaned the glasses and the long leather case (it held a grenade discharger) and found them ALL OF FRENCH MAKE. By their rusty state had been lying there for at least a month. An anticlimax, but at least a definite conclusion for Bde intelligence – no sign of recent enemy activity on Lohmuhl hill or in Lohwood. In went the report and 20 mins later round came 2 Lt B.F. from Bde patrol, rather indignant. He said, “of course I know it may be frightfully brave, but it's people like you who get ambushes laid for us”. I learnt afterwards that Coote had turned back the night before with his Bde patrol, reporting he was unable to reach Lohmuhl because of the bright moonlight. And that the day before, while the Bde patrol were planning a strongly armed raid on Zeurange by night, Wicks had walked there alone in the afternoon, entered the church, gone up the tower (believed before to be an enemy OP) found nothing, and returned unchallenged. The patrols amour propre was slighted by this casual treatment of its favourite playgrounds.

1200 hrs the first party of Northants arrived and our relief began.

“Dick”

The Queen's Return to the Bermondsey – continued.

In 1924 the drive for privately-raised funds for the Battalion, was spearheaded by Col Sir Henry McMahon, GGMG, GCVO, KCIE, CSI who succeeded General

The Rt Hon Sir Neville Lyttelton, as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Col McMahon, an old Haileyburer, was the grandson of a past Colonel of The Queen's a hundred years previously.

In 1925, Easter Camp was at Kingston and Summer camp at Worthing. 1926, Lt Col L.W. Bennett, OBE VD relinquished command and was succeeded by Lt Col R.C. Grant, OBE. Easter was spent with the East Surrey's at Kingston: a new experiment of joint Camps with the OTC's of Haileybury, Sherborne, Christ's Hospital and Westminster Schools at Haileybury was successful.

1927 saw some increase in numbers to 289 all ranks; the shortage of Officers from which the Battalion had been suffering since the Great War continued. Easter Camp was again held at the East Surrey Depot at Kingston and Camp as guests of Christ's Hospital at Horsham with contingents from Sherborne and Haileybury and the 19th London Regiment Cadet Corps.

Field Marshal The Viscount Allenby became a Vice President of the Battalion.

In 1928, Easter was spent with the East Surrey's at Kingston and Camp at Haileybury with 19th London Regiment and Detachments from Sherborne, Haileybury and Christ's Hospital.

In 1929, Easter was spent with the East Surrey's at Kingston with Camp at Haileybury. The Battalion's Annual Report referred to a shortage of Officers resident in London prepared to give at least 2 nights a week, whilst the Capitation Grant of 5/- per Cadet per year continued for a further year. The appeal for funds by way of public donations continued.

1930 was a year of anxiety for the Cadet system in general and the Corps in particular. Apart from a change of name from the 1st Cadet Battalion of the London Regiment (The Queen's) in 1929, in 1930 Government recognition was withdrawn and with it the Capitation Grant and rifles. In an endeavour to secure the continuation of the Cadet movement, a National Cadet Association was formed under the Chairmanship of Field Marshal Viscount Allenby with Branches throughout the country. The Battalion emerged as the Southwark Cadet Corps, a part of the City of London Cadet Brigade under the auspices of the Lord Mayor of London. The Corps retained its Queen's Paschal Lamb as its badge with the City Arms on its buttons.

Despite its problems, the Unit managed its Easter March to Kingston Barracks where the East Surrey's played host. The Summer Camp was held at Worthing.

Private subscriptions and donations amounted to almost £300 during the year with total expenditure of some £335.

A new experiment was tried by taking juniors between the ages 8 to 14 who paid a ½p per week as membership fees for the twice-weekly club night.

The Battalion lost another old friend with the death of Miss Harriet York, a close friend and fellow worker of the late Miss Octavia Hill. Miss York was a Committee member for some 40 years.

1931 brought the restoration of recognition. The Battalion was once again affiliated to the Queen's Royal Regiment.

In 1932, schemes of Social Service and neighbourhood schemes were introduced under the leadership of the Prince of Wales, the President of the Cadet Association, with particular emphasis on helping the unemployed. The Battalion, in conjunction with the City of London Cadet Brigade joined in a production of R. C. Sheriff's "Journey's End" in aid of the Brigade's Summer Camp funds. The Battalion was also successful in winning the King's Shield for Shooting and were joint winners of the Prince of Wales Boxing Shield. Once again, the Battalion marched to Kingston Barracks for its Easter Training. It is

interesting to read in the Battalion Report that Major Roupell VC was commanding the East Surrey's Depot and the Battalion was indebted for the kindness extended by him and the Surrey's for the enjoyable Camp.

Whilst Annual Camp was at Sandown IOW, the Forerunner of the many post '39-45 War Cadet Camps.

1933/34 Camps were at Lydden Spout high on the cliffs between Dover and Folkestone.

In 1935, the usual Easter Camp was enjoyed with the East Surrey's with Summer Camp at Gosport where they were joined by members of the Sherborne School OTC.

By 1935, numbers had started to increase, the Battalion taking part with representative parties lining the processional route of the King George V Jubilee celebrations. Whilst Easter Training was at Kingston the Annual Camp was at Southend, when with the shadows of War beginning to overhang events, the Medium Brigade of the Royal Artillery provided demonstrations of 12 pr QF with rides on Dragons on the Southend Sands.

In 1936, the Battalion mourned the death of Field Marshal Lord Allenby who for so long was a Vice President of the Battalion. Also Col Kirkham who joined the Westminster Company in 1915 and devoted himself for 21 years to the day of his death to the interests of the Company and its Cadets, purchasing the Headquarters at Lammas Hall, Battersea.

The Battalion spent its Easter at Kingston when Major General Sir Wilkinson Bird, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment inspected the Battalion following Church Parade. 53 Cadets joined the Services, 36 joining the Territorial Army during the year.

A Place Remembered

For all these years Bourlon Wood was so clear in my memory, that I could draw a picture of it as it was on the twenty-fifth day of November 1917 when the 40th Division took part in the battle of Cambrai with the tanks lined up in majestic force on the day the battle commenced, but were completely absent when my battalion of the East Surrey Regiment attempted to capture the village of Bourlon five days later.

After having lain all night in the field in front of the village with the soft November drizzle soaking us to the skin we were ordered at 6.30 am to advance through the village and form a new line as far beyond the village as possible. We were told that two companies of the HLI were cut-off beyond the village and we were to relieve them. Our entry was not spectacular. We were all like stiff rheumaticky old men after so many hours lying, rain-soaked, on the wet ground, our uniforms and equipment dripping like wet clothes newly pegged on a garden line.

So at 6.30 am we made our way through the main street of the village, searching each house as we went but finding no-one. The civilian population had been removed by the Germans a year or so before this stage of the war. Finding no opposition we advanced more easily until we were within about twenty yards of the cross-roads. And then enemy machine guns opened up from almost every upper room of the visible houses and our casualties were severe. We left the roadway and worked our way through the back gardens, but could not advance more than a few yards as the machine guns seemed to have the whole area covered. We were ordered to retire to the starting-off position. A party of eight men was ordered to work our way through the wood to attack the machine gun nests from the flank. We came to a sunken road running through the wood from which we could see the tops of the houses where the machine guns were located. We fired into the windows and hoped we had destroyed a gun or gun crew.

About an hour later the remains of the battalion had made their way through the wood and joined us in the sunken road. Presumably our presence in the sunken road was a threat to the enemy. They attacked us several times during the night, but did not manage to enter the sunken road. The next night they shelled us heavily. The shells burst in the treetops and brought branches down on us with the shrapnel. The third night was similar and the following day we were ordered to vacate the wood in groups of ten and to assemble at the Hindenburg Line.

With these memories I always had a wish to visit the battle areas with Bourlon in particular, but until 1981, sixty-four years after the event, I never managed to do so. I had visited Ypres and thereabouts, but I had not visited Cambrai for reasons that I now know were trivial.

We decided to take our caravan, my son organising the trip, to see Arras and Cambrai and to include as much of the area as possible in our ten day expedition.

We caught the car ferry from Dover and saw the "shaft" barracks' steps or the front of them, as for some reason the local authority had fenced them in and the actual steps themselves could be seen by prior arrangement only. These were the steps ascending in the shape of a corkscrew – three separate spirals, one for officers, one for other ranks and one for the female appendages and their children – that as part of our physical jerks we chased up and down each morning before breakfast, presumably to harden us to meet the rigours of trench life in France.

We drove off the ferry at Calais. I hardly recognised the place. I did not expect to see the old lady standing on the quay from whom I bought a bar of gritty chocolate – which put me off French chocolate for many years, nor the tall French officer who stood in the latticed iron urinal waving to the disembarking British troops marvelling that he could do two things at the same time. We were astonished at his audacity and the absence of interest by the female population. That was many years ago but this was 1981 and we were looking for a caravan site. We were told there was one about twenty kilometres along the road to Arras. Just in front of us was a caravan outfit with the familiar "G.B." markings so we asked the driver if he was going to a site on the way to Arras. He said he would be parking on the roadside for the night but we could follow him if we wished. We did so for quite a distance until the darkness and a disconcerting mist caused us to lose sight of our guide and we decided to stop the night at the very next lay-by. We slept quite well despite the noise of the umpteen-wheeled lorries passing us every few minutes missing us, it seemed, by inches. It was like sleeping on a railway platform as non-stop trains thundered through, but much more frequently than at Clapham Junction. We asked for water at the only house within sight as we were very short of that commodity, had a very good breakfast of eggs, tomatoes and bacon etc. and set off again for Arras.

We found the site in Arras by some miracle and set up our caravan for the one night we expected to stay there. It was a clean well-kept site with hard standing for the caravan and well-kept grassland for tents and canopies. We liked it so much that we stayed there within a few days of having to return home.

With Arras as our base we planned to tour the battlefields.

We found Bourlon Wood without difficulty. It is clearly signposted on the main road. We were so surprised to find it that we had almost passed it. It must have been the road we had marched along on that wet November evening in 1917. But it looked so different! Naturally I did not expect to find the smashed limbers or gun carriages nor, of course, the bodies we marched past with no concern for their fate. But the well cultivated fields and even the "pick it yourself" fruit farm began to make me feel that I had dreamed those far-off events. I must admit I

had a strange feeling of fear on seeing the name Bourlon Wood so blatantly displayed for all to see. I had never seen the name before except on maps in more recent years. I knew then that Bourlon Wood was a real place and not a nightmarish top-of-the-bill item in my dreams. And then we came to the village. I never dreamt it was so big. All I had seen of it in those days was a hundred yards or so of the main street with the cross roads ahead, and then the backs of the empty houses after we had been ordered out of the machine-gunned street and then, of course, the tops of the houses when we crept into the sunken lane through the wood to locate the machine guns in the village. It was a bit different. Houses had been built in the field where we had lain all night in the drizzling rain. We drove along the road where so many of our friends had died. And then we came to the sign. "Bourlon Wood Canadian Memorial." We never saw any Canadians, in fact so far as I knew there were no Canadians in our Division at the battle of Cambrai. We found, however, that the Canadians took part in a battle for the Wood some time later and the cemetery testified to their many casualties. But not a sign of any memorial to the East Surrey Regiment although their casualties were in hundreds. We drove along the sunken lane through the wood until it was too churned up, obviously by a farmer's tractor, for our car so we proceeded on foot. We came to the very spot where three of us had fired almost all our ammunition into the upper windows of the houses, and where a very old friend of mine was killed by a bullet through the cheek just below the eye. I was talking to him at the time. There was no noise. He just dropped stone dead. It was the sunken lane in which the remains of my battalion had resisted many attacks during the three days we were there. The wood had become very overgrown. When we were there the ground was carpeted with a layer of dead leaves and the large trees were separated like soldiers in extended order, but now it would be very difficult for anyone to creep through it. I stayed on that spot for several minutes thinking of the men I had known. Strangely enough I could only remember about half a dozen faces and less than half that number of names. And strangest of all I could not even remember the name of my friend who had stood beside me and dropped dead so silently. Such is the mental erasure of time! Presumably when we retired from the Wood the Germans removed all our dead to the rear areas and buried them in a convenient place somewhere behind their own lines.

There was one sign of the presence of the 40th Division. We went inside the church and saw the very nice altar that had been presented to the church by the 40th Division and I was quite pleased about that. I do not know if I was guilty of sacrilege but I took a photograph of the altar. It was so dark in the church that the photograph was a blank when it was developed. So I must have been forgiven!

We called in the village self-service shop. A very modern bright little business. Something I never could have thought existed there! The delightful young lady assistant said she could speak English so our hesitant French was no longer painfully necessary. She said her sister had married an Englishman and lived in Nottingham and she was going there for a holiday soon. I took a photograph of the shop the young lady kindly coming out to pose in front of the shop.

Our next trip was to Vimy Ridge where the Canadians had some hard fighting to do. Their memorial is a magnificent edifice and one would think that a whole nation had died there when reading the hundreds and hundreds of the names of the dead. And incidentally we found the name of a relative who had emigrated to Canada and then joined the Canadian forces and died in France. So far as we know he has no relatives alive in Canada to tell of our information, but perhaps that is just as well.

Our ten-day excursion was coming to an end so we made our way to Cherbourg to stay one night at the Pines site just outside the town and then took the ferry to Portsmouth. We got used to the traffic in France and did not lose our way once, even in the most intricate situation, but finding our way off the ferry was the most aggravating experience of the whole trip. Not a sign anywhere and no one in charge, but all doing something we knew not wot. As we were foot passengers on the return journey we were lugging our suitcases up and down steps, in and out of corridors until we were completely exhausted.

F.C. Wynne

Daniel Jones, Esq., Colonel of the Queen's Regiment of Foot and Lieut-General of His Majesty's Forces.

Died Nov. 18, 1793, Aged 65.

This inscription was found by Mr. D. James in the churchyard of All Saints Church, Sanderstead, Surrey recently. It is cut into a flat tombstone about 7 ft. by 4 ft. which is rain-washed but in good condition. Colonel Daniel Jones was appointed on 1st August 1777 to command the regiment, coming from the 3rd Foot Guards. In a letter dated 31st March 1778, Major-General Jones was ordered to provide camp-gear for the regiment. He died in command as Lieut-General in 1793.

Deaths

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

Catchpole-On 18 May 1982, Reginald Herbert John Catchpole (66816), aged 82. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1918-1919 before being transferred to the Royal Engineers. Has been a staunch supporter of the Association since 1920.

Clarke-On 16 May 1982, Colonel Edward George Herris Clarke OBE MC, aged 92. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1910-1930 and in various Staff appointments from 1939-1945 (See obituary).

Edwards-On 20 September 1982, Major William Garnet (Teddy) Edwards, aged 68. Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) from 1947 to 1953.

Ellis-Earlier this year John Ellis, after a long illness. He served in 5th Queen's between 1939 and 1946, after which he joined the OMA and attended all functions.

Jennings-On 1 August 1982, Colonel Michael Turberville Nevill Jennings CBE, aged 66. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1938-1972. Brigade Colonel The Home Counties Brigade 1961-1964. (See obituary).

Kidson-On 25 August 1982, at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond-on-Thames, CSM Rowland Ernest (Tiny) Kidson (6078148), aged 84. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in France, India, Sudan and Palestine from 1915-1939. A staunch supporter of the Regimental Association and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association, for many years he was right marker at the Remembrance Day Parades at Kingston-upon-Thames. He entered the Royal Star and Garter Home in 1980.

Lawrence-On 24 May 1982, Arthur Lawrence (6094160), aged 64. Served in the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940-1944 and later

with REME. He lost the use of his legs and arms in 1951 and in 1958 was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond where he remained until his death, confined to a wheel chair which he operated with his chin. He bore his severe disabilities with cheerfulness, courage and great fortitude.

Marshall-On 5 April 1982, CSM George Frederick (Freddie) Marshall (6189821), aged 82. Served in the Middlesex Regiment from 1917-1921; the 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regiment from 1921-1948, and the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) from 1948-1955. A dedicated regimental soldier, he was a founder member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association, the 6th East Surreys Veterans Company, and a staunch member of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association.

Mason-On 30 July 1982, Lt Col John Harradine Mason DSO TD. Served in the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment TA from 1939-1951. (See obituary)

Neil-On 23 July 1982, Cpl Herbert Henry Neil (6082143), aged 80. Served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924-1932 in Malta and China. Recalled to the colours in 1939 he served at the 13th Infantry Training Centre and No. 22 RAF Training Centre.

Nicholls-On 29 March 1982, Captain Ronald Charles ('Nick') Nicholls, aged 68. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1929-1949 and was for many years Assistant Grants Secretary to The Army Benevolent Fund where he gave sympathetic and dedicated assistance to all in need.

Peel-Yates-On 4 May 1982, in South Africa, Captain E.J. Peel-Yates. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1940-1946 and was President of the COGGESEHALL Branch of The Far East Prisoners of War Association from 1952-1959.

Pope-On 1 June 1982, Lt Col R.J. Pope, OBE TD, aged 76. He joined 6th Queen's in 1924. (See obituary)

Sellicks-On 1 July 1982, Lt Col (QM) Stanley Harry Sellicks, aged 77. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919-1959 (See obituary).

Regimental Families

Deaths

Burgess-On 18 April 1982, Mrs Ida Jane Burgess, aged 85, widow of Lt Col H.S. Burgess TD, late 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and mother of Lt Col J.H.S. Burgess OBE Intelligence Corps (late The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment).

Roadnight-On 4 July 1982, Mrs Lillie Roadnight, wife of Captain (QM) W.K. Roadnight MBE, late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Bequest

Mrs Phyllis Wilson, widow of the late Major R.C. Wilson, of The Queen's Royal Regiment, died on 15 September 1981. In her Will she bequeathed the sum of £2,700 to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Charitable Fund.

Obituaries

H.A. Baile (6081190)

Harry Baile died recently in California. He served in 1st Queen's Signals Section from 1923 to 1931, at Dover,

Hong Kong and possibly, Malta. After discharge he drove a taxi-cab in London, often picking up the writer from whom payment was not accepted. His previous CO "Nobby" Clarke was once picked up and thought he recognised Harry, who admitted it could have been "somewhere". Reminiscences were exchanged with the writer following a letter to this Newsletter.

Harry Baile served in the Home Guard during the last war, and then emigrated to Canada – settling finally in California.

G.M.E.M.

The Right Reverend David Brown Bishop of Guildford

Many of our members will have read of the sudden death on 13 July 1982 of Bishop Brown at the age of 60. He was appointed Bishop of Guildford in 1973 and the trumpeters of 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment played at his Enthronement in Guildford Cathedral on 17th November of that year. He preached to our Regimental Association at our Annual Cathedral Service at Guildford on 11 June 1978. Bishop Brown, who prior to his enthronement had been Vicar of Herne Bay, impressed all who met him with his simplicity, sincerity and youthful personality. His kindly presence in the Guildford Diocese will be sadly missed.

F.J.R.

Colonel E.G.H. Clarke, OBE MC

Edward Clarke who died on 16 May 1982 was born on 11 September 1889 and educated at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. On 3 September 1910 he was commissioned to The East Surrey Regiment from the 16th (The Queen's) Lancers and posted to the 1st Battalion. He was present at the Defence of Hill 60 in 1915 and was awarded the Military Cross in May of that year.

An athlete of considerable ability, he was loaned to the newly formed Royal Air Force from 1918-1921 to organise physical training and recreation. He was the highest placed British competitor in the Olympic Games Modern Pentathlon at Antwerp in 1920; held Army and RAF colours for fencing; and represented the British Services in the European Fencing Championship at The Hague in 1920. He was in the Army Revolver Thirty from 1921-1924 and winner of the Army Foil Championship in 1924.

Retiring from the Army in 1930, he was recalled in 1939 and held several Staff appointments, being promoted Colonel in 1942.

After the 1939-45 War he held various civil appointments most notable of which were those of Secretary to The Victoria League and Director-General of the Friends of Malta. He was also a founder member of the British Boxing Board of Control. He was awarded the OBE in 1962.

F.J.R.

Colonel M.T.N. Jennings, CBE BA

Mike Jennings who died on 1st August 1982, was educated at Uppingham and Cambridge University, being commissioned to The Queen's Royal Regiment as a University Candidate in 1938 and serving with the 2nd Battalion of that Regiment in England and the Middle East from 1938 to 1941.

From November 1941 he held several grade 3 and grade 2 staff appointments including Brigade Major of 14 Infantry Brigade in India and Burma, until July 1951 when he was appointed Second in Command of the 1st Bn

The Queen's Royal Regiment in BAOR.

After two years as GSOI at the Portuguese Staff College from 1953-1955 he assumed command of the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) relinquishing this appointment to become GSOI Defence Force, Hong Kong. From 1961-1964 he held the appointment of Brigade Colonel, The Home Counties Brigade, after which he had two staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence, retiring from the Army in 1972. He was awarded the CBE in the New Year's Honours List in 1969. A man with a quiet and pleasant personality, he was a keen sailor and a great supporter of the RNLI. He leaves a widow and one son to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Lt Col J.H. Mason, DSO

John Mason who died on 30 July 1982, served with distinction in the Territorial Army. Educated at Marlborough College he was commissioned to the 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in 1939, serving in that battalion as Platoon and Company Commander in France, Belgium and the Western Desert from 1940-1943, as Second in Command in Tunisia and Italy, including the Salerno landing in 1943, and as Commanding Officer in North West Europe in 1944, being twice wounded. In December 1944 he was appointed Commanding Officer of the 13th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, an appointment he held until his release from the Army in May 1946. On the reformation of the Territorial Army he again assumed command of the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) until his retirement in 1951. He was awarded the DSO in 1944. An athlete of no mean ability, he was the Hertfordshire County Champion 120 yards Hurdler and the High Jump from 1937-1939, and the Territorial Army Champion 120 yards Hurdler in 1939.

At one time Assistant Managing Director of the British Metal Corporation, he was Court Assistant and Liveryman of the Vintners Company. He leaves a widow and three sons to whom our condolences have been expressed.

Lt Col R.J. Pope, OBE, TD

Lt Col R.J. Pope served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924-48, joining the 1/6th Queen's as a 2/Lt. In 1939, as a Major, he was one of two TA officers to be selected to attend The Staff College, Camberley, to undergo a special course, which he passed with flying colours. On leaving Staff College he was posted to Malta Command as OC Dock Control Unit. In 1943 he was promoted to Lt Col and awarded the OBE for service in the Malta Command. He was then posted to Austria. Later he took up residence in Shalford where I met him. He joined the 5th Queen's OMA and attended the reunions regularly, and was also the auditor for the association.

R.A.M.

Lieutenant-Colonel S.H. Sellicks

Stan Sellicks who died on 1st July 1982, was a very loyal and respected "Queensman" and the Regiment has lost another stalwart member. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1919 and served in the 1st Battalion of the Regiment from then until 1933 in China and Malta, attaining the rank of ORQMS. From 1933-1937 he was ORQMS at the Depot at Stoughton and in 1937 was posted to be RQMS at the Staff College, Camberley, becoming RSM there in 1938. In December 1939 he was

granted an Emergency Commission, and held several appointments in the Sudan, Egypt and West Africa until 1947 when he was appointed Staff Captain 'A', HQ South West District. In 1944 he was granted a regular Quarter-master Commission and was QM of the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) from 1948-1952, after which he held a number of Staff appointments in BAOR until 1954 when he became QM of the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) relinquishing that appointment in 1957. In 1957 he was promoted to the rank of Lieut-Colonel (QM) and again served on the Staff at HQ BAOR. He retired in 1959. To his widow Muriel, and his son Nigel, we all offer our very sincere sympathy.

J.B.H.K.

Lieutenant H.E. Winder

Henry Edward Winder who has died in Johannesburg, aged 85, joined The East Surrey Regiment straight from school. He was posted to the 12th Battalion and saw action at Ypres, the Somme and Flers, where he took part in the first tank action. He was severely wounded on patrol in December 1916, and was never fit enough to return to active service.

After the War, Teddy studied art at University College, London, for two years before accepting a post as cartoonist on the Rand Daily Mail. For the next 60 years he worked for the South African Newspapers Group as cartoonist and, during the Second World War, also as cartographer.

Teddy maintained a great interest in Regimental affairs throughout his long life. He will be remembered as a great enthusiast who was always cheerful, although he suffered a good deal from his war wounds. He married another artist and they had one son who became a major in the Volunteer Force of South Africa.

P.G.E.H.

Malayan Incident

The History of The Queen's Royal Regiment records a spirited engagement against Communist Terrorists in the Malayan jungle on 6th June 1954. In this action, Cpl J. Sibley of the 1st Battalion was wounded and his water bottle shattered by a grenade. Mr Sibley has recently presented his damaged water bottle to the Regimental Museum, and has sent this account of the engagement.

'On 5th June 1954, I was corporal in charge of a small routine patrol which was operating in the area of Rompin. We happened to find fresh bandit tracks which, according to our Iban tracker, were no more than two hours old. We followed these tracks until it started to get dark when we returned to base. I reported to the Company Commander who sent us out the next day with a patrol of platoon strength, with orders to follow up.

After a few hours, we stopped for a few minutes break in a small clearing at the top of a hill. I was leading scout with two Iban trackers, and the rest of the patrol were strung out behind. Fortunately we were all still and making no noise. Myself and the Ibans heard the bandits coming long before they reached the clearing where we were waiting. We killed the first two instantly. We think we wounded a third, but could not be sure. We believe that two got away. After the first two were killed, there was a blinding flash in front of me, and that was the last I knew about anything for a few minutes.

When I came to, the men were tying the bandits on to poles ready to take them back for identification. It was a grenade that one of the bandits must have thrown, and it put me out of action for ten weeks. A piece of shrapnel hit

me just above my right eye, fracturing my skull at the same time.'

"War in the Desert – The 8th Army at El Alamein".

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of El Alamein a book has been published dealing with the ordinary soldiers' experiences rather than the overall strategy. The title is shown above and the publishers are Arms and Armour Press. Contents are 288 pages plus 16 pages of plates, and the cost is £9.95. (I have not seen the book myself, but the pre-publication write-up seems very encouraging – Editor).

"Algiers to Austria"

The above-named history of the 78th (Battleaxe) Division in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Austria – 1942/45, was published at the end of the war. Demand was so great that the book has been out of print for several years.

Under the auspices of the 78 Division Battleaxe Club, the book is to be reprinted this Autumn. The cost is £6 per copy including postage, and orders and cheques made payable to "Battleaxe Club" should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Club:–

Ian McKee MBE
The Cottage
Crawley Court
Crawley
Winchester
Hants SO21 2QB

1848-1867 Colours of the 31st Foot

Mr D. James has recently been carrying out some research into the old colours of the 31st Foot and found those presented in 1848 had been laid up in 1867 in a Huntingdonshire church, where they had become an embarrassment to the Church Council. It will be appreciated that these colours had replaced those carried during the bloody campaign of the 1st Sikh War 1845-6 and had themselves been carried at Sebastopol and the Taku Forts expedition. Fortunately contact was made via the British Model Soldier Society with a serving WO ("Paddy" Ryan) of the Queen's Regiment and the colours were "rescued". The Regimental Colour has since been restored and is now in a gilt frame, together with its original brass pike, in the Sergeants' Mess of 1st Queen's.

Both Mr D. James and W.O. Ryan are deserving of our thanks for their efforts.

The East Surrey Regiment Memorial Gates – Kingston Upon Thames

In 1924, The East Surrey Regiment erected at the Market Place entrance to All Saints Parish Church, Kingston upon Thames, a pair of ornate wrought iron gates as a memorial to the officers and men of that regiment who fell during the 1914-18 War. They were dedicated on Armistice Day 1924 by the Bishop of Kingston. It was an appropriate place for such a memorial as All Saints Church houses the Regimental Chapel of The East Surrey Regiment. In 1946 this memorial was further dedicated to include all those of the Regiment who died during the 1939-45 War.

In 1963 it was seen that the gates needed repainting and that the badge required to be re-gilded and re-silvered. On that occasion the Royal Borough of Kingston upon

Thames undertook to have the gates and badge completely refurbished at the expense of the Royal Borough – a gesture of friendship that was much appreciated at the time.

Early last year, Lt Col John Sherrard noticed that the gates and badge had once again deteriorated and that some urgent repair and re-painting was needed. He, on behalf of the Regiment, approached the Royal Borough to find out whether further aid might be forthcoming. As a result of this inquiry, Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis, as President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association wrote to the Royal Borough soliciting aid for such work from the Borough Lottery Fund. This was granted, and the Borough's Director of Technical Services, Brigadier Reg Tibble and his staff undertook to engage a contractor and to supervise the work on the basis that the cost of approximately £800 would be shared by the Royal Borough and the Regiment. The work was completed at the end of March 1982.

These gates are one of the three tangible relics left to show that Kingston upon Thames was once a Garrison Town and that its own Regiment was The East Surrey Regiment. It is heart-warming to know that the Borough still supports our present and former Regiment, and we are grateful for the goodwill shown to our Regimental Association by the Councillors, Officers and Staff at all levels, of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Those of us who served with the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at TEL-EL-KEBIR in 1953-54 may remember our Brigade EME officer – he is none other than Brigadier Reg Tibble! Small world!

F.J.R.

The Capture of Fallingbostel April 1945

Captain J.D.K. Russell – Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment stationed in BAOR at Fallingbostel – would be very interested to hear from any former members of the 1/5th Battalion regarding the advance from the River Aller to Soltau in April 1945. He is particularly interested in the capture of the town of Fallingbostel and the relief of the POW camps. He hopes to produce a detailed account of this period, and information in the form of personal anecdotes, photographs, maps or any other material would be invaluable. All material received will, of course, be returned.

The Closure of Stoughton Barracks

On 29th April, Brigadier Pat Ellwood, the Director of Management Services (Army) very kindly invited Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis and me to a luncheon at Stoughton Barracks to mark the closure of the old Queen's Royal Regiment's Depot as an Army barracks. Most of the buildings are now scheduled for demolition prior to the land being sold for development.

It was a nostalgic occasion for both of us: I had been the last Commanding Officer of the Depot from 1957-59, and Brigadier Geoffrey was Director of Management Services there from 1974-77. As can be imagined, anecdotes about the Depot and the many unforgettable characters who served there were in full flow throughout lunch; for within those mellow red brick walls repose more than a century of Army history.

In the midst of much understandable sadness it was good to hear that the Keep and the Archway incorporating the Paschal Lamb will be retained by the Ministry of Defence as preserved buildings. So at least one small reminder of our Regiment will live on in Stoughton.

R.S.N.M.

The East Surrey Regiment – Officers' Dinner

A successful dinner was held in July 1981 in London for all officers commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment – Regular, Territorial, during the War and National Service.

There has been a strong demand for a "repeat performance". Therefore a similar dinner has been arranged for the 8th April 1983 at the same venue – The East India, Devonshire, Sports & Public Schools Club, 16 St. James's Square, London W.1.

Notices will be posted in due course to all officers who were notified last time. Any officer who is interested and did not receive a notification of the previous dinner should contact Lt Colonel Tony Hannaford, The Garden Flat, 19 West Hill Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0NA, tel: Hastings 426051 or Major Peter Spearling, Albury Park, Albury, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9BB, tel: Shere 2847.

7th Armoured Division Officers' Club

During the past few years, membership of the 7th Armd Div ('Desert Rats') Officers' Club, which is open to all officers who served in the Division during or after World War II, has increased considerably and is now approaching the 150 mark.

The Club holds its Annual Dinner in London early in December, and at the 1981 one representation from the old QUEENS included Desmond Gordon, who commanded 1st/7th QUEENS, and Bill Kanback and Michael Forrester both of whom commanded 1st/6th QUEENS. It was a splendid evening when many old friendships were revived.

The 1982 Dinner, which is to be held at the Naval and Military Club on Wednesday 1st December, will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. In view of the large part played by the old QUEENS and 131 Bde in the life and successes of the Division from El Alamein onwards, the President, Maj-Gen G.P.B. Roberts, looks forward very much to welcoming more of their members.

Anyone wishing to join should write to the Hon Secretary, who is: Maj Christopher Milner, MC, Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcester WR7 4LP.

The "Unsung Heroes" of ALAMEIN – 1942.

Major K.A. Jessup – ex OC Carrier Platoon and ex adjutant 1/7th Queen's writes:-

Throughout the forty years since this time, there have been thoughts recurring in my mind concerning the part played in the battle by the 1/7th Queen's, which to my knowledge has not been previously recorded in detail. It is surely owed to the 11 officers and 180 or more NCO's and men of this Bn who lost their lives or were seriously wounded during the first few hours fighting, to have certain facts placed on record – their deeds should not be allowed to pass into obscurity.

With an already depleted Bn of about 400 men (mainly owing to the preceding battles of Alam el Halfa and the continued straightening of "the bulge" at the Munassib depression) the 1/7th Queen's went into action on the night of 23rd October. In a tragic few hours the CO and every Company Commander was lost or out of action. The Adj't was seriously wounded as were other officers. The consequence of this was the bravery and courage of all concerned in the action went unrecognised, and much information has been omitted from historical record.

The overall strategy of the battle is, of course, known to most. For their particular part the 1/7th Queen's were

pitted against the entire Folgore Division, having passed through lines of dummy tanks, gun emplacements and other supporting arms of a subterfuge nature, in their approach to the assembly area. In no sense was the subsequent action a failure, as Rommel committed his Panzer divisions to the south, as intended. This enabled the final break-through in the north of the line to take place without strong armoured counter-attacks, which would otherwise have been the case.

The 1/7th Queen's created gaps in the enemy-protected minefields ably supported by members of the Field Regt RE, to allow the 1/5th and 1/6th Queen's to pass through and create a bridgehead the following night. Much historical data has been recorded in the official Regimental History, but many lesser known facts having a bearing on the particular action of 1/7th Queen's have not been brought to light. For example:-

- a) a last moment decision of higher authority to bring down counter-battery fire earlier than the main barrage at 22.00 hrs resulting in retaliatory shelling on obviously pre-arranged DF tasks. The result was a bombardment of the "start line" of the 1/7th before the main barrage and subsequent advance commenced.
- b) the withdrawal of our Bren gun carriers some weeks before the battle meant the disbandment of the Carrier Platoon. The NCO's and men of this platoon were distributed around the rifle companies where the need was greatest, but others were, as it happened disastrously, used to carry the heavy No. 11 RT sets of the Signal platoon. Improvised wooden stretchers were made by the pioneers to assist the signallers, who would otherwise have carried these sets on their backs in webbing packs. Nearly all the ex-Carrier personnel and signallers were killed or wounded on the start line, or shortly after the advance, resulting in all inter-communication by radio becoming non-existent.

The minefields were, however, crossed and the Italian forces engaged.

The CO, Lt Col R. Burton, was killed during his escape from the enemy. I was later informed that Major Jack Colebrook died in enemy hands after being seriously wounded and tended by his faithful batman, Pte Card, who refused to leave him.

Unfortunately, in view of the heavy casualties among senior officers, no awards for gallantry, either posthumous or otherwise, were able to be submitted. A change of Bde Commander also perhaps accounts for a certain lack of detailed information during the course of the Alamein action.

Lt Col R. Senior who had previously been 2 i/c of 1/7th Queen's, and promoted to command a Bn of RWK, returned to take over his old unit some 2 or 3 days after the initial encounter. The remnants of the Bn consisting mainly of the specialised support platoons of HQ Coy and "B" Echelon personnel, were grouped and made up to strength with reinforcements. It was then that 131 Bde became the motorised infantry of 7th Armoured Division and continued to take part in the break-through in the north of the Alamein lines. From then onwards, 131 Bde was rarely out of range of enemy guns until the fall of Tunis some 7 months later.

I hope this very brief account will act as an aide-memoire to other survivors of 1/7th Queen's on this 40th anniversary year of the Alamein battle.

The Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen

This Home, situated at Richmond-Upon-Thames, Surrey on the hill overlooking the Thames and close to the entrance to Richmond Park, was the subject of an Appeal

in our last Newsletter. We have eight former soldiers of our Regiment now resident there, and two of our Members, Mr. E.G. Alsop and Mr. Bill Warren pay regular visits to the Home. They ask that if anyone is in the Richmond area, they too will pay a visit to some of our less fortunate comrades there.

The names and Regiments of the patients at Richmond are:

The Queen's Royal Regiment

Mr. R.E. Kidson (6078143) - 1 and 2 QUEENS 1919-39

Mr. G. Clayton (2690) - QUEENS 1914-18

Mr. C. Wooton - QUEENS 1940-45

Mr. W. Pyke (724564) - 24 London 1915

The East Surrey Regiment

Mr. W.M. Randall (6151016) - Surreys 1942-43

Mr. W. Jenkins (6144912) - Surreys 1939-45

Mr. G.W. Brown (6137908) - Surreys 1932-45

Mr. A.E. Sweeney (6132445) - Surreys 1913-34

The Mansel Diaries

In 1977 details of this fascinating book were given in the Newsletter. Information has been received that some unsold copies are available at a reduced price.

The diaries record the reactions to capture and imprisonment, over a period of five years, of a British Officer prisoner in Germany. The diarist - Captain John Mansel of "B" Company, 2/5th Queens's - spent the bulk of his waking hours during captivity in forging passes and other necessary documents to aid would-be escapers.

Copies may be obtained from:

Mrs. G. Barnard (ex Mansel),
Kingsmoor Cottage, Chapel Lane,
Salford, Chipping Norton,
Oxfordshire OX7 5YN

Price: by post £4; if collected from this address £3.

The Surrey Star

In the last issue of the Newsletter information was sought on the Surrey Star, the unit flash worn by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War. Memories are a bit shaky now after so many years, but the general consensus of opinion indicates:-

1. The Surrey Star was introduced when the 1st Battalion was stationed in Bournemouth in late 1940 or early 1941.
2. It was worn on both sleeves underneath the Divisional flash.
3. It was worn by the 1st Battalion only.
4. It was last worn by the 1st Battalion in Greece in 1949.

D-Day Museum, Portsmouth

The D-Day Fellowship intend to open a museum about D-Day in Portsmouth. They would be glad to know of any suitable items which may be available. Anything from bootlaces to landing craft would be of interest to them. Initial replies to:-

Major F.J. Snowdon TD,
Gentian Cottage,
Old Mill Place,
Pulborough, Sussex.