

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

Regimental Association Newsletter

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Colonel J.W. Sewell
Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE
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Regimental Headquarters
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Editorial

Sadly Captain Ken Brooks who has borne the load as Editor so well for seven years felt at Christmas time that he could no longer continue. The President has paid tribute to him, and I believe all those who have read the Newsletter over the last years will also wish to be associated in sending Ken good wishes and thanks for all he has done for us.

There are special advantages in having the Newsletter run from other than R H Q, and not only because of the need, where possible to spread the load of all the work that has to be done to keep the Association functioning and supporting its members. It is very much hoped therefore that it will be possible to replace Ken Brooks within the Association, and so any offers of any sort of help will be extremely welcome. In the meantime however copy for this Newsletter has been assembled at Canterbury, and until other arrangements are made all articles, contributions and letters should continue to come here. Please keep these coming in, although also remember we only have limited space so make them as concise as you can - and if they can be typed in double spacing it will be a great help.

In this Newsletter we are especially commemorating the Battle of Cassino, in which two Battalions of The East Surrey Regiment took part, the crossing of the River Rapido by the 1/6th Battalion being amongst the outstanding achievements of the war in Italy. These contributions fit in with the special exhibition, which has been put together at the Museum at Clanton. The Battle of Cassino led on to the liberation of Rome, which on the other side of Europe was immediately followed by "D Day", and this is marked by a graphic account of the exploits of the 1/7th Queen's written by Major General Desmond Gordon, who was their Commanding Officer in Normandy. (Many other members of our Regiments at that time may echo "The Two Types" who asked "Which 'D Day' do they mean, Old Man?").

We intend to go on to feature the War in The Far East next year, and for this reason those who were there, especially members of 2nd Battalion East Surreys, will it is hoped note the visit of Mr Chye Loong at the beginning of June.



"When they call us D-Day Dodgers -
Which D-Day do they mean, old man?"

The passing on of distinguished members of the Regiment is always sad to record, and in this edition we have particularly to salute Brigadier R A Boxshall, Lieutenant-Colonel 'Bart' Kennedy, and WO II Charles Cronk.

Finally in this editorial may I restate the obvious that the Newsletter is the main medium through which all members of the Association can keep in touch. Many old soldiers are members of the old Associations or Battalion Associations but unless they subscribe to the Newsletter they miss out on the notification of events, and cannot be "in touch". I hope therefore many more may feel they would like to subscribe, and please get in touch with me at R H Q if you would like to be added to the list or know of anyone who is missing out.

President's Notes

It is a great privilege for me to have taken over from Geoffrey Curtis as President of the Association. I hope that during my time the Association will go forward, as it has done, and will develop its activities and policies as the majority would wish. Having said that I record what I believe our aims should be. They are threefold: firstly to continue the enjoyment and comradeship of our service in our Regiments together; secondly, to help and look after, as we can, any of our comrades and their dependants who may be in any sort of need; and thirdly, to enhance and hand on the memories of, and our pride in, our Regiments so that these can continue to be an inspiration and of interest to our successors serving in what is now Our Regiment, The Queen's Regiment of to-day. The Queen's Regiment carries forward our histories and traditions, and I know personally how much the Regiment does value its continuation from its founding Regiments, amongst which we as the senior have a special place.

At the same time as the change in the Presidency of the Association, a number of other important changes in the Regimental hierarchy have taken place, and there are a number of people to whom I would like to pay tribute. Firstly to Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis who has guided us with much thought and enthusiasm over the last six years. He took on the Presidency at the time when our own RHQ, and John Reed, had to depart to Canterbury, and much was in the air. Geoffrey firmly asserted his confidence in the continuance of our Association and the need for us to be linked more closely with the Queen's Regiment. That the Association has come through these years better established and with growing allegiance is of great credit to his wisdom and his work on our behalf. Next after his many years of devoted, dedicated and effervescent service to the Regiment through all its changes, General Rowley Mans has stood down from his Colonelcy of The Queen's Regiment. On behalf of our Association I salute him for all the very great deal he has achieved, and welcome in his place at the head of The Queen's Regiment Brigadier Charles Millman. We wish him well for his Colonelcy and take pride that he too started his distinguished career in Surrey.

Finally I pay a special tribute to Ken Brooks who has felt that he can no longer continue as our Editor of the Newsletter. This is a sad blow, because Ken has contributed such a very great deal to the Association by his enormous hard work and great interest in running the Newsletter for seven years or more. The Newsletter as such is perhaps the key medium for keeping us together, and during Ken's time he has developed and filled it with many memorable and historic articles. His success as Editor is reflected in the strength of the Association: we must all be most grateful to him.

I wish all members of the Association a happy year. I hope that very many of you will be able to support the various occasions, so that with a good turn-out you will meet and enjoy the company of your friends, while at the same time making these occasions more worthwhile for us all.

March 1984

Toby Sewell



FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREYS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1984



Date	Place	Event	Details
19 May	Guildford	5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association Annual Reunion Dinner	Sandfield Terrace Guildford Details from Secretary
3 June	Guildford	Regimental Association Church Service	Guildford Cathedral 11.15 a.m.
3 July	Fleet	Queen's Surreys Golf Society v. Royal Marines	Separately to members
15 July	Bassingbourn	Grand Reunion Queen's Regiment	Printed sheet enclosed with Newsletter
8 September	London. Union Jack Club	SALERNO Reunion 2/6 Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment	Apply to S.B. Pratten, MM JP 58 Sandford Road, East Ham, London E6 3QS
8/9 September	St Nicklaas Belgium	1/6 (Bermondsey) Assoc	Apply Mr D G Coles MM, 13 Trent Way, Worcester Park, Surrey
5 October	London	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Dinner	Printed sheet to Members of The Officers' Club
6 October	Bassingbourn	WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner	Details in Newsletter ACT NOW!
11 October	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Separately to Members
20 October	Clapham Junction	East Surrey OCA	JW Bedford 5b Elm Grove Wimbledon, London. SW19 4HE
2 November	London	Queen's Surrey Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Printed sheet enclosed with Newsletter
11 November	Guildford, Kingston and Battersea	Remembrance Day Parades	From Branch Associations

1985

23 March	Clandon	Regimental Trustee's and Association Committee Meeting	
11 4 June	Horse Guards Parade	Massed Bands The Queen's Division Beat Retreat	The Queen's Regiment Night (To be confirmed)

Benevolence.

The importance of our benevolent work is readily understood but not everyone will realise the scale or the scope which this work still involves. Of all the activities which are undertaken by our Secretary on behalf of the Old Comrades Association, the benevolent case-work is not only the most important but also is the most embracing and probably the most time consuming. Certainly it must be the most satisfying to our Secretary and to all our members in that it is using of our charitable funds for the benefit of old soldiers, their relations and dependents who are less lucky and need assistance.

Most of these cases are brought to our notice by welfare organisations such as SSAFA, Forces Help Society, War Pensions Welfare Service, Royal British Legion, and some through individual members of our Association, but no matter from what source a case is reported, every one is very carefully gone into, followed up by our Secretary, and where appropriate a grant is made.

During the period 1 January to 31 December 1983 the sum of £ 10,053.60 including monies from The Army Benevolent Fund was spent from the Association's Charitable funds on assisting members of The Regiment and dependants.

Anyone who knows of an ex-member of the Regiment or a dependant who needs help and assistance is asked to contact the Regimental Secretary, who will treat this matter in confidence and follow up the case.

Newsletter Subscriptions

1. Subscriptions for 1984 Newsletter will remain at £ 1.60. The Association hope to keep the cost at this level for the 1985 Newsletters.
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 BUT please check that your Orders are amended to cover this cost.

Regimental Association Cathedral Service 1984

The Annual Service will be held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 3 June 1984 commencing at 11.15 a.m. On this occasion the sermon will be preached by the Dean of Guildford, The Very Reverend A C Bridge. The usual licenced bar will be in operation in the Cathedral Refectory Suite after the Service. Dress: Lounge Suit or Uniform, Medals.

Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society Autumn Meeting 1983 at Richmond Golf Club

Prize winners:

- Autumn Bowl - Colonel J G W Davidson
- Glasgow Greys Cup - Major-General G A White MBE
- Heals Cup - Lt Colonel G S Abbott TD JP
- Veterans Halo - Lt Colonel G S Abbott TD JP
- Petri Place - M J Power Esq
- Harry Adcock Putting Trophy - B A Hoffmann Esq

Sweep Winners:

- 1st Major H G Greatwood
- 2nd Lt Colonel B A Hannaford
- 3rd Major P Spearing TD

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past and Present Dinner 1984

The Past and Present Sergeants Mess Dinner will be held this year on Saturday 6 October 1984 at The Depot Queen's Division, Basingbourn and will be open to all serving and retired WOs and SNCOs of The Queen's Regiment and former Regiments of the Queen's Regiment.

Tickets will be issued upon receipt of payment, if seats are unavailable money will be returned to those who paid immediately.

The cost of the Dinner and Wine will be £ 8.00. Cheques should be made payable to 'Central Bank Depot Queen's Division' and should be sent when booking seats.

This will be the 4th Dinner to be held. Members who attended the last Dinner all agreed that it was a first class evening. It is hoped to attract more to this popular event but the limit is 250, so you are encouraged to apply for tickets now. If you require overnight accommodation you should say so on your application for tickets.

Members who attended will be delighted at the news that WOII Mike Rowney, who organised the 1983 Dinner, has been selected for promotion to WO1 and is to be the Regimental Sergeant Major, of The Bermuda Regiment. (Perhaps a good venue for the 1985 Dinner would be his Mess in Bermuda!)

Applications for tickets to: WOII D T Irving-James, Depot The Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts SG8 5LX.

ACT NOW

Museum Notes

This year being the 40th Anniversary of The Battle of Cassino, a display is being set up to illustrate the part played by 1 Surreys in 78 Infantry Division who were involved in the second, third and fourth battles, and by 1/6 Surreys in 4 Infantry Division who on the right of the line of the 8th Army, successfully assaulted across the River Rapido incurring heavy casualties and after achieving their objectives, finally took part in the capture of Cassino Town.

Mrs Daphne Hill has been assembling material for this display since last year - and also reading all available books on the subject! She would be grateful for any additional information and/or photographs from any reader. Mrs Hill is being assisted to a great extent by Major Bill Deayton-Groom who is employing his talents as an artist to produce two diagrammatic maps of the battles, together with historical narratives of the action.

There will be a special 'Cassino Day' at the Museum on 22nd September 1984. Lunch and tea will be available in the Clandon Park Restaurant - it is advisable to book for lunch by telephoning Guildford 222502; equally there are public houses close by where you can obtain a 'pub lunch'. Those coming specially to the Museum and not the National Trust house, should bring proof of being a member of the Regimental Association or its allied associations - this will give you free entry to the Museum only.

We have made a 'Salerno' album for the archives out of the material lent (and returned by us) only because Major Charles Cole had very kindly re-photographed well over one hundred pictures for the Museum. In this album blank pages have been left to include anything that our readers may still send us.

The winter working party met every Wednesday to lend assistance to Mr John Woodruff and Mrs Jean-Anne Stock who, assisted on Tuesdays by ladies of N.A.D.F.A.S. did a wonderful job cleaning the show cases and particularly medals, badges and buttons. Mrs Rachel Roupell, apart from assisting in the cleaning, has completely renewed a large commemorative banner presented to those units who were in the first seven Divisions (the 'Old Contemptibles') who fought such a gallant rear guard action to stem the German advance through Belgium into France in The Great War; it will be displayed in Room 2. The banner had been laid up in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford for many years.

Other members of the working party are Captains Noel Tannock and Alan White; Majors Peter Hill, Ronnie Fairbairn and Peter Spearing and Lieut Colonels Peter Kimberling, Tony Hannaford and Bob Hill - average age - 65! Sydney Hill, an ex gunner - and a handy craftsman, has joined us through N.A.D.F.A.S.

Decorations and Medals

In The Queen's Surrey's Museum at Clandon there are Decorations and Medals awarded to over 800 ex-members of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Altogether, the medals total nearly 2,000.

They make a fascinating collection and include some outstanding groups. Recently acquired are those of General Sir Ivo Vesey, KCB., KBE., CMG., DSO., a former Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and those of Brigadier General W.D. Wright, VC., CB., CMG., DSO. Unusual are those of Major General J.Y. Whitfield, CB., DSO., OBE., plus the Legion of Merit (U.S.A.) and the Red Star (U.S.S.R.): Lt. Col. A.F.B. Irwin, DSO and Two Bars, plus the Order of the Star of Ethiopia: those of Major F.G. Jackson which include the Queen's South Africa Medal, 1st War medals, the Order of St. Olaf - Knight First Class (Norwegian) for rescuing Captain Nansen near the North Pole in 1893, and the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society, awarded for saving the life of a girl who was drowning. Private W. Roache, 31st Regiment, and Private J. Murray, Queen's Royal Regiment, were each awarded only one medal - the Military General Service Medal, 1793-1814, but with, in both cases, the distinction of no less than 7 Bars.

It is hoped to include further information about our collection in future Newsletters ("The Medal Man").



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

All three regular battalions are currently serving in Northern Ireland. The 1st and 2nd Bns have passed the half-way mark of their Resident 2-year tours (Omagh and Londonderry respectively) and the 3rd is in West Belfast on a 4-month 'Emergency' tour. Pte Stock of the 2nd Bn was murdered by an IRA bomb in Londonderry on 15 Oct last.

The Arms Plot reveals that future moves are:

1st Bn to Gibraltar in Jan 85

2nd Bn to Oakington (Cambs) in Nov 84 (with a Falkland Islands tour from March to July 86)

3rd Bn to Howe Barracks Canterbury in Jan 86 (with a 6-month's tour in Belize from Apr).

Brig Charles Millman was appointed Colonel of the Regiment vice Maj Gen Rowley Mans on 1 Jan 84; and, on the same day, Col John Holman (currently Chief of Staff at the Joint Forces HQ in Aldershot) became Deputy Colonel. Colonel Holman commanded the 1st Bn from 1977-1980.

Two events which took place at the end of March during the Colonel and Deputy Colonel's visit to N. Ireland were:

A 'Freedom' parade in Belfast (this Civic honour was inherited from The Royal Sussex Regt which was granted the 'Freedom' to commemorate the raising of the Regiment in Belfast in 1701)

A Band re-forming Parade in Omagh, when the three existing Bands of our regular battalions were reduced to two. (In compliance with the general reductions in Bands throughout the Army) The Bands are to be known as The ALBUHERA and QUEBEC BANDS of The Queen's Regiment.

The 'Glorious First of June' celebrations with HMS Excellent this year will take place at Whale Island on 1/2 June. Sadly, it will be the last one at 'Whaley' since that establishment is to close this year. However, the Colonel of the Regiment will be discussing ways and means for retaining our cherished links with the Royal Navy, when he sees HMS Excellent's Captain in June.

DONATIONS

The Trustees wish to record their thanks to the following for their generous donations: A. Mason, G.A. Hardie, C.R. Lucas and S.J.W. Lewis-Wheatley. In doing so they also wish to thank the many members who, when sending in their Subs, enclose "a little more" for the Regimental funds.

The Sum of £ 138.00 has been donated to The East Surrey Charitable Fund in memory of Lt. Col. (Bart) G.W. Kennedy, DSO., OBE., MC.

NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS

5th Bn. Queens Royal Regiment Old Members Association

The Association will be holding their annual Reunion Dinner on the 19th May. Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford will again be the venue, with the kind permission of the Officer Commanding A Coy. 5 Queen's. We are hoping to top last year's attendance of 160; we welcome members from any of the Battalions to join us. This will be 40 years for the Bn. since the Normandy Landings and will no doubt call for some nostalgic memories. We are sure if you attend once, you will for many years to come. We are all getting older, so do come along while you can.

Thirty members attended the Armistice Service and Parade at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. After the service and wreath laying in the Church by Brigadier G. Curtis, President of the Association, we formed up to parade past the saluting base. The salute was taken by Her Worship The Mayor of Guildford, Mrs. R. Hall and Councillors. On reaching the Memorial at the Castle Grounds, a general wreath laying service took place; the Chairman of the OMA, Lt. Col. F.B. Herd, laid a wreath on behalf of the members. After the dismiss we moved to the local Public House to join our Chairman for the customary thirst quencher. Any Queensman would be welcome to join us on this occasion.

In October the Cranleigh TA (C Coy. 1939) held their Reunion Dinner at the Cricket Pavilion. This has been held since the war for those members who joined in 1939, in memory of two of their officers who never returned, Capt. Mike Erdoe-Wilkinson, and Capt. David Mann. A fund was set up to cater for this dinner each year, under the secretaryship of Reg Hubbard who was Mike's batman in those early days. Although only 45 attended, 40 of those were from the original Company, the other five being invited from the OMA. This was a very enjoyable evening. Lady Mullens, the President, said how much she looked forward to being with them each year, and hoped the gathering would continue for many years to come.

Also present were the Rev. Castle, Padre to the Bn, and E. Baldock now in his eighties.

On Sunday 3rd June the OM Assoc. will be present in strength at the Regimental Service in Guildford Cathedral, and we look forward to seeing any old members. This is a grand get-together for members of all past and present Bns.

Any information required about the Old Members Association can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Douglas Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey. Tel. Worplesdon 232043.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

A luncheon was held by members of the OCA on the 26th November, 1983, at the Union Jack Club in celebration of Colonel J.G. Bevington attaining the age of 80.

Surprise was the order of the day and was achieved by Machiavelian devices and hard work on the part of Chairman "Chick" Coles and his committee in obtaining by fair means or foul subscriptions from members towards a suitable gift, and in facing Colonel Bevington with congratulatory friends from before, during and after the war.

Colonel Bevington's grandfather was the Commanding Officer of The Queen's in Bermondsey (then the 3rd Vol. Bn.) having enlisted as Ensign; followed by his son and, in turn, his grandson, the Bevingtons have faithfully served the Regiment in one way or another for well over 100 years and are still adding to that for Colonel Bevington, as Life President of the OCA, is still an active participant at Committee meetings and Social events and is heavily relied on to give wise counsel and sage advice when needed - - which is often!

As second-in-command to Lieut-Col. I.T.P. Hughes (later Major General Sir Ivor) he took part with the 1/6th Bn. in the vicious fighting on the Albert Canal and was very badly wounded on the day before the retreat to Dunkirk. Nine months were spent in hospital followed by three months sick leave but this led to a happy ending since, during convalescence, he met his wife-to-be, Rosemary, who confesses she still finds him a difficult one to control in matters of self-care!

Returning to duty, Colonel Bevington served at Guildford,

Invicta Lines, Maidstone and with the Queen's Trg. Bn. in Yorkshire before going to the Med. to become OC Troops on troopships. He was of tremendous help on the re-formation of the TA in 1947 when he formed the OCA and later became Hon. Colonel, 6th Queen's.

Old pre-war friends to confront and confound him at the luncheon included Brig. R.C. Halse, Col. W.D. Flower, Major "Chop" James, Major R. Mullins, Sgt. Wymark (who was in the same hospital as Col. B.) and, of course, our oldest "inhabitant", Harry Rotherham. As a matter of interest, Brig. Halse transferred to the JAG's Dept., was one of the prosecuting counsel at the Nuremberg trials, and later became the first Colonel Commandant of the Legal Branch. Major Mullins, apart from his vigorous rendition of "Vio, Vio, Viola" is well-known for his rather plaintive complaint over the air during the Battle of Mareth "There's a German tank in my cook house area" which brought forth an immediate response from the irrepresible John Tack "Give it a cup of tea, then!!"

Major General RSN Mans, who as Adjutant reformed the Bn. in 1947 after having served with it in (then) Palestine, with his inimitable mixture of wit and sincerity congratulated Colonel Bevington and presented him with a drum converted into a coffee table, complete with the Pascal Lamb insignia and the Regimental Battle Honours.

This is now in a place of honour at his home at Wrotham
The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

We had our Reunion on 3 March in the Gascoigne Room, Union Jack Club and its great and continued success is due to the strong Regimental spirit forged in the War by all those who have served in 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment and the great devotion of our Hon. Sec. Major John Tamplin, TD, in arranging it.

The theme this year was the Family connection by those who served in the Battalion.

We were very happy to have three Guests, Lt Col L.M.B. Wilson, MBE, Sgt Major V.G. Edwards, now a member of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and Mr J.G. Rowe, MM, and they received a rapturous welcome from the 81 members present.

Grace was said by the Rector of St Mary's Church (Newington) The Revd Father Dominic (who also conducts our Armistice Sunday services).

Major Ken Jessup who was our Adjutant in the Desert and Italian Campaign period, proposed the Toast, 'Absent Comrades' in a most sincere manner.

We were brought right up to date with the activities of the Battalions of The Queen's Regiment by a most informative and impressive speech by Col Les Wilson when addressing himself to the Toast of 'The Regiment'. He made us feel very proud of our successors.

In honouring Joe Rowe, MM, we had an outstanding member of the 1/7th Bn and the Association to suit the theme of the Family Connection. The number of brothers who served in the Bn was remarkable. Col Duggie Snowdon and Major Frank Snowdon being amongst those present. Vic (Slim) Lancaster also reminded us of his brother Sgt Harry Lancaster, MM. Col D.G. Adams, DSO, OBE, TD, was the C.O. from 18 Feb 1933 to 18 Feb 1938 and his brother Lt Col Paul Adams, TD, followed him from 18 Feb 1938 to 1 Feb 1940 and 1947. Lt Col H.L. Adams, CMG, TD, also served as a Coy Comdr between the wars before going to Staff Appointments. Brig Ronnie Senior, DSO, TD, had nearly 30 years with the unit and commanded it from 28 Oct 1942 to March 1943, he also had his brother Major Jimmy Senior with him for many years. The Bromwich brothers, CSM John and C/Sgt Tommy were also mentioned and so were the Phelps, Bakers, Flukes and Sideys.

Joe Rowe MM had his father, his brother CSM Tommy (killed in 1943), his uncles, cousins and brothers-in-law and he spoke with great eloquence about their contributions to the Battalion and to The Regiment.

The highlight of the evening was the contribution made, "for his dinner", by our Chelsea Pensioner CSM V.G. Edwards, resplendent in his red coat emblazoned by a long row of campaign medals with his General Service Medal and bars in pride of place at the front and his well polished Long Service and Good Conduct Medal prominent. He was invited to "reminisce" and "Nutty" as he prefers to be called (rather than 'Vivian') had

us all in stitches of laughter, never wearying about telling stories against himself from the accident of his birth, the colour of his hair, his first duty after volunteering to join the local choir, his combined ops experiences off Malta, his mule column accident



NORMANDY: THE BOCAGE

Maj. Gen. D.S. Gordon, CB., CBE., DSO, commanded the 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at the Normandy Landings. His narrative, written in the field is reproduced below.

VILLERS BOCAGE

The Action by The 1/7th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment

At 1500 hrs. 12 June 1944 the Bn. was placed under Command of 22 Armd. Bde. which was ordered to move round the right flank of 30 Corps. The object of this quick move was to capture the high ground North West of VILLERS BOCAGE by attacking it from the West as little or no progress had been made from the North.

This move was made possible by the Americans who were advancing rapidly on the right flank of the Div. toward CAUMONT.

The Bde. moved off at 1600 hrs. with 4th County of London Yeomanry leading followed by the Bn. The route was along a series of very narrow and twisty third-rate roads and the dust raised by the armd. vehs. was blinding. However, very good progress was made and every available hour of daylight was used. During the move contact was made with the Americans advancing towards CAUMONT. Only light opposition was encountered by the leading regiment but the Armd. Recce. Regt. reported enemy tanks and various localities held by the enemy on our left flank which we had by-passed. By 2230 hrs. the light was beginning to fade and the Bde. Comd. ordered the Bde. to form a rapid leaguer for the night. Due to the congestion on the one narrow road this took some time and it was 0100 hrs. before the Bn. leaguer was complete and the tps had had a meal, the first for a good many hours.

On 13 June the advance continued at 0530 hrs. and by 1000 hrs. the 4 CLY had reached VILLERS BOCAGE, passed through the town and were getting on to their objective, the high ground North west of the village, when the first serious opposition was encountered. This was the sudden appearance of several Mk. VI "Tiger" tanks.

In the meantime the Bn. had debussed and was preparing to take up a firm base position on the high ground East of the village when orders were issued to move at once into VILLERS BOCAGE itself and cover its main exits.

The Carriers and A/Tk. Guns moved off at once, the leading Coy encountered a German staff car and two motor cycle combinations, which suddenly appeared from a side track. The leading Pl. suffered some casualties and when the car and combinations had been ditched the crews took to the fields where they commenced sniping.

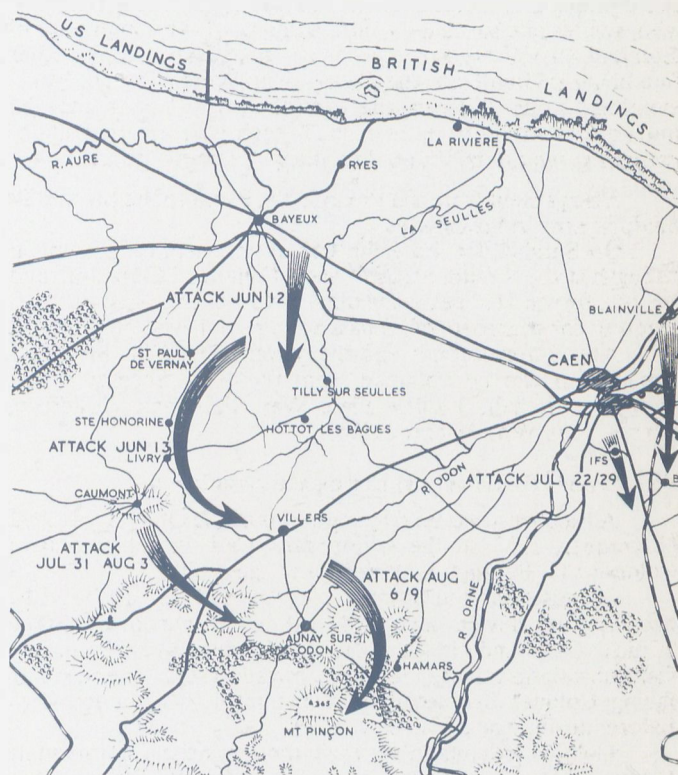
These had to be dealt with before the Coy. could move on. Three prisoners were taken and the remainder dispersed. On arrival in the village contact was made with the reserve sqn 4 CLY. It appeared that the leading sqns West of the town were facing serious difficulties by overwhelming numbers of "Tigers".

A plan was then made to send up one of our Coys with the reserve Sqn. to go to their assistance but it was found impossible to get through to them and the plan had to be abandoned. While these arrangements were still being made a Tiger was seen moving down the main street and blow down a house at the corner of a square where the 4 CLY and the leading Coys were gathered. This caused some confusion and the tps were ordered to get into the houses and use their PIATS whilst the Cromwells and our six-pounders covered all approaches into the High Street. Further tanks, both Tigers and Mk. IV's appeared in the main street and some particularly fine work was done by Major French and party from "C" Coy, and Capt. Beard and a party from the Carriers in stalking these tanks through the side streets and houses and tackling them with PIATS and sticky bombs. This period of tank hunting went on for about two hours by which time at least one Tiger and one Mk. IV. in the main street had been knocked out. Having made certain that the enemy

and consequences in China, etc etc, until he had to be stopped. I don't know how many members missed their trains but "Nutty's" performance was well worth it. We all had a marvellous evening.

tanks in the main street had been well and truly bottled up, coys were ordered to get into their original dispositions to cover the approach into the village. This was found to be a most difficult task as personnel of Coys had got very scattered throughout the houses in the village. In the meantime "A" Coy were sweeping the ground in the further outskirts and were directed on the railway station.

Further to reports of tanks approaching from the North, West and South were received throughout the afternoon. "A" Coy meanwhile had encountered Infantry opposition on the further face of the village and were pinned to the ground while a small armoured battle raged for some time. Bn. 6-pdrs in the area of the station had acquitted themselves well and claimed four tanks, all Mk. VI Tigers knocked out and two hit without apparent damage. By the late afternoon the enemy tank threat had been smashed and the serious problem now was some pockets of infantry attempting to work their way through into the village.



"A" Coy had been driven back from their original positions and there was a large gap between the South and North-Western edge which was not covered by any of our Coys and there was no Coy available to do it.

During the course of the day the remainder of the Armd Bde still on the high ground behind us had been fighting their own battles against further tanks to the North-east and South-west. In addition they had considerable trouble with snipers in tree-tops. In fact the whole situation was a very confused one with fighting going on all round and behind. By 1800 hrs small infantry elements had worked their way round to within close proximity of the tanks of the 4 CLY. Bn.HQ was almost pinned to the ground and the road leading into the village from the remainder of the Bde was under quite heavy arty fire which knocked out a complete detachment of mortars and brewed up a carrier.

A decision had to be made as to whether we could hold the village that night or not; without further infantry coys it did not appear possible and the Bde. Comd. issued orders for the Bn. and Sqn 4 CLY to withdraw onto the high ground West of the village from where we had started that morning and there join up in a firm base position with the remainder of 22 Armd. Bde. This withdrawal was successfully carried out covered by the 4 CLY; it attracted a certain amount of shelling along the road but casualties were very few. The forward edge of the new positions was based on the lines of a sunken track running across the front, both flanks were covered by tanks of the 5 R.Tanks whilst further behind was the 1/5 Queen's, in the middle was 5 RHA and Tac.Bde. The two main troubles were that fields of fire were restricted from about 50 to 100x and the enemy occupied high ground on three sides of the position.

About 1000 hrs 14 June it became clear that enemy infantry were feeling their way forward through the thick cover towards our two leading Coys. Both Mortar and Arty were used with good effect. By 1100 hrs a definite attack had materialised on the left forward Coy ("C" Coy) and a small arms battle of great intensity raged for the next two hours with the MG's of the tks lending valuable support. The mortars and 5 RHA were continually in support switching from one area to another and meeting every call for fire with great speed and accuracy. At one stage matters looked serious when one Pl. was over-run and there appeared to be a danger of the left flank being turned but "C" Coy counter-attacked using sten guns and grenades and restored the situation. Bn. HQ was within 20x of the front line and would have been in great danger of being over-run if "C" Coy had not secured the left flank. The reason why Bn.HQ displayed such courage in being so close to the front line was that it was the only place where they were not overlooked from the flanks. "C" Coy in particular fought a very fine action that day and despite their weariness their tails were very much up. They had fought a square fight and very definitely driven the Hun off with heavy loss.

At about 1600 hrs orders were received from Bde. that the whole Bde. was to withdraw that night to link up with the rest of the Div. Shortly after orders had been issued for this night withdrawal the enemy put in a heavy attack on the rear of the Bde box with two Bns of Infantry supported by about 30 Mk.VI Tigers. TAC Bde HQ, 5 RHA and 1/5 Queen's were mainly involved though the Bn had for the first time that day some quite heavy shelling of the area. In addition "A" Coy on the right were engaged with Infantry patrols. This action lasted about an hour when the enemy gave up leaving a number of Tigers brewing up merrily round the Bde Box. This action delayed the plans for the withdrawal and it was half an hr after midnight before the first Unit was leaving. Our two forward Coys (C & D) found the rearguard with a Sqn of 5 R.Tanks. They remained in position until about 0200 hrs when the coys climbed onto the tanks and came back to the new psns some five miles further North.

These two days of 13th & 14th June will no doubt be remembered by all those who took part in the action. We delivered a heavy blow on the 2 Pz.Div. which was forced to fight us on the way to another objective. The Bn. knocked out four Tiger tanks with its 6-pdrs and shared two more with the 4 CLY. In addition two were damaged by inf. tk. hunting parties. the myth that the Tiger was invincible has now been exploded.

The Bn. experienced its first enemy counter-attack which was driven back at heavy cost to the enemy. The result of that has shown us all that if every soldier stands firm and fights hard with all his weapons he has nothing to fear in the Hun.

Our casualties in the two days fighting were eight officers and one hundred and twenty other ranks, sufficient indication that the fighting was hard.

IN THE FIELD
18 June 1944.

SALERNO

Colonel C M Nice TD DL writes:

'The letter in last November's issue from Capt W.A. Williams, 2/6th Queen's regarding Vico Equense arouses many memories.

'1/6th Queen's were indeed billeted there in December 1943, having been withdrawn from the line after opening the way to the Garigliano plain for the tanks round the sea end of the high

Massico feature. 131 (Queen's) Bde were all in the area of Vico and the remainder of 7th Armd Div were also in close proximity to Naples, awaiting shipping for return to the UK and re-training for the Normandy landing.

The Bn was then commanded by Lt Col M. Forrester, DSO, MC, whose Headquarters were in the Villa Maria, and I think his Adjutant at the time was Captain Peter Kime MC, who first met his Canadian-born wife-to-be in the neighbourhood. She, with other Canadian nurses, had been rescued from a sinking hospital ship and were given what help and hospitality was available.

My Mortar Platoon were housed nearby for I well remember using the street-level terrace as a parade ground, limited for size though it was.

I shall make a point of asking the Padre whether he has yet got over the shock of involuntary arson. Father Jack Devine (now a Canon) is still, at 82, conducting Mass several times every Sunday and caring for the spiritual needs of Army personnel as well as for his own parishioners at Borden, Hants. In his days with the Queen's, from Alamein to Berlin, he was, in our opinion, the finest card player in the British Army, a talent he put to good use in obtaining the 'Necessary' to procure the essentials of life from the NAAFI to share around the Bn.

One could go on ad infinitum with reminiscences of our stay at Vico, but enough is enough, except to say it is still remembered with affection for the people we met, admiration for its glorious scenery, and for the effects of the local demon vino.

The demon vino had much to answer for, not the last being the results it had on our cook. Normally a very good cook, one can never forget his concoction of a soup he invented. Having partaken of sufficient soup to see unexpected remnants hovering on the bottom of the plate, Capt Aldridge called him in to explain. With the aid of the doorposts, he drew himself manfully to a form of attention and said "They're toasted breadcrumbsh, Shir" pause "but they may be tea leavesh,Shir!" They were! He had forgotten to clean out the container!

DSG

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

MISS MAUREEN MAHONEY writes from Brisbane, Australia, "When my father was RSM at Dover they sold beer in the canteen for 1½d a pint! The men 'borrowed' old baths and troughs from the local farmers, boiled up the scraps from the mess and then sold the fat back to the army. All the money went for the men's welfare and reduced prices in the canteen. Colonel Sullivan was the only Colonel not to get a decoration, because the excess money was not returned to the Government. (I wonder if that would show up on Army records?)

Is it very difficult to look back on old Army records? I can remember seeing a notebook my father kept at one time, and he had listed every important date, i.e. joining up, when he went to India, when he was promoted, etc., but I cannot remember any of these now. I know that he was born in 1882, 25th February, and joined up to go to the Boer War. He served seven years in India, coming home in 1908, and then re-enlisted in August 1914. I know he was one of eight R.S.M.'s picked by Kitchener to train the new army, probably 1915, which is when he was given the cigarette case by Colonel Sullivan. Eventually he went back to the regiment, but due to heavy casualties, the West Surreys lost most of their officers and N.C.O.'s on one day, and they very quickly drafted new officers and N.C.O.'s to bring it up to strength and the R.S.M. went from the East Surreys to the West Surreys. If I remember correctly, the West Surrey emblem was the lamb with a flag over its shoulder? Please correct me if I am wrong. (No Comment - Miss Mahoney!! Ed.)

He was christened Edward, but was known as Ned. When he was in hospital in 1944, he got talking to the man in the next bed and found that they had been stationed in Dover at the same time. "Well" said the other man, "do you remember Ned Mahony?" "I am Ned Mahony" said papa! The man in the other bed went quiet and said no more. I was furious. Just think what we might have learned about him."

Miss Mahoney has very generously donated the Silver Cigarette Box which had been presented to her father by Colonel Sullivan. She also sent some photos and a "Princess Mary Tobacco Tin".

(later The Princess Royal). One photo shows RSM Mahony with six senior NCO's of A Company??? The Queen's Royal Regiment (probably taken in 1915). A second photo is of L/Cpl Weir - Middleweight Champion ALL INDIA 1905-06 with his trainer Sgt Mahoney. In the second of her two letters Miss Mahoney continues "In 1901 he put his age up to go to the Boer War. They sent him to India for seven years!!

When he was 24 he was put in charge of the Telegraph Station at Chanbattia. Second last station before Tibet. It is near Ranikhet. There were men out there who had been waiting for that job for years, and they gave it to an Army Sgt. At Chanbattia there were only a few men, one gramophone and 11 records. They were on all day!!

When we got our gramophone and put on a record, Daddy just got up and left the room!

It would appear that RSM Mahoney also trained many boxers in his day including Bombardier Billy Wells.

Can any of our readers recall either RSM Mahoney or Colonel Sulivan? Any information will be passed on to Miss Mahoney and if interesting will form a "follow up" story in the next Newsletter.

Mr. C.W. Lucas writes from Guildford:- "The Newsletter brought back many happy days of my Service in The Queen's. Starting at Stoughton Barracks then St. Albans and Sittingbourne, I went to France and joined the 8th Queen's.

The news in your column of the death of Brig H.G. Veasey brought back memories; he was a subaltern in the 1st Bn: before we went to Ireland in, I think, 1920. We were at Clipstone Camp and were sent to Wakefield on the coal strike. Arriving at Wakefield the Regiment was marched to Wakefield Prison where we were quartered in the cells; an unpleasant experience! My Company was sent on the Penistone to guard the Silkstone Fall Mine. While there we played the miners a cricket match. The miners team arrived in their working clothes, our team in khaki and rolled sleeves, and Mr Veasey dazzled all in spotless white and club cap. That alone should have ENSURED USA WIN but unfortunately he was out - first ball. As the pitch was surfaced with powdered clinker this was not surprising. After doing a similar spell in Nottingham on the railway strike we moved from Clipston Camp to Tournai Barracks North Camp and then over to Londonderry.

Forgive me for my wanderings but it is pleasant to recall those very happy days. By the way I saw the name of Col Wright VC in your paper and I recall meeting him at Aldershot in 1920. He stopped and made several enquiries about the Regiment and said who he was but I had already seen his photo in the Officers' Mess where I was caterer. One evening I was asked to lay on a meal for a Brig Matthew-Lannowe who was an old Queen's officer who during the first war had gone to the 'Tanks' and was visiting Aldershot on some sporting event, boxing I think. He asked if he might see the Kitchener Cup, a silver statuette of an officer in tropical uniform. He told me that when the trophy was won he was the model used and the Sergeants' Mess had a bronze statuette of the RSM."

Mr Lucas and other readers may like to know that the Silver Statuette is still with The Officers' Mess and the Bronze statuette is in the Sergeants Mess of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment, Omagh, N. Ireland.

Mr. Lucas is now a Member of The Association and, thanks to Major Ralph Ewart, is a proud owner of a Queen's tie.

NEWS OF "WINKLE"! (6141952 Private F P Turrell - The East Surrey Regt.)

"Dear Sir,

I have been handed a copy of your newsletter... but alas the date May 1978?! I was not aware of any type of association, or would have been in touch long ago. We emigrated to Australia in 1970. I feel that as age looms... we have more time to reflect... plus the fact that I spend a holiday at least every second year in Singapore/Malaysia, with visits to Krangi to pay respects... it may well be a good time to contact old Friends, or at least find out if I have any left...!

I was in England in 1980... and did look up, and spend time with one particular Friend... one Ex Cpl John Pike... the 'demon' Barber of Cobham. I am since advised that he retired...?

I was at Kingston Training in 1937, then Colchester with the 2nd Bn on to Shanghai... then Singapore, like most I did my 'stint' up Country.

I had the unlikely nick name of 'Winkle' and remained a Private, except for a short time in Hong Kong, 1939, when I became the lowest rank of all - A.U.L.Cpl.?"

Mr Turrell has now joined the Regimental Association and subscribes to the Newsletter. Should any of his old mates wish to write to him his address is: Mr. F P Turrell, 126 Susan Street, Maylands 6051, Western Australia.

"THE FAR PAVILIONS"

Lieutenant W.R.P. Hamilton, V.C, 70th Regiment

Those who may have watched "The Far Pavilions" on television during the winter will have seen the barracks at Rawalpindi with a signboard saying "The East Surrey Regiment". This signing was rather premature since it was not until 1881 that the 31st and the 70th were linked, however the 70th were truly there in 1874 and wearing their black facings as shown on the uniforms of the officers, and too Lieutenant Wally Hamilton was a very real person and a member of the Regiment.

Strangely for one whose short life was marked by such distinction there is no reference in the Regimental Histories to Lieutenant Hamilton. All there was in the archives at Clondon was a rather dilapidated photograph of a dramatic statue of a young officer sword in hand standing over the fallen body of a native. The photograph is inscribed "To the Officers of the 70th Regiment, Kingston Upon Thames, from C.B. Birch, ARA, August 1881". This lack of information led Major and Mrs Peter Hill to investigate.

The investigation was immediately linked with the book by Mrs M.M. Kaye published in 1978, which except for the central character of "Ash" and what happens to him, is essentially true as to historical fact. To confirm the details of Wally Hamilton the following facts about his life were gleaned from other sources. He was born in Ireland on 18th August 1856, and was educated at Eagle House, Wimbledon, and Felsted. After passing the Army Examinations in 21st place he was commissioned into the 70th Regiment on 20th February 1874. After initial training at Kingston he embarked for India and joined the 70th at Rawalpindi in December 1874. Soon afterwards the Regiment moved to the North West Frontier, which was in an uneasy state and thus garrison duties based Peshawar, Nowshera and later Cherat involved an amount of active service. Then on promotion to Lieutenant, and having passed his Higher Standard language examinations, Hamilton was accepted for and seconded to the Guides Cavalry.

The period of the late 1870s was one of particular turbulence on the North West Frontier due to Russian pressure to extend her influence into Afghanistan and failures by the British Government to maintain any consistent policy towards the Amirs. The historic events involving the Guides are retold in "The Far Pavilions", and in particular the action near Fatehbad on 2nd April 1879 when after his Squadron Commander, Major Wigram Battye, had been killed Lieutenant Wally Hamilton led on the Squadron to complete the charge, rallied them, and then rescued one of his Sowars who was unhorsed and in dire straits. It was for this action that he was awarded the V.C. which was gazetted on 7th October 1879, a month after his death.

Three months after Fatehbad a British Residency under Sir Louis Cavagnari was established at Kabul to counter the Russian influence and back up the Amir, and Wally Hamilton was selected to command the escort of just 70 men of the Guides. The then Amir regrettably was weak and ineffectual, and on 3rd September 1879 one of his Regiments mutinied, ostensibly over lack of pay, and this led on to the full scale assault by rioters and mutineers on the Residency. What exactly happened can only be hearsay, but Mrs Kaye's reconstruction must be as accurate as any can be. Certainly, after the early wounding and death of Sir Louis Cavagnari, Hamilton and his Guides held out until mid afternoon when only 11 of them were left. Then in a desperate last sortie Wally Hamilton was struck down and his men to their eternal honour and that of their Regiment died with him - there were no survivors.

The destruction of the Residency was soon avenged by the occupation of Kabul by a Force under the soon to become Field

Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar, and within this Force the 70th played their part. Hamilton's valour was praised in the House of Lords, and there is a poem by Sir Henry Newbolt. He continues to be honoured by the Guides, who have his sword, a silver replica of his statue, and had his V.C., but this unfortunately was looted in the 1920s and is thought to be in America. The actual statue of which the Regiment has the picture is in The Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Hamilton was clearly a man of great charm as portrayed in the television series. In reality though he had darkish hair, which he parted in the middle in the fashion of that time. He enjoyed singing, particularly the stirring martial hymns, and certainly too he wrote poetry, although he agreed it was not yet very good. As an epitaph to one of the Regiment's very distinguished heroes it may be appropriate to parody very slightly one of his last poems written about the disaster in Kabul in 1841:

How England's fame shone brighter as he fought
And rose at last from his misfortunes tide
Supreme - for God and right were on his side.

The British Battalion

Ex-Members of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment may like to know that Mr. Chye Kooi Loong from KAMPAR, Malaysia is visiting England in June. As a 12 year old boy he was in KAMPAR when the battle with the Japanese was fought. He later became a teacher and is now retired. For many years now, he has been compiling a history of The British Battalion, and has written to the Secretary and asked to meet as many 2nd East Surreys as possible during his visit. Mr. Bill Turner of Hythe has also been in correspondence with him.

Mr. Chye Kooi Loong will be attending the Cathedral Service on June 3rd and it is hoped that he will then visit the Museum at Clandon during the afternoon. On Monday June 4th, at Canterbury, he will be handing over a copy of his manuscript to the President of the Association.

Any ex-members of the 2nd Battalion are asked to contact the Secretary or Mr Turner if they are able to meet him on Monday at Canterbury.

In the November issue of The Newsletter, we hope to feature The 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment's battles in Malaya. Any contributions from Members would be particularly welcome not only for the Newsletter, but for the Displays which it is hoped will be a feature of the Museum for 1985.

News Letter Binding

It is hoped to bind a few copies of the Regimental Association News Letter. Volume I covers 1967 to 1976 and Volume II from 1977 to 1983. An index has been prepared for each volume.

Would any reader who can let us have a complete set of one or both volumes, please inform Lt Col L.M. Wilson, MBE, RHQ, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY. Postage will be refunded for any copies accepted.

The following numbers are particularly wanted to complete the set in the Regimental Museum; No. 2 Nov 67 and No. 10 Nov 71. We should be glad to receive either of these copies.

'Sweethearts and Wives'

This traditional Services toast (followed by the words, 'May they never meet!') is usually associated with the Royal Navy, but it is also recorded as one of the Army's Peninsular Toasts. Whatever the origin of the toast, the ladies were, and are, very much a part of Regimental life.

In The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum there are a number of tokens of sentimental interest, such as Regimental brooches, powder compacts, hat pins and various items of needlework and embroidery given by soldiers to their sweethearts and wives. It is hoped to present a display of items worked by or given to the ladies of our Regiments, and any 'bits and pieces' of this nature would be appreciated by the Regimental Museum Trustees.

BOOK REVIEW

The Broken Plume

Sub-titled 'A Platoon Commander's Story', this is a young officer's personal account of his experiences in the 1939-45 War. Norman Craig, who joined the 5th Bn The Royal Sussex Regiment in time for the Battle of El Alamein, gives a vivid description of what it was like to be in a platoon in battle. He records the experiences common to all of being exhausted, frightened and short of food and water, but at the same time speaks of the humour, the bravery and the heart-warming comradeship of soldiers in action.

The writer joined the 1st Surreys as a reinforcement at Forlimpopoli (familiarily known as 'Fall In Properly'), and was posted to A Company under Major John Reed. He has a remarkable memory, and his two months with the Surreys until he was wounded in April 1945, are recorded in detail. Mr. Craig's account will recall many memories to those who were there. Here, for instance, is his reference to a popular member of the Battalion.

'Lieutenant "Chips" Louis was a rugged forty-year-old, and something of a legend in the Battalion. In civilian life he had been a lumberjack among other things, and had travelled all over the world. Now a veteran platoon commander, he had been continuously in action through North Africa, Sicily and Italy, and been wounded several times.'

Other well-known personalities are mentioned, and Mr Craig's narrative constitutes a valuable addition to the Regimental History. Above all, one is left with the impression, 'Yes, it was like that.'

The book is distributed by Jane's Publishing Company, 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU, and is obtainable from the Imperial War Museum.

P G E H

'Algiers To Austria'

This is the History of 78 Division in the 1939-45 War, written by Cyril Ray. The book has recently been reprinted in soft cover, and is obtainable from Captain Ian McKee MBE, The Cottage, Crawley Court, Crawley, Winchester SO21 2QB. The price is £6.00, including postage.

This well-illustrated and clear history recounts the operations of the famous Battleaxe Division from the North African landings in November 1942, through Sicily and Italy into Austria. Our Regiment was well represented in 78 Division - the Buffs, East Surreys and Royal West Kents all had rifle battalions and the Middlesex a machine gun battalion, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

'Algiers to Austria' should find a place in our Regimental Museums and Mess libraries, and it is hoped a number of 'old sweats' will be glad to have a copy on their bookshelves.

P G E H

Congratulations to:- Colonel R.W. Acworth on his promotion and his recent award of a Mention-in-Despatches for services in N. Ireland.

Colonel M.J. Doyle MBE on his forthcoming promotion to Brigadier. He is to be Defence Advisor, ISLAMABAD. Lt. Colonel P.R.H. Thompson, TD on his award of a O.B.E. and his promotion to Colonel in December 1983. Lt. Colonel R.G. Putnam, TD on a very successful tour commanding 6/7 Queen's and his promotion to Colonel. Lt. Colonel P.J. Hubert on his appointment to Command 6/7 Queens's. RQMSS.R. Bream, QGM on being selected for promotion to R.S.M.

The SOBRAON DAY Colour Party, CSM T. Isaacs, C/Sgt K. White and C/Sgt P.L. Stone who all originally enlisted into The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The SOBRAON SGT 1984 Sgt. P. Tidey who enlisted in The Queen's Regiment on a first class performance on SOBRAON DAY.

Best Wishes to:- Major P.A. Gray on his pending retirement.

Major J.F. Reed and his wife who have finally moved house.

Mr. E. Stenning on his appointment as Museum Attendant The QUEEN'S REGIMENT MUSEUM.



THE BATTLES FOR CASSINO

The Editor is grateful to the officers who contributed the five articles which paint an overall picture of Cassino. The Crossing of the River, is the work of Lt Col W.C.E. Nash, TD, a pre-war Territorial. Colonel H.B.L. Smith, MC, a regular officer, was commanding 1 Surreys and wrote the article "1 Surreys at Cassino". After much search Lt G.T. Rose, an Emergency Commissioned officer was found, and supplied the 'Rose Garden on the Rapido'. Another Regular officer, Major R.C. Taylor contributed 'The Bowl' and finally 'Cassino Forty Years On' is the work of Major A.W.F. Paskins, MC, a Territorial.

The Assault Crossing of the Rapido River at Cassino on 11/12 May 1944 by the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

The Recollections of the Beachmaster

The Situation in April 1944

I have tried to put together my personal memories of events which started about the middle of April 1944. The Germans had built during the winter a strong and deep defensive system known as the Gustav Line, which they thought was pretty well impregnable, and they held Monte Cassino, the dominating key position in the area. The events recorded begin with the commencement of a four weeks period of very intensive training for the operation of crossing the Rapido River, establishing a bridgehead and thus opening the way for the Allies' advance up Highway 6 to Rome.

The preliminary training

The CO, Lt Col Thompson, detailed me to take charge of the river crossing training, which involved embarking from various types of river bank, flat, steep, sloping and vertical, and the same for landing. We experimented with many ideas and dropped those that were not feasible. Our training was intense, and included field exercises from infantry section to brigade, by day and by night, and co-operation with tanks, using live ammunition. By the end of the first week in May, our training was completed. The Battalion was at the peak of fitness, and a strong sense of confidence prevailed all round.

The move forward

I remember how quiet our training camp was after the Battalion moved out at dusk on 9 May. The tents were left standing with items of equipment and transport in their usual places – just in case enemy reconnaissance aircraft came over. On 10 May my four trucks were loaded with six boats each, and at dusk we were ready to move up Highway 6. As soon as it was dark enough we set off. On arrival at the Battalion RV we were a truck load of boats short, and a search failed to find it.

Then followed a nightmare of a journey along a narrow potholed lane with high bushy hedges on either side. The canvas truck covers scraped against the branches, making an awful noise. We reached the off-loading site on a railway level crossing, off-loaded and carried the boats about 250 yards up a track. We hid them in a deserted farm house and farm buildings, out of sight of Monte Cassino and spotter aircraft. One of the NCOs of the battalion holding this section of the line told me the river was approximately 400 yards away, and they had outposts out in front along a road. German reconnaissance patrols sometimes came over at night.

The lying-up area

It was around 0300 hrs on 11 May when we reached the lying-up area, tired and hungry. Apart from the lost truck with our six reserve boats, and the noise we could not avoid making, all was well so far. Nightingales were singing nearby. A cup of cocoa, a nip and a bite to eat were very welcome: then a few hours sleep.

11 May dawned without a cloud in the sky. Roses were blooming in the garden of my cottage, and I remember writing a letter to my wife. Monte Cassino dominated the surrounding countryside, causing movement in the lying-up area to be restricted to the absolute minimum. This gave us time to rest and recheck our orders. I checked with my party again that they all knew their tasks; and about an hour before dusk, we started to get ready to move off in advance of the Battalion to prepare the assault craft. I needed a 45 minute start, but we could not leave until half light for fear of being observed by the enemy. At last we got away – 63 of us all told, my Beach Party of 19, plus 44 others, mainly the boat crews.

Time was so short that we had to run the 1½ miles to the forming-up area to gain the 45 minutes we needed to collect, erect and lay out the assault craft. We had to work silently at first, which was difficult as some of the struts that supported the sides of the craft had to be kicked into the locking position.

The opening of the battle

I remember the Medium Machine Guns starting their shoot from the lower slopes of Monte Trocchio. We could hear the chatter of the Vickers guns in the background, and the gentle whisper of thousands of bullets passing overhead. Then, at 2300 hrs, the massive artillery bombardment started. The noise was terrific. The boom and gun flashes behind us, hundreds of shells whining overhead and the crump as they landed and exploded just four to five hundred yards ahead. With a sense of elation we pressed on with our task, able to work much faster as silence was no longer paramount.

By 2325 hrs all boats were assembled and laid out along the lane with their boat crews, ready for the assault troops to pick up and move off to their embarkation points.

The leading companies cross the river

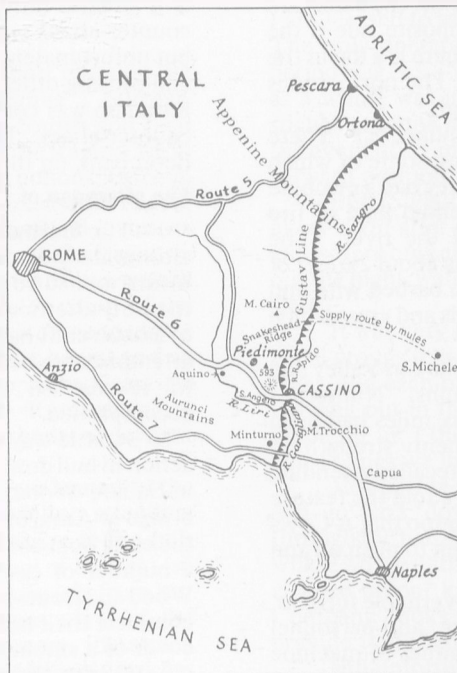
At 2330 hrs the leading company, A, moved off, followed by D Coy, both accompanied by their Company Beachmasters, Captains Penn and Spencer. Lt Davies's ferry team followed, then me with the rest of my party.

A Coy turned right over the bridge across Ascensione Brook, then left along the line of the brook to their launching site. D Coy passed through a gate and diagonally across a field and six or seven awkward ditches to their launching site. Each company laid a wide white tape to mark their route to the river. I set up my HQ at the junction of the sunken lane and the road.

The first message came from A Coy Beachmaster to say they were across; boats had been damaged and only one had returned to the home bank. Then a message from D Coy Beachmaster: the company was across, but all boats had been lost and the company was in a minefield. So, at about 0030 hrs on 12 May the position was that both A and D Coys had most of their troops across, but the only link with the home bank was one surviving boat and the Class I ferry, which had been successfully launched near A Coy site.

Crossing of the support companies and Bn HQ

Smoke and dust had reduced visibility to about 12 feet. All A Coy were now across, and B Coy preparing to follow on the



ferry. This meant wading across Ascensione Brook where it joined the river. The artillery barrage had moved on and was lost so far as the attacking companies were concerned. I could hear rifle and LMG fire, and could distinguish the very rapid rate of fire of the German MGs. Voices could be heard above the din of battle, and I recognised the voice of Maj Plastow, OC A Coy, shouting and encouraging his men.

By approximately 0100 hrs B Coy were over, and C Coy following. Visibility was now down to two or three feet. I returned to my HQ and followed D Coy tape to its launching site.

Capt Spencer had recovered one or two of A Coy boats as they drifted downstream. He told me D Coy had moved upstream along the river bank, and had suffered a lot of casualties who could not be evacuated.

Back to the Class I ferry: C Coy and Bn HQ were across about 0200 hrs. The Beachmaster of 2nd Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment arrived, and I handed over to him the crossing site, the ferry and one assault craft. There was still a lot of firing on the other side, and enemy mortar bombs were falling in the area. The ferry worked splendidly and brought some of our wounded back on the return journey. When I returned to the site some two hours later, the Beds and Herts had completed their crossing, and our Bn Rear HQ had arrived and were digging themselves in. Dawn brought little improvement in visibility, but we soon got news that Point 36 was captured.

The defensive position of Point 36

The feature is a small elongated hill about 250 yards long and 40 yards wide, running north and south parallel to the river, and some 60 to 70 yards from it. On the river side, the banks are vertical, about 15 to 20 feet high, and the opposite side is the same. The south end slopes up steeply, and there is a dip in the middle with a bank giving access to the top. The north end is vertical all round, with sides about 25 feet high.

The whole feature consists of a soft coral-like rock. There are numerous small caves leading off the sides, some of which the Germans had fortified. At the south end they had a machine gun shooting through a loophole with a splendid field of fire covering the open ground on both sides of the river. The Germans had cut down the small trees, leaving about 2½ feet of stumps standing. These were entangled with barbed wire and fitted with booby traps, concealed by the weeds and grass which had grown up in the Spring weather.

Intelligence on the German defences in the Liri Valley had been obtained mainly from aerial photographs. Numerous defensive positions up to a depth of five or six miles had been pinpointed. Information on the estimated enemy strength on Point 36 proved to be hopelessly inaccurate. I recalled attending a Brigade or Divisional briefing where we were told the feature was held by a platoon, and I vaguely remember too that A Coy's first objective was to capture Point 36, and then to push on and capture Point 63.

In the event, Point 36 turned out to be a veritable fortress, with all approaches protected by barbed wire, anti-personnel mines, concealed weapon pits and a large number of machine guns. Thirteen MGs were captured on the feature, and no doubt others were taken away by the retreating enemy. Hence the battle for Point 36, which the Germans obviously regarded as a key strongpoint in their defensive plan, was extremely fierce, and its capture required the combined efforts of all four rifle companies.

Maj Plastow later told me how one German machine gun went on firing after Point 36 had been captured. Eventually one of his soldiers crawled up and lobbed a smoke grenade through the loophole. The MG stopped firing, and five or six German soldiers came running out of a dark dugout, coughing, spluttering and shouting, 'Gas!' They promptly surrendered.

Ferrying operations on the morning of 12 May

Sometime before dawn, I received a message to say the Class I ferry near D Coy site was working. I found D and C Coy wounded were being evacuated. I think it was Maj Newton, OC C Coy, I saw being carried away on a stretcher. Before first light the Class V ferry gear arrived on a large lorry, accompanied by a bulldozer, which started preparing a track to a site near D Coy crossing to get their pontoons to the river bank. The Anti-Tank Regiment responsible for launching this ferry had it working about 0730 hrs. Anti-tank guns were sent over, but were brought

back immediately, because there was no room or cover for them in the shallow bridgehead. This ferry, and our own Class I, were the first to be knocked out after the Germans spotted them about 1130 hrs, when the mist and smoke lifted.

Further down the road, the Bridging Company RE had their lorries, but they had made no progress because the enemy still occupied Square Wood, just across the river from the bridge site. They suffered casualties as soon as they started work.

Enemy artillery defensive fire

At about 1100 hrs on 12 May, the mist and smoke suddenly lifted, and the German artillery OPs were able to pick out their targets. They shelled Point 36, all the ferry sites, Rear Bn HQ, my own HQ and anything else they could spot. Shells were bursting in the trees, with splinters flying all over the place, so I moved my HQ into a culvert under the road.

The German shelling eased up for a while when our own artillery succeeded in blinding the enemy OPs on Monastery Hill with smoke for about an hour. They also eased off considerably when our spotter planes were up. During one of these lulls, I went over on the ferry to contact Bn HQ, and on the way enemy shells started falling around Point 36. On looking about for cover, I spotted a weapon pit then yards away. I jumped in just as a salvo of shells landed nearby. A German soldier was crouched in the bottom and I landed on top of him. He mumbled something like, 'Don't shoot, Johnnie', and raised his hands, making no attempt to pick up his Schmeisser. This was just as well, because I had lost my pistol. My prisoner was very frightened – he could not have been more than 17 years old.

At this time B Coy was attacking Point 63, and a German counter-attack seemed imminent. Defensive fire was called for, but unfortunately some of it fell on B Coy, killing Capt Greening and causing other casualties. The attack was called off and the Battalion was concentrated to defend Point 36 against possible counter-attack. The Mortar Platoon took up position behind the flood bank on the home side of the river.

The afternoon of 12 May

The German shelling was intense and accurate, and soon after midday all cable ferries were knocked out of action. This meant we had no physical link with the Battalion on Point 36. In the early afternoon I got a message to say that the lost truck load of assault craft had been found, and was on its way. Meanwhile, attempts were being made to erect a new Class I ferry cable and to re-establish the crossing. This task was eventually accomplished.

A little way downstream a troop of Sherman tanks was in action in hull down positions trying to blast hell out of the enemy in Square Wood, so that work could continue on the Bailey bridge at Amazon Crossing. This should have been working by the early hours of 12 May, but the Royal Engineers had suffered a number of casualties from the enemy positions in Square Wood and from shell fire. They were nevertheless determined to complete their task, and were working on its construction under cover of a smoke screen all the afternoon and evening.

During the afternoon I went up to the railway cutting to check on the whereabouts of the various echelons waiting to be called down to Amazon Crossing as soon as the bridge or Class V ferry was across. I found them nose to tail in the lane, but well concealed by the high leafy hedgerows. In the railway cutting where we had off-loaded the assault craft on the night of 10/11 May were 35 to 40 German prisoners.

While returning to my HQ, I was followed by our Brigade Commander. He was standing in his Sherman tank, with his head and shoulders out of the turret. He was full of praise and congratulations for the Surreys for their capture of Point 36. 'Well done, Surreys, a marvellous victory!' he shouted above the din. Wishing me good luck, he moved off towards the Amazon Crossing site.

We were strafed continuously all day by shell fire and nebelwerfers, Point 36, the ferry sites, Bn Rear HQ, Ascensione Brook and the sunken lane receiving particular attention. Casualties were surprisingly light, considering the volume of enemy shelling. The only casualty my party suffered was Capt Edwards, The Assistant Beachmaster, who was involved in a traffic accident. The nebelwerfer rockets came over in pairs. They could be clearly seen in flight, emitting a screaming noise, and getting larger and louder as they approached. These rockets,

which were about five feet long, exploded on impact, scattering splinters over a wide area.

Events of 13 May

During the night 12/13 May, my Beach Party got a little much needed sleep. The Class II ferry was busy all night, taking supplies over for the Battalion and for the 2nd Beds and Herts, and returning with casualties for evacuation. Meanwhile, the construction of Amazon Bridge was nearing completion, and by dawn infantry were crossing. Tanks soon followed, but were spotted by the German OPs and repeatedly shelled. Our tanks and infantry were soon in action enlarging the bridgehead to the west of Point 36.

Later that morning I received a signal to report to Naples, prior to return to UK to attend a course at the Staff College, Camberley. I reported to the CO to ask if I could be released from my Beachmaster's job. The Beach Party had virtually finished its task with the erection of Amazon Bridge. Col Thompson wished me the best of luck, and we shook hands. He was tragically killed in action a few days later.

I returned to Rear Bn HQ which was receiving a lot of attention from enemy artillery, and the nebelwerfers were still at it. I decided to move them back to a small culvert with a good covered approach. Having shown Capt Paskins, the Adjutant, the culvert, I returned to my own HQ and handed over to Capt Penn.

I had many regrets at leaving the 1/6th Battalion after 16 years unbroken service with the 6th and 1/6th. The 1/6th Surreys was a splendid battalion, with a wonderful esprit de corps. It served the Regiment well. W C E N

1 Surreys at Cassino

I have been invited to contribute a few short notes on the CASSINO battlefield where I was commanding 1 Surreys. Although we were "follow up" troops in the fourth and final battle and took no part in the actual crossing of the Rapido, we in fact held a front line sector in all the previous actions; twice in front of ST ANGELO village, and once in the area North East of the Monastery known as the "Bowl, Snakes Head and Phantom Ridge areas". In our first spell we did little more than vigorously patrol our side of the river each night based on farmhouses still occupied by the Italians, as well as trying to keep count of the vast numbers of shells and mortar bombs which descended like rain throughout the Battalion sector. I remember having to deal with a very peevish brigadier who was made to walk at least 200 yards from the car park to my headquarters. Remember, we were under observation everywhere during the hours of daylight from the CASSINO and Monastery hills.

For our second spell in this sector we were loaned to the New Zealand Corps, for their battle; and I recollect attending Gen. Freyberg's pre battle conference somewhere in the hills near MIGNANO. He unleashed on us an array of figures - so many guns, tanks etc in support. From then onwards from our comparatively quiet area we had a front seat view of the preliminary bombing of the town and Monastery, the attack itself, and the airborne attempts to supply the luckless Gurkhas clinging to Hangman's Hill. Later we lived in the smoke screen laid down by massed artillery in an abortive attempt to blind the German O.P.s on the Monastery Hill.

Our next assignment was when 78th Division took over from a very tired 4th Indian Division to the north east of the Monastery in the area known as the 'bowl' and 'Snakes Head'. This was quite the worst area we occupied. The enemy were as near as 80 yards from our FDL, behind "Phantom Ridge" and daylight movement was severely restricted. One was unable to dig and we took over a number of small sized sangars erected by the Gurkhas, most of which had to be expanded to take the rather larger Surrey's! I was never more pleased to receive a signal to the effect that "Col Smith had been allotted a seat in the C in C's aeroplane to go to CAIRO on a few days leave!" As we were at that time facing an enemy-held mountain known as Monte CAIRA it took some time and a good many "ruderies" before the accuracy of this signal could be confirmed!!

On my return from CAIRO and after a brief spell of training, out of the line near CAPUA, I found myself again attending a pre battle conference near MIGNANO. This time it was the turn of 4th (British) Division and General Dudley Ward. I found myself sitting beside my old friend Lt Col. "Fatty"

Thompson commanding 1st/6th SURREYS and whom we were destined to follow when his attack across the Rapido had gone through. Our Brigadier "Butty" Arbuthnot came and gave the battalion a rousing address finishing with the words "I will end by giving you an old Scottish Toast - Here's to us, there's none like us, more's the pity!!" We duly crossed the Rapido by bailey bridge and lay up for 24 hours among the former enemy defences around ST ANGELO under sporadic shelling. The next day we carried out an unopposed attack which ended in our being in contact with the Poles, who had captured the Monastery, and we were enabled to join the pursuit to the HITLER line along Route 6.

H B L S

The Rose Garden on the Rapido

As mentioned in the last News Letter, a special display is being mounted in the Regimental Museum this year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Cassino battles. A great deal of information has been received from those serving with the 1st and 1/6th Bns The East Surrey Regiment at the time, and a large map has been prepared by Major Deayton-Groom showing the movements of the various sub-units during the operations.

Then there was a hold-up. Although copies had been made of the War Diaries in the Public Record Office, and many correspondents questioned, no one seemed to know what happened to C Company of the 1st Battalion on the Rapido in March 1944. Now, thanks to Lieut G T Rose, who was a platoon commander in C Company, the gap in our information has been filled. Here is Geoffrey Rose's story.

'So C Company is missing from the record at this time. But I am pleased to say that I can supply the information you need. The only operational part of C Company during this Rapido period was No. 15 Platoon, which I commanded. The company as a whole was in a reserve situation, doing guard duties and suchlike around Bn HQ. No doubt they had an important role in the event of an emergency, but in March 1944 they were not in a forward position.

But 15 Platoon was given a curious task. We moved out every night after dark to a group of slit trenches which I would guess were only about 250 yards from the river; and there we sat out the night, watching and listening (with intervals, by turns, for sleep).

It was very isolated. But, we were allowed to trek back in small groups to a farm building about a quarter of a mile to the rear; and each of us had one glorious hour there every night, thawing out in front of the fire and drinking soup, which was made for us, I think, by two cooks from the company through whose lines we had come.

Just before daylight, we would leave our outpost position and go back down the track, past the little 'soup kitchen', through the battalion lines, and back to a group of farm buildings where we spent the day. We made breakfast, then we slept a bit, cleaned up our kit and relaxed, until, at the end of the day, C Company cooks turned up with a good meal, which was the prelude to our going 'out there' again for the night.

But unfortunately, the period was not without an incident. On a moonless night towards the end of the month, the left-hand slit of our position was overrun by an enemy patrol, and two men were taken prisoner. It was a bad situation, because we couldn't open fire without endangering our own men, and we could see absolutely nothing - only listen to the fracas over on the left and peer into the darkness, hopefully ready for whatever might happen next. I shall never forget that night.

I doubt if I could now show on a map with any certainty where we were. All I can say is that my memory of this month spent alone with my platoon stands out more vividly, perhaps, than that of any other period during my long service with the 1st East Surreys in Italy.

I don't remember seeing any other officer or man of C Company during the whole month - except for the splendid cooks, who brought us our mail and all the gossip. But we were of course fixed up with a field telephone for use while back at the farm. I suppose we must have had the odd visit during the day; but my feeling is of a not-unhappy isolation, which just went on and on. Our outpost position became known as the Rose Garder - a name used for it by the C.O. Obviously, we were out there to give warning if anything developed. Thank God, it never did.'

G T R

'The Bowl'

In 1944, the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment was in the Cassino area for several months; and nowadays, when the various battles are discussed, the conversation turns time and time again to that strange place known as 'The Bowl'. It seems to hold some kind of mystique, and in fact the name has now spread to cover the whole of the hilly ground just north of the Monastery. The Regimental History states, 'The Battalion spent twenty eight days in the Bowl,' but this is not so.

Bn HQ and S Coy HQ were certainly in the Bowl, but the rifle companies were way up above the Bowl on the exposed rocky ridges known as Snakes Head and Phantom Ridge. We took over from the Gurkhas of 4 Indian Division, and presumably these names had been handed on to them by the Americans. (In fact, we had taken over a 'Snakes Head' once before from the Americans at Goubellat in Tunisia).

The Bowl was the Battalion administrative area, safe from observation by the Germans in the Monastery, and thus ideal for supplying the forward companies. It was a small natural amphitheatre, a rocky re-entrant in the steep hill with a few olive trees here and there, and a small level area about the size of a tennis court, containing the graves of a dozen or so Gurkhas.

As all movement had to be carried out after dark, it was ideally situated to receive the nightly mule train. Nothing could move by day, and it was here that all supplies, including water, were issued to the carrying parties from the rifle companies. Everything had to be brought up a steep narrow track by mules or Indian porters the five or six miles from B Echelon, the other side of the Rapido at San Michele. The mule train was usually commanded by an ex-cavalry officer, and whatever his rank, he was always known as 'Major Mule'.

Sometimes the mules, or porters, never reached the Bowl, as the nightly shelling tended to scatter them far and wide, so at times even drinking water was severely rationed. By dawn the supply train had to be well away, and the Bowl would be quiet except for occasional shelling, until night came round once again with its hectic activity. With the supplies would come our Quartermaster, George Birdsall, or his RQMS, 'Nobby' Clark, and back with them would go the sick and wounded.

The Pioneer Platoon, under Sgt Nick Carter, was based in the Bowl, and thus there were some excellent dugouts. Unlike the rifle companies who were above ground in sangars, the inhabitants of the Bowl could at least dig in and thus be safe from shelling. The Adjutant, Jake Saunders, sometimes shared with OC S Coy when things were bad, because after all, the latter did have the Pioneers under his command. On one occasion, Sgt Munday was at the latrines near the Gurkha graves when some unpleasant 'stonking' began; and, being a sensible man, he pulled the thunder box away and jumped in. He eventually emerged - at least unwounded!

Life in the Bowl was not so bad compared with that of the rifle companies, but the American dead lying about added to its unpleasantness. For some reason they were not to be buried out there in the hills, but had to be taken back when conditions allowed. All in all, it was not such a bad place: sleep by day when possible, and frantic activity by night. Those who were there will never forget it, but maybe it does not really justify the mystery which now surrounds it.

One last thought: one night, it must have been fairly early on, the mules as usual were scattered and some of them failed to arrive; and it would be that on this particular night the writer was expecting his batman with his valise and all his other belongings. Already in the War he had left all his kit on the beach at Dunkirk, and a second lot had gone down with the KARANJA in Algiers Harbour. Now a third lot went missing - but somehow this seemed quite acceptable, and almost normal in that strange place - the Bowl.

R C T

CASSINO FORTY YEARS ON

Memory is strange. After forty years some experiences can be recaptured with crystal clarity. Others are blurred or lost with the passage of time.

So it is with my recollections of Cassino; accounts of the great battle and the part 1/6 Surreys played are recorded elsewhere. These are some of the things I remember.

The Battalion had trained for desert warfare in the

mountains of Scotland, and then fought in the spring offensive in Tunisia. We had trained for mountain warfare in the sands of Egypt, and after spending the winter fighting in the mountains north of Naples, had practised river crossings intensely.

It was clear that something big was brewing, and I remember well the company commanders being called to Brigade for a briefing.

It was a beautiful day, security everywhere, but inside the inner ring of guards there was a large model on the ground. No place names, just code names on the various features.

Brigadier Shoosmith, who was not renowned for a placid temperament, was addressing us stressing security. Then, through the sentries strode a D.R., crash helmet, face and uniform covered in dust, and before the clearly infuriated Brigadier could explode, saluted smartly, and the cultured voice of Major Newton apologise for his lateness as his jeep had broken down en route, and he had had to commandeer a passing motor cycle.

Then came the build-up for the battle, one of the administrative problems being the disposition of Battalion H.Q. We had over a hundred, with all the attached specialists and their signallers. Colonel Thompson decided to lead a small forward Bn H.Q. across the river behind the assault companies. I had the main Bn H.Q. and attachments near the river, to cross when called for, and Captain Norsworthy the rear Bn. H.Q. some distance behind.

When we were in our battle positions and wireless silence lifted, we found that Brigade could not hear our wirelasses. We had an exchange of suggestions of where we thought each other should be, the outcome being the provision of another link set between ourselves and Brigade.

Next day, after a night of intense artillery mortar and small arms fire, the river area was thick with mist and choking smoke. Monastery Hill was being shelled with smoke continuously to screen the enemy OPs, but the smoke kept drifting down exposing the Hill again; the Germans probably used smoke also to confuse us. The strong concentration of smoke made our eyes sore and our lungs ache, and we could not see far.

It was fortunate that the ground was so soft, otherwise our casualties would have been much higher. We were well dug in, for there is nothing like a heavy stonking to spur you to dig your personal slit trench a little deeper. Shells would explode very close to you, yet make only a small crater, and the soft earth would absorb most of the splinters. Being near the river bank, the slit trenches soon became half full of water, but everybody accepted this discomfort as the price of shelter.

On one of my visits to Forward Bn H.Q., on Point 36, four Germans emerged from the back of the cave which was our H.Q., hands above their heads. They had been there since it was captured over two days previously, and there were dozens of grenades in their hiding place. One wonders what could have been.

Towards the end of the battle, Major Nash, who was our senior beachmaster, jumped into the little culvert which was then my temporary shelter, and said "What a battle, the Surreys have certainly made their name; you had better have my maps and code list, I'm just off to the Staff College". That was the last I saw of him until after the war.

When the battle was over we came out for a rest in a natural bowl surrounded by hills. We did not know that there were two immense American guns well camouflaged in the same bowl. They fired with a terrifying roar followed by a great catherine wheel of flame and smoke whirring noisily from the barrel. The vibration was so great that it lifted a sleeping man off the ground. The Americans called them, I think, 15 inch Long Toms. We had a different name, but ill tempers were avoided when the astute Americans allowed us to pull the thirty-foot lanyard which triggered the firing mechanism.

Casualties had been heavy, and the battle a series of many individual actions before the objectives were won. Before the War Diary could be written, I asked three representatives from each Company and Battalion unit to recount their experiences, and then distilled all the information into, I hope, a coherent account.

A W F P



Armistice Day 1983 Germany

Captain J.P. Riley serving with The 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment writes in with details of the Armistice Day parade in which the 3rd Battalion held a short but very moving ceremony at Becklingen Cemetery near Soltau Germany. He sent photo's and the Bn's details of parade and continues: "The Regimental graves were all visited and poppies laid by the Battalion on each grave, on Remembrance Sunday, a drummer played 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

The graves are those of: Lt D.G. Wilkinson-Cox MC; Lt T.H. Worton; Cpl R.B. Pass; Lcpl J.A. Freeman; Lcpl A.F. Levy; Pte R.C.T. Tilsley; Pte A.W. Lucas; Pte T. Pillington; Pte P. Hogan; Pte F.A. Keeling.

As many of our readers will know these men were from the 1/5 Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Lt D.G. Wilkinson-Cox was awarded his MC whilst serving with the 1/7 Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Graves

Bill Mathew, 6 Queen's Royal Regiment's Hon Secretary writes: During Pilgrimages to Poland I have photographed graves of the following:

at Marbork (Marienberg) South of Danzig: 6092050 Pte H.C. Cranston, 6094115 Pte J. Fitzgerald, 5668740 Pte H. Sykes, 6093970 Pte A.E. Smithers.

At Cracow Military, part of the City's cemetery: 5674384 Pte F.E. Gregory, 5831379 Pte A.W. Baldry, 6090669 Pte L.R. Thompson.

All these graves in Poland are beautifully kept by school children and the Poles are very helpful if people wish to visit the graves. In the Museum of the Cracow branch of the Polish ex-Servicemen's Club are several British Army Badges including a set of Queen's Royal Regt Collar badges.

The Great Arlington

In November 1943, a Brigade Rear HQ in Italy received an unusual deserter from 104 Panzer Grenadier Regiment. It was none other than the Great Arlington. The story is recorded in the War Diary of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, where it appears as 78 Division Intelligence Summary No. 108 dated 15 November 1943.

The Great Arlington had made an inauspicious debut on the stage, appearing as the hind legs of a zebra. But, he had talent and ambition, and before long he had his own act. He even appeared at the London Coliseum before the War, complete with cabin trunk and a comely blonde.

Then came the War, and the Great Arlington found himself no longer great but a private soldier in the Afrika Corps. Although fighting was foreign to his nature, he did well as a soldier. After being wounded in North Africa, he fought in Sicily and was promoted Unteroffizier.

But his heart was not in soldiering, and he applied for a transfer to the German equivalent of ENSA. His battalion commander was sympathetic and sent the Great Arlington on special leave to Dresden to collect his costumes and props, but not apparently the blonde. On his return to the unit he found a new Commanding Officer who considered he could best serve his country in the cookhouse. This was too much for his sensitive nature; army cooking and the artistic temperament were incompatible. He severed his connection with the Wehrmacht by pouring petrol all over the cookhouse and throwing a grenade in at the window.

He then went to live with a friendly Italian family. Although they provided him with civilian clothes, and even allowed him to become engaged to their daughter, Papa was apprehensive of the consequences of harbouring a deserter. He therefore advised his guest to report, purely as a matter of form, to a British officer. This the Great Arlington did, and his military career came to an end. His final request was that as an artiste he should be allowed to perform in England or America, and not be sent to a Prisoner of War Camp.

A man of character, the Great Arlington; we hope he resumed his stage career after the War.

Commemoration Banners of the First Seven Divisions, 1914

In 1917, Commemoration Banners of the infantry

regiments which formed the First Seven Divisions of the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 were dedicated at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Their Majesties The King and Queen.

We are fortunate in still having the banners of both our Regiments. The Queen's Royal Regiment banner is in the Regimental Museum, and has been most skilfully repaired by Mrs. Roupell. This banner bears the figures I and II below the Regimental badge, denoting that both Regular battalions of The Queen's were present.

The East Surrey Regiment banner is in the Regimental Chapel and is in good condition. The Regimental badge is worked on a white background over the figures 'XXXI' and the words 'Aug - Nov 1914'.

The Battle of Moodkee, 1845

Among the Regimental archives are two letters written by Lieut E.A. Noel of the 31st Regiment during the Sutlej Campaign. This is his account of the Battle of Moodkee on 18th December 1845.

'We had a battle on the 18th with the Sikhs who had taken up their position in bushes on our front about three miles from where I am now writing. We had that same day marched upwards of twenty miles, having been without provisions for three days, so you can fancy how the men were fatigued.

We arrived here about 3 p.m. At 5 p.m. our brigade advanced, without knowing our ground, and, in fact, had every disadvantage possible. We were soon in a tremendous fire which lasted about two hours. Lieut Hart, who commanded No. 3, my company, was shot through the breast at the very commencement of the action, while gallantly cheering his men on. We were now advancing in line - three paces or more in front of the company. I saw him as soon as the line had passed his poor body, lying on his back and entreating a private who was with him to blow his brains out, he was in such pain. He was brought into camp, and we buried him by moonlight last night with poor Lieut Brenchley, who was shot in the stomach and died that night in camp. It was a sad duty; we leave them together in a lonely spot under a tree.

Sir H. Smith, an old Peninsular officer, commands our Division - we are the 1st Brigade in the 1st Division. He said he never saw such sharp work; the bullets, grape, etc., were knocking our men down in all directions. However, we charged through the enemy's guns - the 31st alone took fourteen. I cannot tell you the mad excitement of this. We went on as if made of iron, thoughtless and unconcerned, after passing the cannon's mouth which had been blazing at us. I saw heaps of our men and more of Sikh artillery struggling and breathing their last. I put my hand on the guns, which are remarkably pretty pieces, and which I found excessively hot - so they had been well served.

My candle is getting low and I have no more, so I must hurry to say we advance and attack the Sikh camp tomorrow at daybreak. Today I have almost spent in the field of action, the horror of which I cannot describe - the dead heaped on each other, arms and accoutrements soaked in blood, horses dead and dying by dozens.

I cannot write all night as I am fearfully tired tonight, and having been on the sand in my cloak the other night, I am almost stupefied with cold. We have suffered fearfully. Our Colonel, who was Brigadier, had his hip smashed, our second Colonel was knocked off his horse, three captains severely wounded, one lieutenant wounded, two killed, one doctor, too, severely wounded. My light is just out. God bless you all. I hope to write again.'

The officer casualties were more serious than Edward Noel realised. The veteran Colonel Bolton, who had been wounded at Albuhera 34 years previously, was mortally wounded leading the Brigade into battle. The 31st went into action under Lieut Colonel Byrne, and he was severely wounded in the initial advance. Of the three captains wounded, Edward Lugard, after a distinguished career, rose to become a Major General and the last Colonel of the 31st Regiment. The doctor died later from his wounds. Altogether, the 31st lost in killed and wounded nine officers and 155 Other Ranks in this first battle of the Sutlej Campaign.

Lieut Noel's account of the Battle of Ferozeshah will appear in the next issue of the News Letter.

Regimental Deaths

Abbott - On 5th February, 1984, Pte. Bill Abbott, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Served in the Carrier Platoon 1939-1946. A staunch member of The Old Members Association and regular attendee at Reunions.

Boxshall - On 11th January, 1984, Brigadier R.A. Boxshall, aged 88 years. The East Surrey Regiment.

Cronk - On 7th January, 1984, WOII Charles Roger Cronk, MBE., MM., aged 74 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment and Sergeant-at-Arms Staff, House of Commons.

Gibbs - On 27th April, 1984, Lt. Col Denis Lucius Alban Gibbs, DSO., aged 79 years. (Obituary November)

Goldring - On 10th December, 1983, Pte. Bert Goldring. Served in the 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1939-1946.

Goodrich - On 19th November, 1983, Major Rodney Goodrich, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Higgins - On 2nd March, 1984, Armourer Sgt. Major A. Higgins, MSM., RAOC., attached The Queen's Royal Regiment. Mr. Higgins presented the magnificent display of brass work which is displayed in The Queen's Regiment Museum at Canterbury. During his service with The Queen's Royal Regiment he was mentioned in Despatches three times.

Kennedy - On 19th March, 1984, Lt. Col. (Bart.) Geoffrey Walsham Kennedy, DSO., OBE., MC. aged 89 years.

Knight - 6079654 Pte. Tom Knight The Queen's Royal Regiment, enlisted 18th March, 1922 at Norwich and served in India and The Sudan. In civilian life he became a successful dairy farm manager in Yorkshire and Surrey. He never lost his broad Norfolk accent.

Leyland - On 4th January, 1984, Lt. Col. Roy Leyland, OBE., aged 71 years. Served in The East Surrey and The Parachute Regiments.

Marks - On 8th March, 1984, Charles Marks, aged 67, on his birthday, after a long illness. Served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and was a PSI with the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Woking.

Paine - On 9th October, 1983, Colonel L.J. Paine, The East Surrey Regiment, Egyptian Army, Sudan Defence Force. Enlisted at 16 and was with The East Surrey Regiment in Turkey.

Payne - On 14th December, 1983, Captain Harold Frederick Payne, The East Surrey Regiment.

Riordan - On 14th January, Major W.C. Riordan, aged 77 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sandover - On 26th December, 1983, Major Sir Eric Sandover, MC., The East Surrey Regiment and 44th Bn A.I.F., aged 86 years. As a 2/Lt. in 1916 he was awarded the MC.

Terry - On 5th October, 1983, Lt. Colonel Patrick Rose Terry, aged 77 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Thompson - On 3rd November, 1983, Major C.G.H. Thompson, TD., The East Surrey Regiment.

Whitehead - On 2nd April, 1984, Lt. Colonel Edmund Fell Whitehead, aged 73 years. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1930 to 1937, and later in The King's African Rifles.

Regimental Families

Broad - Mrs. Maureen Broad, wife of WOII M. Broad. WOII Broad served with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment and is now serving at the Depot, The Queen's Division, Basingstoke.

Pearse - On 3rd April, 1984, Miss Dulcibella Wodehouse Pearse, aged 93 years, daughter of the late Colonel H.W. Pearse, who was commissioned in the 70th Regiment in 1876. The Colonel was the author of Volume I of The History of The East Surrey Regiment. Miss Pearse recently presented her father's sword to the Regimental Museum.

Poole - On 24th December, 1983, Mrs. Ann Poole, widow of Major Campbell Everard Poole, who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1926 to 1949.

Roberts - On April 7th, 1984, Mrs. Grace Stewart Roberts, aged 102, widow of Major ANS (Attie) Roberts, OBE., The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Stafford - The wife of Brigadier F.E. Stafford, CMG., CBE., MSM., passed away recently at their home in Horsham, Sussex.

Obituaries

H.H. Merriman, DSO, MC.

Hugh Merrimen joined the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regt as a Territorial soldier in the early 30's. When the Army doubled in size prior to the 1939/45 War he was commanding HQ Coy of the 5th Battalion and took them to France with the BEF in 1940.

During the withdrawal from the low countries and before his evacuation via Dunkirk he was ordered to cover the Brigade front with the Carrier platoon which he did with such skill and determination that, and in spite of, encountering enemy tanks the platoon was able to hold its ground enabling the Bde to continue its withdrawal, for this he was later awarded the MC.

He joined the Reconnaissance Corps soon after its formation and was posted as 2IC to the 3rd Reconnaissance Regt (NF) and assumed command the following year. It was during this period that he showed his flair for organisation and the training of men which was to stand the Regt in such good stead during the invasion of Europe. 3 Recce landed on D + 10 and was in continuous action within the Normandy bridgehead and in the breakout, advancing NE through Amiens and Brussels to Holland.

Again he proved himself to be a leader who inspired all ranks whilst at the same time showing immense concern for all those under his command and by this time the Regt had built up a formidable reputation under his outstanding leadership and for this he was awarded the DSO. A senior contemporary has since described him as 'the best Territorial soldier that he had ever met'.

He continued to command the Regt through the Rhine crossing - the advance on Bremen and final surrender of the German Army being demobilised when the Regt had started the duties of an occupational force. P N

As a retired Territorial Adjutant I pay tribute to Hugh as a Territorial Army Officer of long standing. I knew him for many years in 5 QUEENS and had a great respect for him. It was certain that any job given to him would be understood in full, properly carried out and there there would be no repercussions. His record speaks for itself.

My sincere sympathy to Anne and to their whole family. L.C.E.

Brig. R.A. Boxshall

Brig. R.A. Boxshall who died in January 1984 was one of the few remaining veterans amongst the officers of the East Surrey Regiment. He joined the Regt. in March 1915, and during the 1st World War saw active service in France, Egypt, Salonica and Turkey and was mentioned in despatches in January 1919. He was also made a Chevalier of the Order of the Freedom of Greece. I first met Peter Boxshall in India in 1931 when I served in his company at Birdwood Barracks, Lahore. He was a keen horseman who played polo for the Regt. I remember riding against him in the Regt race at the Lahore Hunt Point to Point. I later succeeded him as adjutant to the 23rd London Regt T.A. where he had left quite a reputation for himself. During World War Two he commanded the 1st Bn with distinction in France and Belgium where he was again Mentioned in Despatches in June 1940. Promoted Brigadier in 1941, he commanded successively 206, 158 and 199 Infantry Brigades from May 1941 to August 1944. I was his adjutant during the post Dunkirk period when the 1st Bn was stationed on the south coast in its anti invasion role. I knew Peter as a strict disciplinarian who never suffered fools gladly. Above all he was a fine and gallant soldier. HBLS

I should like to pay tribute to the memory of Brigadier R.A. Boxshall, who died on 11th January. I first met him when I stayed at his house in Fyzabad in 1936, next in 1946 when he was commanding the Suez area. I regard him with respect as an Infantry Officer, who knew the answers.

L.C.E.

Lt. Col. (Bart) G.W. Kennedy DSO, OBE, MC.

Geoffrey Walsham Kennedy was educated at Tonbridge and commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1915. 'Bart', as he was invariably known, soon displayed a natural aptitude for his profession, for he possessed the soldierly attributes of toughness, courage and cheerfulness. His career spanned both World Wars, and he fought with distinction in each. Serving as a platoon commander in the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment at Hill 60 in April 1916, Lt. Kennedy was severely wounded in the head. He returned to the Battalion in September 1917 to command a company, and was again wounded. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and leadership in September 1918.

Between the Wars, Captain Kennedy was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and on the outbreak of the last war went to France as Second in Command. In March 1940, he was appointed to command the 4th Bn The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was again wounded in the defence of Cassel, and was taken prisoner. For his distinguished conduct as Commanding Officer, he was awarded the DSO.

When he was fit enough, Bart was appointed Senior British Officer of a Prisoner of War Camp, and for his fortitude and maintenance of morale, he was awarded the OBE. After the War, he commanded the Primary Training Centre at Kingston, and retired in 1948 after 33 years service. It was not long before he was in service again, this time with Civil Defence. He became County Civil Defence Officer for Suffolk, a post he held for 11 years.

Bart was at his best in adversity. Courageous, tough and cheerful, he faced the situation, however desperate, with a staunchness and resilience which made him one of the most respected and popular officers in The East Surrey Regiment.

P G E H

Capt. H.F. Payne

Harold Frederick Payne joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1941. A chartered accountant by profession, he proved himself an able and meticulous officer, and was appointed Adjutant the same year.

During the fighting in the mountains of Tunisia in April 1943, Battalion Headquarters was caught in an enemy artillery concentration and Harold was severely wounded. He suffered increasingly, but uncomplainingly, from this wound for the rest of his life.

After the War, Harold became Treasurer of the 78 Division Battleaxe Club, an appointment he held for 37 years. His professional expertise did much to ensure the financial stability of the Club in which he was a popular figure.

P G E H

Major R. Goodrich

Served with 1/6th Queen's 1940-45 as Assistant Adjutant, Sports Officer, Battle Patrol Officer, Company Commander, Second-in-Command of the Battalion. Mentioned in Despatches for his work in the Western Desert.

I was lucky to have served under such a gallant officer as his C.S.M., C/Sgt. and Platoon Sgt. over a period of time. As a Platoon Sgt. I went into action on the night of 23rd October 1942 with Major Goodrich as my Company Commander. He was leading with my Platoon as forward platoon. Officers had become non-existent due to casualties in previous actions. The barrage started at 2200 hrs. The R.E.'s were unable to continue to clear the mines and it was decided to push ahead through the minefields so not to lose the effect of the barrage. This resulted in some casualties. Suddenly we were in enemy lines facing the Folgore Division, the whole of the Battn. H.Q. being taken prisoner. We stayed there overnight exchanging fire and came under fixed line fire. The following night it was decided to withdraw and at 2000 hrs. we moved off in single file but many were going up on the mines. Although under shell, mortar and fixed line fire the Company was halted, those leading were

ordered to fix bayonets. From then on, prodding for mines, we reached our lines, no further casualties took place due to the foresight of Major Goodrich.

He also took part in the film "Desert Victory" showing how a Company went into action at that period. In attendance at the Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Godalming, on the 25th November, 1983, representing the 1/6th Queen's were Col. Nice, Major Young and Mr. D.G. Coles, MM.

DGC

Lt. Col. R. Leyland, OBE.

Lt. Col. Roy Leyland was one of the number of very distinguished rugby players who have served in the East Surrey Regiment. He was capped three times for England as a three-quarter and was a British Lion in South Africa in 1938. He also played eight times for the Army in Inter-Service matches.

These main distinctions as a rugby player came when he was a member of the A E C, as it then was, since he was first commissioned from University to be an Instructor at R M C, Sandhurst before the War. It was on return from France in 1940 that he transferred to the East Surreys, later becoming a parachutist in 1943. He was then with 13th Parachute Battalion at the Rhine Crossing and later commanded this Battalion in the Far East in 1946. After the War he had a number of Airborne staff appointments before serving with 1st Surreys in the early 1950s. His last appointment was as Commandant of the Army Air Transport Development Centre from which he retired in 1958 to become a civilian instructor at R M A Sandhurst from whence he finally retired in 1977. His record of teaching at Sandhurst before 1939 and again 20 years later is probably unique.

Roy was a delightful person, a very effective officer, but always unassuming, enthusiastic and fun, and he went on playing rugby in this spirit until a considerable age. He was an inspiration to many sides in later life and remained a very difficult man to stop - it was always a privilege to play with him.

The Regiment was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Tony Hannaford at his Memorial Service at Aldershot.

J W S

Lt. Col. P.R. Terry

Pat Terry was best known in The Queen's when serving with the 1st Battalion in Tientsin and Quetta.

There were sporting activities of many kinds in both stations including polo, racing and hunting, and he took part prominently in all of them, playing polo for the Regiment, winning races including the Regimental point to point (revived after years of 'suspended animation'), and whipping in to the Quetta hounds.

The Quetta earthquake, in which the Battalion played a major role in rescue work, and later in relief and building temporary accommodation, occurred six months after their arrival from Tientsin. However, despite the many arduous duties, the Battalion was well able to compete successfully in all games, and in polo with the Cavalry, Gunners, Staff College and other teams, in this Divisional station. Their success was chiefly due to having a well organised polo club fund, which bought and loaned or sold ponies to prospective players, and it was thereby that Pat bought his polo pony 'Peaceable', which he eventually shipped home to the UK, where she won point to points in Devon, a remarkable feat for a polo pony bred in India.

Educated at Wellington and Sandhurst he qualified at the Royal Military College of Science, served in Palestine, the Middle East and Armaments Design, and retired in 1958 to the Old Rectory Farm, Belstone, Devon. He leaves his wife Diana, two sons and a stepson, to all of whom we extend our sympathy.

J R T

C.S.M. C.R. Cronk, MBE., MM.

Charlie Cronk enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1927 and became a very well known personality in the Regiment, but sadly this fine Queensman died on the 7th January.

He served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong, Malta, China and completed his engagement in 1935. He re-enlisted in 1937 and was in the Middle East with the 2nd Bn, when war was declared and fought in N. Africa and Syria. He spent 5½ months in Tobruk with the Corner Pl and commanded the Bde Carriers or what was left of them in the breakout in 1942 and was awarded the Military Medal. He was blown up 4 times in carriers but



managed to continue despite his injuries. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches and left the Army in 1948.

General Hughes got him a job as a Messenger in the House of Commons where his smart bearing and efficiency led to him becoming the Head Messenger and before his retirement in 1974 he was awarded the MBE.

Recently he had not been well but he never complained, and was to be seen at Regimental functions.

On 13 January a very large number of his relations and friends attended his funeral service at Guildford Crematorium which showed the high esteem in which he was held by everybody.

To his wife and family we send our deepest sympathy.

J B K

"A Muster of DCM Holders"

Next year (1985) the Distinguished Conduct Medal League is celebrating with a muster for all DCM holders.

The DCM was instituted by Queen Victoria on 4 December 1854 and since the Crimea War has been awarded to over 30,000 soldiers for distinguished conduct in the field. 3,530 were awarded during the years before 1914, 25,100 in World War I, 46 in the years between the World Wars and 1,904 in World War II. Far fewer were won in World War II because the Military Medal, instituted in 1917, was awarded as well as the DCM. Since 1975, the DCM has also been given posthumously; in the recent Falkland War eight were awarded, three of which were posthumous.

Major J C Cowley, President of the DCM League was planning to hold the muster on a weekend in early autumn 1984 at a suitable location either in London or in the Windsor area, but sadly he has been beaten by bureaucracy. He is now planning for 1985.

It is hoped to make this occasion a royal ceremony of remembrance and rededication. Although Major Cowley has a list of all the names of DCM holders from World War II, he has not been able to contact them because holders must volunteer their own addresses. It is hoped to have a full turn out for this unique occasion and so the DCM League would be very grateful if all those who were awarded this medal could make every effort to get in touch with Major Cowley. His address is: Major J C Cowley DCM, 17 Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1NJ.

Lass O'Gowrie Pub-Brewery

Major Paul Gray has sent in a cutting from the May 1983 issue of "What's Brewing" which is of great interest. It says that Whitbread's had recently installed one of their malt extract plants in the Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street, Manchester. It was the first of such plants to be installed west of the Pennines, others already having been installed on the eastern side. The two beers of 1035 and 1042 gravity still had to be named at the date of publication.

What, if any, regimental contacts were there with Manchester.

The Royal Homes

The S.S.A.F.A. Royal Homes for Officers' Widows and Daughters, Queen Alexandra's court, St. Mary's Road, Wimbledon, SW19 7DE, comprises 75 self-contained, well fitted, unfurnished, centrally heated flats and flatlets on a mature four acre site amidst gracious surroundings. There is a resident Warden (a retired Service Officer) and a resident Nursing Sister for emergency medical treatment and care during short term illness.

Widows and Unmarried Daughters of limited means of deceased Officers of all three Services are eligible for admission provided they are between the ages of 50 and 70 and are fully capable of looking after themselves and their accommodation. The flats are rent free, but residents contribute towards meeting maintenance costs according to their means. Further particulars may be obtained from the Warden (Tel. 01-946-5182).

Can You Help?

Mr. R. Berry of 22 Pollard House, Kingsmead Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey is trying to contact Private Charlie Henwood, CSM Grimsey and Major Burham of A Company 1st Bn The East Surreys. They were together at Oudenaarde just prior to Dunkirk. He is also trying to contact Eddie Edwards and 'Chalky' Harris both of whom came from Carshalton, Surrey and were members of the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Royal British Legion Pilgrimage to Italy, taking in Anzio, Minturno, Cassino and Salerno from 21st to 28th October, 1984. Price £ 298 per person. Last day of application 15th July. This pilgrimage is open to non-members who are Ex-Servicemen and their relatives and dependants. Those interested should write for further details to:- Benevolent Dept., The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT CHRISTMAS CARD 1984

This year's card will feature, in full colour, a reproduction of a specially commissioned painting by Mr. C.C. Stadden (see black and white print below). This is the third in the series depicting our Former Regiments. Previous cards have depicted The Queen's Royal Surrey and The Queen's Own Buffs. The scene shows a recruiting party of The 2nd Battalion 35th Regiment of Foot outside the West Gate Canterbury, Christmas 1800.



Acknowledgements, with grateful thanks to:-

The Daily Mail for kind permission to reproduce the cartoon "Which D Day do they mean" and Mr. C.C. Stadden for allowing his line drawings to be reproduced. It may be of interest to Surrey members to know, that as Sgt Stadden, The Cypriot Regiment, 4 Cypriot Mule Company, Mr. Stadden also took part in all the actions at Cassino.