

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

Regimental Association Newsletter

Number 36
November 1984

President
Colonel J.W. Sewell
Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE
Secretary & Editor
Lieutenant Colonel L.M. Wilson, MBE



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

Editorial

There has been an increase of 84 to the subscription list since the last publication of the Newsletters. Our brothers are getting the message.

My grateful thanks are due to our President, to Colonel 'Buck' Buchanan and to Major Peter Hill for all their efforts in editing material submitted for publication. No acknowledgement would be complete without a mention of Mrs. Daphne Hill whose beaver away at potential subscribers brooks no resistance. To all contributors to this edition, thanks a lot and sharpen up your pencils for the next one.

The Open Day at the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park passed off successfully on 22nd September, transforming itself into a 'Mini-Reunion'. Talking of reunions, it was good to see Major Smurthwaite MC, the medical officer of 1 Surreys in Italy, meeting Cpl Eddie Rolfe for the first time since 1944 when he treated him for a wound in the neck.

The final message for this newsletter is "GET IN TOUCH AND KEEP IN TOUCH." There have been instances recently of some of our Old Comrades having fallen upon hard times but lacking the contacts or know-how to communicate with the Regimental Association. There is a well-oiled machinery for getting help quickly to distressed former members of the Regiment and their dependants but of course the Association cannot ease the burden if it hasn't been informed about it.

Les Wilson

President's Notes

As a wonderful summer unfolded there has been much nostalgia, taking out of medals, some parading and a lot of meeting and talking. Nationally pride of place has been given to Normandy and to Arnhem, but Regimentally too we have had 40th Anniversaries, particularly Cassino, while also there has been for us too Normandy, and elsewhere Anzio, Kohima, the Gothic Line, and 42 years on we have as well recalled 2nd East Surreys and The British Battalion, this sparked by the visit of Mr. Chye to present us with a copy of his History.

Through all these events besides the pleasure to those with their own memories in getting together with friends there has been a theme of pride in our Country, in our Divisions, in our Regiments and Battalions, but also there have been feelings of reconciliation and respect for each other, including those who were our enemies, perhaps best epitomized by that picture of President Mitterand of France and Chancellor Kohl of Germany standing together jointly to honour the over 700,000 casualties sustained by their Nations at Verdun in 1916.

We shall no doubt go on to more anniversaries and memories over the next years, and then there will be the 50th! One hopes that through these we as old soldiers can, without boring our succeeding generations, continue to show what comradeship and common endeavour did and still can achieve, and so pass on our pride to our successors.

It has been splendid that through these events, more visiting to the Museum, together with the dedicated efforts of our Honorary Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson, that more members have joined or rejoined the Association. The Newsletter subscription has been increased by 84 so that our overall strength is now some 800. Most new Newsletter subscribers joined the Regimental Association. It would be nice if we could be more, and I do echo our Secretary's exhortation for people to subscribe to the Newsletter so that they are in touch.

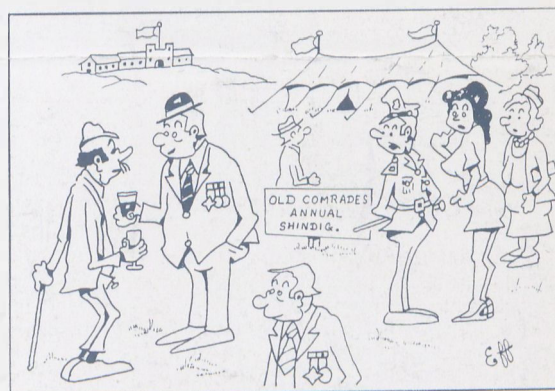
Having mentioned the Museum I pay tribute to all those involved there for the continuing most interesting and beautifully cared for display. The Museum becomes increasingly a centre for Regimental affairs, and we are very lucky in its location within the fine National Trust home of Clandon Park. The worry is that it is still run financially from hand to mouth - many people have been most generous - however there is a continuing need for funds, and so a requirement for further donations, for covenants and, may I suggest, for legacies in order to ensure the memory of our Regiments.

I shall hope that we will have a good turnout for the Reunion at the Union Jack Club on 2nd November and for the Remembrance Day Parades, particularly at Kingston where the Secretary has arranged for the Association to be restored to its rightful place and where the Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Brigadier Charles Millman, will be accompanying the Mayor in taking the salute.

I send my good wishes to everyone for Christmas, and for health, strength and happiness in 1985.

September 1984

Toby Sewell



They haven't the discipline today Felicity, you always see the odd one with his buttons undone!!

Stoughton Barracks and Its Lamb

As many will know, the final disposal of Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, for its first 82 years the Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment, is to take place this Autumn. What re-development might take place is not known at this stage. The Keep and the gateway are however, being retained to be preserved as structures of historic importance, with the Keep available for continued office and limited storage occupation - it is at present the home of the WRAC Recruiting and Liaison Staff, who used to be with the Ministry of Defence in London.

With the future unclear a number of people over the past years have voiced concern for The Lamb which stands on top of the arch, and suggestions have been made for its removal elsewhere. The situation is that The Lamb has been declared an integral part of the historic structure and therefore must be maintained in its position and must not be removed. Practically The Lamb is very securely bolted down to the arch, and at present too looks strong and in good condition. Its future therefore seems secure. That it will remain on top of the gateway is welcomed too by many in Guildford, and certainly some of the local Stoughton people, who would have been sad if this evidence of The Regiment's close connection with Guildford had disappeared.



FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1984



Date	Details of Event
24 November	WO's & Sgts' Assn Xmas Draw, TA Centre, Portsmouth Rd., Kingston.
5 December	Dedication of Memorial Plaques and short Remembrance Service to Brig R.A. Boxshall and Lt Col G.W. Kennedy DSO, OBE, MC. 1500 hrs All Saints Church Kingston. Details Canterbury 457411 Ext. 253.
8 December	Christmas Reunion 6th (Bermondsey) The Queen's Royal Regiment, Royal British Legion, Deptford. Details from: W. Mathews, 53 Dalmeny Ave., Norbury, London SW16

1985

10 February	SOBRAON DAY
28 February	Annual Reunion Dinner Dance 6th (Bermondsey) The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Union Jack Club - 1830 hrs. Details from: W. Mathews, 53 Dalmeny Ave., Norbury, London SW16
2 March	Queens (Southwark Regtl Dinner (Men Only). Union Jack Club. Details from Branch Sec: Major J.M.A. Tamplin TD., 10 Hugh Street, London SW1.
23 March	Queen's Surrey's Regimental Trustees and Assoc Committee Meeting. Clandon Park Guildford. Details to Members from Hon Sec.
23 April	YPRES DAY
4 May	5th O.M.A. The Queen's Royal Regiment Annual Dinner, The Drill Hall, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from: D. Mitchell, 3 Littlefield Way, Guildford, Surrey.
9 May	Queen's Surrey's Golf Society, Spring Meeting, Richmond. Separately to Members.
16 May	ALBUHERA DAY
* 2 June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE Regimental Association Annual Church Service. Guildford Cathedral, 1100 hrs.
11 June	Massed Bands of The Queen's Division, Beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade London. Details from RHQ The Queen's Regt, Canterbury. Further details in May Newsletter.
6 July	Tercentenary The Battle of SEDGEMOOR 1685.
9 July	Queen's Surrey's Golf Society & Royal Marines, North Hants. Separately to Members.
14 July	The QUEEN'S REGIMENT GRAND REUNION, Basingbourn. Details with May Newsletter and from RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Canterbury.
7 September	SALERNO Reunion 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, Union Jack Club. Details from Branch Secretary. 58 Sandford Road, East Ham, London.
9 September	SALERNO DAY
14 September	Muster of holders The Distinguished Conduct Medal. Review by HRH The Duke of Kent GCMG GCVO ADC. Service and Reception Windsor Castle. Details from Major J.C. Cowley, DCM 17 Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, Berks SL4 1NJ.
* 20 September	Queen's Surrey's Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon, Clandon Park, Guildford. Details separately to Officers' Club Members.
28 September	Queen's Surrey's Museum (OPEN DAY) CLANDON PARK, GUILDFORD. 1400-1800 hrs.
10 October	Queen's Surrey's Golf Society Autumn Meeting, Richmond. Separately to Members.
12 October	WOs' & Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Basingbourn. Details in May Newsletter.
14 October	Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Formation of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.
* 1 November	Regimental Association Annual Reunion Union Jack Club - Details in May Newsletter.
20 December	THE BRITISH BATTALION DAY. WO's & Sgts' Assoc. meet last Saturday of each month at 1930 hrs, The Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston.

5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association

The Annual Reunion Dinner held at Sandfield Drill Hall on Saturday 19th May, was a great success with an attendance of 160 members having travelled from many parts of the country to be with their old pals again. Several had never attended this function before, and it was probably their first meeting with the lads for over 40 years, and this year being the anniversary of the D-Day landings, and the Battle of Monte Cassino, made this year something special.

To start the evening the Band and Drums of The Surrey Army Cadet Force gave a short, but very impressive display.

Our Chairman, Lt. Col. Foster Herd, was unable to be with us due to an overseas engagement, but Major Richard Saunders stood in for him and welcomed everyone on his behalf, wishing them all a very enjoyable evening. He also welcomed our guests, Colonel Toby Sewell and Lt. Col. Les Wilson, President and Secretary of The Queen's Surreys Association.

Colonel Sewell gave a short speech on the Association, the progress of The Museum, and The Queen's Regiment. He

thanked the Committee for their kind invitation to Col Wilson and himself to join such a large gathering.

Major Saunders in a short speech said that after so many years being with us at the reunion, our grand old warrior Colonel C R Wigan had had to call it a day, at 95 he felt that it was too much for him. Thanks were due to The O C 'A' Coy for the use of The Drill Hall, to Major Oldfield of The Surrey ACF who had been of great assistance, and to Jimmy Patterson, Jack Homersham, Geoff Regester, and Ron May and most of all Doug Mitchell who had done all the arranging to make this such a successful evening.

Many of the Association members joined the large congregation at the Annual Service at Guildford Cathedral in June. Members assisted in taking the collection during the service, followed afterwards by refreshments in the Refectory.

All particulars of The 5th Bn Association can be received from the Hon. Secretary Doug Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey. Worple'n 232043.

RM

6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment

Since the last report we have entertained our friends of "La Sarcelle A" and in turn have visited them in Ghent, taking in a visit of Ypres, meeting the Burgermeister and parading at the Menin Gate for the Ceremony of "Last Post". Our friends hardly gave us time to rest and only the fit can survive. Contact was made with The Royal British Legion, and a group of Polish ex-Servicemen and a former Sgt. of the Battalion now resident in Ghent having married the sister of one of the Resistance.

The Association were represented at the Church Service at Redhill, for the unveiling of the headstone at the grave of Sgt. Harvey VC.

We have lost several members, some have died, others through their neglect and not notifying change of address, but we have recruited (shanghaied!) new members, but the trend is sadly downwards.

We hope to organise a Christmas Social, also the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service with the get-together afterwards in the Sgts' Mess of the Royal Marine Reserve.

All in all this Association is still alive and kicking!

WM

GOLF

The Spring Meeting of the Golf Society took place at Sudbrook Park, Richmond on 3rd May 1984. 24 Members attended and the main results were:-

Winners:-

Challenge Cup for best scratch score — Michael Power (82)

Dodgson Cup for best medal score under handicap —
Maj-Gen. G A White (70)

Heals Memorial Trophy for best Stableford score under
handicap — Lt.Col. Foster Herd (32 pts)

Veterans Halo Maj-Gen. G A White (37 pts)

At the end of the day the Annual General Meeting of the Society took place. This included election of a new President, Brigadier Michael Clarke having completed his three years. To replace him Major-General Tony White was elected by acclamation. Michael Power continues as Captain, and Basil Crutchfield as Hon. Secretary for yet another year.

Annual Match v Royal Marines G.S.

This was played at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet on 11th July with the Royal Marines as hosts. The following played for the Society (in Foursomes Order): Maj-Gen. Tony White, Michael Power, Col. John Davidson, Major John Sutton, Capt. John Clark, Maj. Vic Sheppard, Col. Toby Sewell, Maj. Basil Crutchfield. The Marines led 2½ to 1½ after the morning Foursomes, but the Regiment came back in the Singles to halve the overall Match 6pts each. As usual it was a most enjoyable day.

RESULTS

AM. Foursomes

QUEENS SURREYS

Maj-Gen White
M. Power

Col. Davidson
Major Sutton

Capt. J. Clark
Major V. Sheppard
Col. Sewell
Crutchfield

ROYAL MARINES

Major Bodenham
Capt. Gordon

M. Trotman
Col Harris

C. Bates
Capt. Hunt
Lt. Col. Tweed Major
C. Dyer

PM Singles

Maj-Gen. White
Col. Davidson
Major Sutton
M. Power
Col. Sewell
Major Sheppard
Major Crutchfield
Capt. Clark

0 Lt. Col Tweed
1 Major Bodenham
0 Capt. Hunt
1 C. Bates
½ M. Trotman
0 C. Dyer
1 Capt. Gordon
1 Col. Harris

6

BC

6

Museum Notes

Following the very successful presentation this year of the Battles of Cassino, the scene for 1985 is to be 'The War in the Far East' in which the 1st and 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment and the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment took part. Mrs. Daphne Hill is already collecting material and she would be very grateful for the loan (or gift) of anything which you still may have in your possession; of particular interest are photographs, maps and diaries, and first hand accounts of actions in which you took part, or preserved in letters written home at the time.

Photographs loaned are being expertly re-photographed by Major C.F. Cole MBE to whom we are most grateful. The originals will be returned and the copies, after being displayed in 1985, will be retained in photograph albums as we have done for Salerno and will do for Cassino.

The Cassino display was enhanced in early September by a framed painting of the night crossing of the River Rapido by 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the fourth and final battle. The picture was painted by Major C.W. Deayton-Groom MBE who kindly presented it to the museum; the painting gives a very realistic impression of this most difficult of military operations.

Major Deayton-Groom has already produced the excellent pictorial maps for the Cassino display and again we wish to record our grateful thanks to him.

A museum 'Open Day' was held on Saturday 22nd September and judging by the large number of old comrades who came, it was a success. It provided not only an opportunity to see the museum itself, but it proved a very good reunion. Next year's Open Day will be Saturday 28th September, 1985.

Following an appeal to retiring members of the Regiment living within reasonable distance of Clandon Park, Major H. Crabtree, Major A.V.A. Cummins TD, Capt. A.C.L. White TD (and Mrs. White) and Mr. D. James volunteered to help us during busy weekends when the House is open to the public. We are most grateful to them. With so many of the public visiting the museum, particularly at Bank Holidays, it is essential for security to have at least two supervising during opening hours. We need more names on our books for this important task and if you can offer one or more weekends in the future, please let the Curator know.

A windfall came to us this year in the form of a grant made by the Territorial Trustees. As a result of this grant, four new wall mounted display cases are now being constructed for medals, badges, buttons and similar artefacts; in addition when the House closes for the winter, a tiled carpet to match the other three rooms will be laid in the Archives Room. We wish to thank Colonel W.E. McConnell TD and the Territorial Trustees for these most generous gifts which will enhance the Museum.

H.R.D.H.

Decorations and Medals

Additions this year to the Decorations and Medals in The Queen's Surreys Museum at Clandon are those of:-

Brigadier-General F.J. Pink, CB., CMG., DSO.,

late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Brigadier R.A. Boxshall

late The East Surrey Regiment.

Lt. Col. G.W. Kennedy, DSO., OBE., MC.,

late The East Surrey Regiment.

C/Sgt. F.G. Ashby, MM.,

late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sgt. W.J. White,

late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

L/Sgt. G.E. Ward,

late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Pte. S. Stone, MM.,

late The East Surrey Regiment.

Pte. J.R. Cox,

late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Pte. K.J. Gibson,

late The East Surrey Regiment.

C/Sgt. R. Ellis

The Queen's Royal Regiment, (T.A.)

It will be remembered that Colonel Hugh W. Pearse, DSO.

was the author of Volume I and co-author of Volume II of The

History of The East Surrey Regiment. His daughter, Miss

Dulcibella Wodehouse Pearse, who died in April this year, has,

in her Will, presented his medals to The Queen's Royal Surrey

Regiment: they are the DSO., Afghanistan Medal, 1878-80,

Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902, and King's South Africa

Medal 1901-02.

Colonel Pearse's medals are mounted in a splendid case,

with the medals of other members of the family - Admiral

Richard Pearse (includes a very rare Polar medal), Commander

Charles Pearse, RN., Captain Hugh Armin Pearse, MC. The bequest was that all the family medals should go to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and it has been agreed that this fine family collection should remain complete and be displayed in our Museum.
("The Medal Man")



SERGEANT JACK HARVEY V.C.



1/22nd Battalion (County of London) Regiment
The Queen's

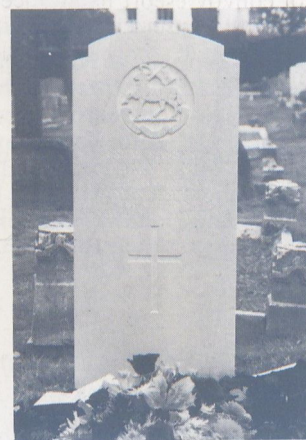
Sergeant Harvey won his Victoria Cross as a Private soldier when serving in France, north of Peronne on 2nd September 1918. He destroyed a machine gun post which was holding up his Company and then rushed a dug-out compelling 37 of the enemy to surrender. He died at the early age of 48 in 1940 and was buried at Redstone Cemetery, Redhill.

As part of his research in the VC's of The Regiment, Lt. Col. Les Wilson discovered that Sergeant Harvey's decoration and medals had come into the possession by purchase of Mr. N. C. McCrery, who is a policeman in Nottingham and who is a recognised and respected medal collector. At the same time Mr. McCrery during his investigations into the history of Sergeant Harvey had found that the grave at Redhill was unmarked.

Resulting from this, the Association decided that this sad situation must be remedied and a Headstone, of Commonwealth War Graves Commission type, has been placed on the grave on 2nd September 1984. The Service, which received national publicity in both the Press and the BBC, was conducted by the Reverend Douglas Walker RA ChD, Chaplain to 5 Queen's.

Amongst those present were Mrs. N.F.A. Harvey and her son, Sergeant Harvey's grandson, and other relations, the Mayor of Reigate & Banstead, the Mayor and Mayoress of Southwark, Captain P.J. Gardner VC MC late R. Tanks representing the VC and GC Association, Colonel C.H. Nice TD DL representing the 6th Queen's the successors of 22nd London Regiment, The Queen's and Major JMA Tamplin representing 7th Queen's the successors of 24th London Regiment, The Queen's. Mr. N.C. McCrery together with his father and brother were also present. The President of the Association read the Lesson at the Service and laid a wreath, as did Colonel J.W. Francis, representing The Queen's Regiment.

After the Service light refreshments were taken at the Royal British Legion, Redhill.



The Queen's in Syria, 1941

Readers of the article 'Upon joining the Aussies' in the November 1983 News Letter will be interested to hear that the writer, Captain Mountjoy, has obtained the French view of the operations from the War Diaries of the Vichy French Forces, Southern Command, Syria. The French, who counter-attacked Jabel Mazar with the equivalent of a brigade of Colonial troops, reached a point 50 metres from the summit by nightfall. The report states, 'Hardly any progress was made with the operation for the recapture of the Jebel during the night, owing to the uncertainty of our units as to the exact situation, the tiredness of our troops, the nature of the ground and the cold.'

The French Intelligence were quite convinced they were up against a heavily armed British commando unit, whereas it was a platoon of the Queen's only 14 strong!

What was not mentioned in the original account was that Sgt. Mountjoy, the platoon commander, was awarded the Military Medal for his gallant leadership in a very sticky operation.



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

All three regular battalions are still serving overseas although two future moves are already forecast for the 1st Bn and the 2nd Bn, and one for the 3rd Bn. The 1st Bn leaves Omagh for Gibraltar in Jan 85 and will then move to Tidworth in Jan 87. The 2nd Bn also leaves N. Ireland at the end of Nov 84 for Oakington and is then scheduled to move to Minden in Aug 86. The 3rd Bn leaves Fallingbowl to return to the 'Home of the Regiment', Canterbury in Jan 86.

As part of the Governments enhancement of the TA, the Regiment will have a third TA battalion in 1986. This is to be entitled the '8th Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London)' as it will incorporate an existing RRF company at Balham. The Bn HQ will be at Clapham and all sub-units are to be located in the London area.

A notable event at Regimental Headquarters was the retirement of Maj Guy Weymouth MBE, on 1 Aug, after 17 years service at Canterbury. His successor as Deputy Regimental Secretary is Lt Col John White.

The Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn on 15 Jul 84 was a great success and much enjoyed by almost 2,000 former and serving members of the Regiment who attended it, many accompanied by their wives.

Massed Bands of The Queen's Division will perform on Horse Guards in Jun 85. The Queen's Regiment 'night' will be Tue 11 Jun, when Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has kindly consented to take the salute.

WO's & Sgt's Past & Present Dinner 1984

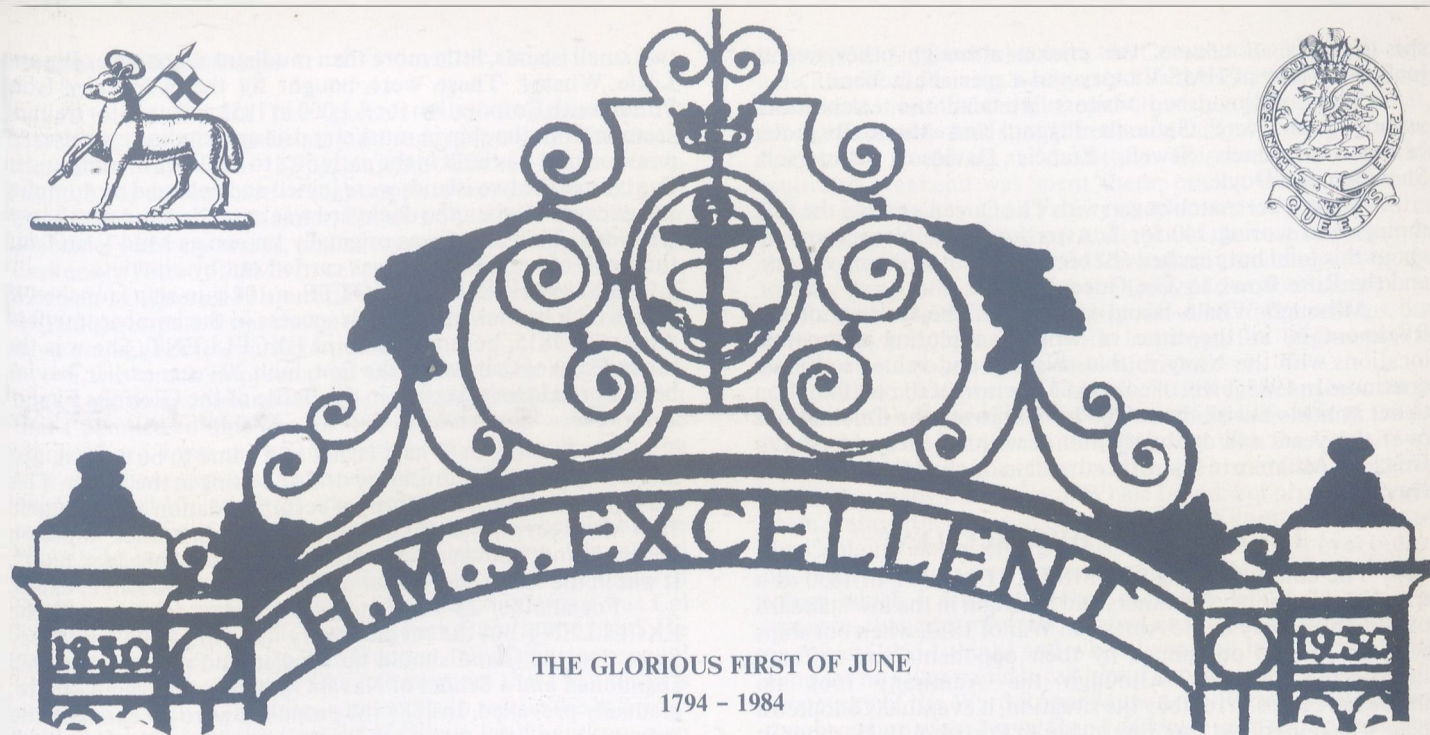
The 'great big Regiment' was much in evidence this year for this ever increasing popular event in the Associations calendar. 210 members sat down to dinner, which was twice as many as last year. Our Chairman, Colonel J C Holman OBE, Deputy Colonel of The Regiment, was most impressed with the whole event and said as much in his after dinner speech. The arrangements made on our behalf were really first class, one cannot emphasise too strongly the debt we owe to WO2 D T Irving-James and his team for the thoughts and effort which had gone into making this such a successful and happy weekend.

John Kershaw, an in-pensioner from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, kept saying what a wonderful spirit these 'youngsters' showed (mind you he is 70 years young). But the spirit was there and the comradeship too, which came to the fore when the old founder Regiments marches were played culminating in 'Soldiers Of The Queen' which made more noise than the four older marches put together! - The 'Great Big Regiment' indeed. The guest of honour this year was our Regimental Secretary, Colonel J W Francis and thoughts are, that next year, our Colonel Commandant (an old Queensman) may be able to attend.

E A Phillips & Son

Among recent visitors to the Regimental Museum were Mr. Ernest Phillips and his son, Leonard, both of whom served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. The former enlisted in January 1914. He was too young for service overseas until March 1915 when he joined the 2nd Battalion in France. At the defence of the Hohenzollern Redoubt when Lieut Fleming-Sandes won the Victoria Cross, Pte Phillips and two others kept the officer supplied with primed bombs. Mr. Ernest Phillips, who will be 90 on New Year's Day, 1985, is amazingly active. He has now emigrated to Canada to be with his son, Leonard.

Leonard Phillips was also a Regular soldier. He was a drummer in the 2nd Battalion in Malaya and was a prisoner of war of the Japanese for 3½ years. After the War, he transferred to the RASC, and was commissioned in 1963. He emigrated to Canada and served in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the rank of captain. His autobiography, entitled 'The Drummer Boy', has recently been published in the United States.



Introduction

This year, 190 years after the Battle was fought, the Celebrations of the Glorious First of June took place at HMS Excellent for the last time. It seems appropriate, therefore, to bring to mind the Battle and the celebrations which have taken place since and to trace the continuing link between The Queen's and The Royal Navy. Although fought in 1794, it was not until 1909 that the Distinction was actually awarded as an Army Battle Honour to The Queen's and The Worcestershire Regiment. It is borne on the Regimental Colour and takes the form of a Naval Crown superscribed "1 June 1794"

Sea Battles are usually named after the nearest point of land to where they were fought, but in this case the fight was so far out to Sea that it became known by its date. There is also an endearing if apocryphal story that King George III, when told of the Victory, remarked that "truly, it was a glorious first of June".

The Battle

The background to the Battle is well known. On 19th May 1794 Lord Howe, who was in Command of the English Channel Fleet, heard that a French Fleet was at sea. Leaving off his duties of convoy escort he at once set off in pursuit. Meanwhile, the convoy was seized by French ships but luckily Howe was able to recapture it, taking 10 French vessels in the process, before once more setting off after the main French Fleet which he sighted on 28th May.

After two days of preliminary engagements, battle was joined on 1st June at 09.15 hours by the two Fleets in Line. The English had the best of a confused, close action in which 7 French Ships were captured and one sunk; this represented one third of the French capital ships.

Men of The Queen's were embarked on board the Fleet acting as Marines. The force was disposed as follows: Queen Charlotte, 3 officers and 137 men under Captain John Isaacs and Lieutenant John Neville; Royal George 3 officers and 31 men under Captain Lowe Parry Jones; Defence, 3 officers and 78 men under Captain Robert Donald; Majestic, 3 officers and 77 men under Captain Charles Ludwig Foch; Russell, 3 officers and 80 men under Captain Arthur Gordon. The men of The Queen's were active in boarding and seizing enemy ships by hand-to-hand fighting. Casualties were, however, light. Lieutenant Neville, Privates Special, Collier, Noth, Roberts, Hamilton and Pearson were killed in action and Ensign Boycott and one Private Soldier were wounded.

Celebration of the Anniversary as a Regimental Day

Celebrations of the Glorious First of June as a Regimental Day and the maintenance of close links with the Navy have been the practice of The Queen's for many years. No-one can say exactly when this began but it is an anniversary that has become hallowed by time and use. The link with the Navy was extended to include the Royal Marines when in 1959 The Queen's amalgamated with the East Surrey Regiment, formerly Villiers' Marines. The tradition has been faithfully carried on by 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment since 1967. When the Queen Charlotte was discharged from commission, no ship of that name now serving, her traditions were inherited by HMS Excellent, which was until recently the Naval Gunnery School at Whale Island, Portsmouth.

The anniversary is celebrated jointly each year by The Queen's and Excellent alternately at Whale Island and the home station of the 1st Battalion. If the Battalion is on foreign service, then celebrations are held at the Depot or RHQ. The liaison is well known throughout the Navy and celebrations are held by the battalion when abroad whenever possible. Historically, liaison has also been established with HMS Howe whenever a ship of that name is in commission.

The form of entertainment is usually a Guest Night or Ball in the Officers' and the Sergeants' Messes with corresponding entertainments for Ratings and Soldiers. This is followed by other activities which in the past have included Trooping the Colour, Beating Retreat, Fetes, Luncheon parties, potted sports and, in modern times, a Cricket Match played for a large silver Rose Bowl.

Other links have also been fostered: in 1925, HMS Excellent was presented with a scroll giving authority to use the Regimental March 'Braganza', and in return the Ship presented a scroll and model of a 4.7 inch Naval gun. The magazine of HMS Excellent, when published, is called "Braganza" and the Royal Navy maintain a yacht named "Catherine of Braganza".

In 1959, The Glorious 1st was celebrated at Guildford for the last time before the old Queen's Depot closed. The 1st Queen's held a week long celebration in Iserlohn in the same year before amalgamation with the East Surreys. In 1980, Whale Island celebrated its 150th Anniversary, to which 1 Queen's sent a large Detachment who took part in both the ceremonial and the social sides of the occasion.

The Last Glorious First of June at Whale Island

Since 1959 the celebration of The Glorious First has continued in The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment. In 1978, the Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion, WO1(BM) P.E. Hills, composed a March called "the Glorious First/Queen Charlotte" which was performed at the Trooping the Colour that year at Werl. In 1983 it was announced that HMS Excellent would close and so 1984 would be the last celebration at Whale Island.

On the night of the 1st June 1984, a dinner was held in the Wardroom of HMS Excellent at which the Captain of Excellent and Brigadier Millman, Colonel of the Regiment, were the principal speakers. The following day, Saturday, 2nd June, dawned fine and warm after fears of a dull day. The chief event of

the day was, of course, the cricket although other events included a tour of HMS Victory and a special luncheon.

Many distinguished visitors attended the celebrations among them were Generals Piggott and Mans, Brigadier Millman, Colonels Sewell, Francis Davidson, Anderson, Snowdon and Doyle.

The cricket match began with The Queen's taking the first innings and scoring 140 for 7. After lunch the Navy team set about this total but reached a score of 9 all out so giving victory, and the Rose Bowl, to The Queen's.

Although Whale Island is to close, the Colonel of the Regiment is, at the time of writing, exploring alternative locations with the Navy so that this fine and valued link may continue. In 1985 it will of course be the turn of the 1st Battalion to act as hosts but all those who have enjoyed the Celebrations over the years will doubtless join in wishing every success to Brigadier Millman in his efforts to retain our link with the Royal Navy.

THE HISTORY OF HMS EXCELLENT

The commissioning of HMS EXCELLENT in 1830 as a training ship for naval gunners had its origin in the low standard of British gunnery in the American War of 1812, when our ships were in general outgunned by their opponents and suffered unexpected reverses. Although the Admiralty took no immediate steps to remedy the situation, it eventually adopted a plan which involved mooring a ship in Portsmouth Harbour in such a position that it could fire across the mud flats towards Fareham, and equipping it with guns of every description then in use.

The vessel selected was HMSEXCELLENT, a 74-gun ship launched in 1787, which took part in the Battle of Cape St. Vincent under the command of Captain Cuthbert Collingwood, and a Commander Smith, the architect of the plan who was appointed to superintend the new arrangements and to become the first Commanding Officer of the gunnery training ship. Having successfully implemented his plan, Commander Smith was promoted Captain in 1832 and relieved by Captain T. Hastings who held the appointment for thirteen years and did much to improve naval gunnery in that time. The success of the new methods of training was demonstrated by the accurate fire of the British ships at the bombardment of Acre in 1840.

The first EXCELLENT was replaced in 1834 by HMS BOYNE (104 guns), which had been launched in 1810 and was of the same design as HMS VICTORY. She took the name of her predecessor and remained the gunnery training ship for 25 years.

Near EXCELLENT's berth in Portsmouth Harbour were

two small islands, little more than mudbanks, known as Big and Little Whaley. These were bought by the Admiralty from Portsmouth Corporation for £ 1,000 in 1853 and used for training seamen from the ship in musketry drill and landing exercises. A pontoon pier was built in the early 50's to facilitate landing and in due course the two islands were joined and enlarged by dumping soil excavated when the dockyard was extended and new basins were dug. This island was originally known as Mud Island and the work of building it up was carried out by convicts.

In 1859 HMS CHARLOTTE, a 108-gun ship launched in 1810 which had taken part with success in the bombardment of Algiers in 1815, became the third EXCELLENT. She was the second ship of that name, the first, built 20 years earlier, having been Lord Howe's flagship in the Battle of the Glorious First of June 1794.

Mud Island, or Whale Island as it came to be known, was increasingly used for musketry drill and firing in the 1860's. This led to the need for some form of accommodation ashore and in 1864 Mr. Reeves, a senior gunner, built the first brick house on Whale Island, known as "The Excellent House that Jack built". It was in the south-east corner of the island but no longer exists.

For another 25 years gunnery training continued in the EXCELLENT but the revolutionary ideas of Lieutenant Percy Scott that the island should be levelled and drained, the ship abandoned and a School of Naval Gunnery established ashore, gradually prevailed. In 1885 the proposals were accepted by the Admiralty and the move ashore was completed six years later when the old ship was paid off.

During the 1914-18 War thousands of reservists were trained in EXCELLENT. In addition to the regular officers and ratings special courses were run for officers of the newly established Royal Naval Air Service and for Army Tank Gunnery instructors.

The Gunnery School continued to flourish between the wars and increasing emphasis was given to the defence of ships against air attack in the 1930's, leading to the establishment of an anti-aircraft range at Eastney. The centenary of the commissioning of HMS EXCELLENT was celebrated in 1930 with a spectacular tattoo and a dinner attended by 300 officers, including thirty-six Admirals.

In the Second World War there was another great expansion of training in EXCELLENT and again large numbers of reservists passed through the Gunnery School, including nearly 200 Reserve and foreign officers. Whale Island did not escape unscathed in the blitz on Portsmouth and in one of the worst raids in March 1941 the Warrant Officers' Mess was badly damaged and there were 27 casualties, six of them fatal.



After the war gunnery training continued on a reduced scale during the 1950's and 60's, and with the replacement of big guns guided weapons EXCELLENT became responsible for missile training. The role of Whale Island changed in 1970's and the last Long Gunnery Course finished in 1972. With the establishment of the School of Maritime Operations in HMS DRYAD, EXCELLENT ceased to be the Gunnery School of The Royal Navy, and became the School of Naval General Training, responsible for training officers and ratings in leadership, ceremonial, internal security, damage control, firefighting and man management - a far cry from Commander George Smith's 'Plan' of 1830.



The Bush Hat

The bush hat made an excellent pillow; it became floppy and shapeless so that it did not catch the light or show up in anyway, and made it unnecessary to use camouflage netting and scrim so beloved of the orthodox; a stout chin strap kept it on your head, even when struggling through the thickest jungle.... Steel helmets we never wore!

Book Review

Out of the Blue,
Pilot with the Chindits, by Terence O'Brien,
Mullan & Collins & Sons £ 9.95. (Pub 1984)

This book is one of the best to be written about the war in Burma. For its prose style, firm, clear, unaffected it stands comparison

with Bernard Fergusson's Wild Green Earth. O'Brien was the RAF officer with 49 Column. John Masters was the Brigade Major and the Brigade Commanded by Brigadier Lentaigne.

Sporting Equipment Please help if you can:-

An Ex-Services Society is appealing for sets of bowls, croquet sets or putters and golf balls for use in their Residential Homes. If you can help, please notify the Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL. Telephone: 01-543 6333.

Collection is no problem as the Society's Welfare Officers are continually touring the country.

This Society does a very good job for our old comrades, and is well worthy of support.

Memories of Whale Island

I joined 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment on 1st March 1931, and 3 months later to the day I found myself, easily the bottom officer, in the Regimental Cricket XI, at Whale Island. I was driven there in a fine, open tourer (a Talbot I think) by my Company Commander, Teddy Bolton, and his wife. Our welcome was very warm, and everyone was talking about the Centenary Tattoo of HMS Excellent held the previous Summer, in which 2 Officers, 130 men and the Band and Drums of the 2nd Bn had taken part. I was the only Queensman there who did not have enough service in to remember it.

I was much impressed by the welcome by my Steward, once I got to understand what he was talking about! I told him that I planned to dine aboard that evening, and would not be going ashore. I was shown the heads (useful, but not as exciting as I somehow expected) and changed into cricket flannels. I cannot recall the result of the cricket, but certain memories remain. Whaley had a star player (Vavasom) who was in the Navy side, we countered with George Grimstone, who played for the Army. Whaley also had the Rev. Goudge who umpired for them (and I mean just that). Our own counterpart was Cpl Knight, who in private life beat the bass drum in the band. He was a much better umpire than Goudge, but of course we could not argue with the umpire. The one moment that I can recall is dropping a catch in the deep, and having to rescue the ball from behind the chair of the Captain of Whale Island and my own father: Captain (later Admiral) Sir Guy Royle and my father had been Naval and Military Attaches in Tokio some 7 or 8 years earlier, and Guy Royle had thoughtfully asked my parents down for the day to watch the game.

That evening there was a big Guest Night and some pretty serious drinking. Presumably there were speeches, but I cannot remember what was said or by whom; possibly I couldn't hear, as I was sitting some way from the scene of action, as befitted the bottom pongo present. As we left the dining room, I fell in with a red headed sub lieutenant whom I had known at my prep school; Budge Smallwood was his name, and he asked me if I would like to see a polar bear. I said "Yes please" thinking that this was another (perhaps Officer's) way of suggesting a visit to the heads. So I followed him out of the Wardroom Mess building into a garden. We passed several spots that seemed to me suitable for our purpose until we suddenly came face to face with, indubitably, a polar bear. There were other forms of livestock in cages nearby and we duly inspected them; there was a tendency in those days for HM Ships to be given rare or unusual animals on their visits to show the flag around the world, and mostly they finished up in the Zoo at Whaley. The ones that I saw in 1931 were all shot in 1939, as the first step on the outbreak of war; it was considered too much of a risk in the event of air raids, for hungry and frightened bears to be added to bombs on the citizens of Portsmouth.

In 1932 Whaley sent a lot of chaps up to play against us at Aldershot, where we had moved to on leaving Dover. I remember that we fixed Vavasom by getting him to demonstrate some Naval jig, which he did with a glass in his hand; his feet shot from under him and he cut his wrist. He couldn't bat next day, but had spent a happy day fielding before his mishap. I think we won that year.

It turned out to be the last game in which I actually played against Excellent, as the next year I was on a course in Catterick, and then I went off to Japan and returned in 1938 blind in one eye. So no more cricket, but plenty more contact with Whale Island over the years.

In 1941 I was sent to New Zealand in a cargo liner. There were only 3 or 4 other passengers; two of whom were Admiral Sir Guy and Lady Royle. He was on his way to be Chief of the Australian Naval Staff and I have still a 8 mm cine film of him having his hair cut by the lamp-trimmer on board.

At the end of the war I was in the Australian led British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, based on Kure. Tied up there was HMS Glenearn, a submarine Depot ship. Her Captain was J A Grindle RN, a keen 1st of June man, and he and I hosted a Cocktail Party on board Glenearn for a surprising, and surprised number of Brits and Americans who could not understand why I, a soldier, should share the invitation to them on board one of HM Ships. They all had a good history lesson. In 1953 I was commanding 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in BAOR but under orders to go to Malaya. It was our turn to be

hosts to Whaley, but what with the Coronation and end of tour activities in Germany, I suggested to the Captain Varyl Begg (later an Admiral of the Fleet, and Governor of Gibraltar) that, for one year only the 1st of June should fall in November, when the 1st Bn would be at Maidstone. This was agreed and an enjoyable weekend was spent there; cricket was replaced by Soccer and Hockey and a variety of other activities. In my after dinner speech I reminded my audience of the custom, begun in the South African War of HMS Excellent providing a baggage loading party, and a band, on the Quayside at Southampton as the Regiment sailed off to foreign parts. A bit unfair perhaps, but it worked, and, perhaps, for the last time, the Regiment was helped on its way by their nautical friends.

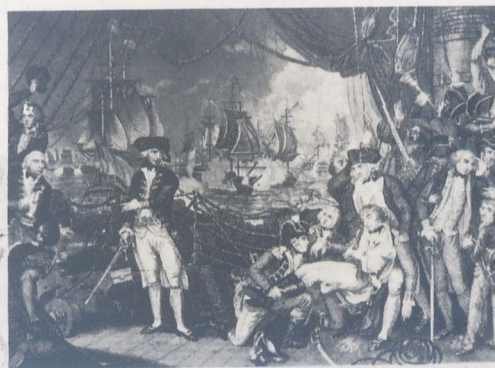
In 1965 I had become Colonel of the Regiment and went to Portsmouth to attend the 1st of June celebrations and Guest Night. My wife and I were invited to stay with the Captain, by then Arthur Power, son of Arthur John, a former Captain. I have to this day many memories of Whale Island, but prized amongst them is the little notice in the corner of the guests bathroom of the Captain's house saying "This chain was the first ever pulled on Whale Island". I've forgotten the date, but there are some things which I remember that even the sailors do not. For instance, that crafty Parson; he died, in Gloucestershire in May one year (1965 I think) and when I recalled him the following June 1st no sailor could recall him. I can also remember the old geography of the Ward Room Mess Ante-Room, where a very rough version of the Naval Gun Team race used to be performed after dinner. They used Government beds as the collapsible gun carriages, and the Junior Officer present of course volunteered to be the gun. Sofa's formed obstacles on the course, which went through two archways, now vanished. I wonder how many people remember that form of exercise? I do, I was the gun.

For those who are interested in the history of HMS Excellent a very good book exists, called "The House That Jack Built" by Commander R T Young OBE. It was published in 1955, by Gale and Polden, and must be hard to find now, but its worth the effort, and it tells in detail how Whaley came into being, and eventually to playing Braganza as her official march.

One final recollection. Again in 1965, when I was at Whale Island for the 1st of June, I received an invitation from the Petty Officers Mess to pay them a visit, conveyed to me by the then RSM of 1 Queen's Surreys. Having cleared it with the Captain, I was led there by RSM Wilson, and later I returned wearing a new tie that I had been given. It depicted Britannia sitting on a gun, and I wear it a lot, especially when I anticipate being in Naval company. It is, of course, HMS Excellent's tie; and if, as rumour has it, Whale Island is about to be sunk, we shall all be much the poorer. I for one, will wear a black tie that day.

FJCP

The Death of Lieutenant Neville of The Queen's on board HMS Queen Charlotte.



Donations : The Trustees wish to record their thanks to the following ladies and gentlemen for their generous donations - Mrs. F.V. Glover, Miss E. Morris, Messrs. J.A. Robertson-Walker, D. Boughton, F.W. Bigg and F.S. Lindfield and the family of the late Mrs. W. Quartermain.



THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA



The Royal Hospital at Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1782 in answer to a crying need of the times. In those days a place at the hospital was not a reward for long service and/or grievous injuries or both; it was, in most cases, a necessity for survival.

Happily, times have now changed; hospitals, old peoples' homes and a caring welfare service contribute to a secure old age and longevity. So why the need for the Royal Hospital in 1984?

The Royal Hospital is a specialised establishment within the walls of which its own military traditions, tempered to the age and distinguished service of its occupants, form a natural setting to men who have spent a great part of their lives in the Army. Those who enter its portals find themselves in a familiar atmosphere which they recognise and understand immediately.

The Hospital is conducted along well tried military lines but without the rigours of military discipline. Uniform is worn within the grounds but Pensioners may wear mufti on leave if they wish. Meal times must be preset as in any well ordered establishment catering for large numbers, with breakfast available from 7.30 to 8.30, Lunch between 12.30 and 1.30 and tea from 5 to 6 p.m.

Modernisation of the kitchens ensures a really hot meal, served by lady staff. After 150 years the custom has been revived of Pensioners dining in the Great Hall whose impressive decor contributes to a very exclusive dining club indeed. Those Pensioners who are too infirm to go to the Great Hall have their meals brought to their berths in the Long Wards.

Individual accommodation is in berths in a centrally heated 'ward', equipped with washrooms with constant hot water. Wards also contain electric water heaters so that Pensioners can make a hot drink at any time. Berths have been enlarged from the original Wren concept and contain wardrobe, chest of drawers, table, chair and bed. The berth is also equipped with radio headphones and bedside reading lamp. Pensioners may have their own portable TV sets in the berths if they wish.

Rules and regulations are kept to the absolute minimum. Pensioners are free to come and go at will provided they are in by midnight. Save in exceptional circumstances they are not expected to be away from the Hospital for more than 42 days in a year. Summer holidays at the seaside can be arranged and there are frequent outings to reunions, sporting and social occasions. Relatives and friends may visit at any time and facilities are provided for their comfort and relaxation. Amenities within the Hospital grounds include a barber's shop, steam clothes press, a shop for tobacco, confectionery and the like and a sub Post Office where retirement pensions can be drawn.

Comparison with one of London's Clubs would not be out of place. There are three lounges with two well-stocked bars; a wide range of newspapers and periodicals is always available; a TV room also has film shows and a billiards room adjoins the club. The grounds to the Royal Hospital are extensive and well cared for, with facilities for bowls and putting; garden allotments are available for those who want them!

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

- in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army
- of good character
- normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability
- able to look after himself - that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance
- free from the obligation to support a wife or children
- passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry; they may, of course, leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so. On admission they surrender service or disability pension in return for free

board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Any other income like state retirement pension or private means are kept by the In-Pensioner. Medals must be worn on certain occasions and the Pensioner must bear half of the cost of replacement of lost medals. Pensioners are not allowed to keep or drive cars within the hospital precincts.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to civilian life; if he does so within six months of admission he may be charged part of the cost of his uniform. A Pensioner may be discharged from the Hospital for misconduct. Whether by voluntary or involuntary discharge the reassessment of service pension is at the discretion of the Commissioners. A Pensioner once discharged the Hospital, whether at own request or for misconduct, cannot be guaranteed readmission.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SL. The Regimental Association Secretary will be pleased to give further details.



The new Matron of the Royal Hospital is Miss A.E. Valley who, as a young nurse, trained at the Lambeth Hospital, Brock Drive, London and subsequently spent eight years on the staff.

She joined the Royal Hospital as Deputy Matron in January 1981 and assumed the appointment of Matron in May 1984.

Lambeth Hospital was established in the late Victorian era and served the area for many years. During the Second War it was badly damaged by enemy bombing at least three times, but carried on under conditions of extreme difficulty. After the war it was taken over by St. Thomas Hospital which is now closed.

Matron wears with pride her badge from the Lambeth Hospital. It depicts the Paschal Lamb. Despite many enquiries

by the writer and Sgt Joe Norman at the Hospital, we have been unable to discover why one of our old regimental badges was taken into use by the hospital. Should one of our readers know the reason we would be delighted to hear from him and to publish the solution in a future edition of the Newsletter.

In the meantime we send belated congratulations to Miss Valley on her appointment and hope our young Blades from the Regiment do not cause her too much trouble. Had she seen young Viv Edwards & John Kershaw at the recent WO's & Sgts' Past & Present Dinner at Basingstoke she may not have been amused by their antics!

L.M.W.





THE BRITISH BATTALION



Not much has been written about the tired and overwhelmed British and Indian units, who fought so gallantly down the Malayan Peninsula from 8th December 1941 to the fall of Singapore on 15th February 1942. Many of these units were caught undertrained and underarmed against the powerful and jungle trained force of fanatical and brave warriors of the Japanese 25th Army under General Yamashita. The Japanese were superior in the air, at sea and on the land.

During the campaign there were only three British Regiments, 1st Leicesters, 2nd East Surreys and 2nd Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders who fought all the way down Malaya to the end in Singapore. They were first engaged by the Japanese 5th Division in the north, where at Jitra and Gurun the Leicesters and the East Surreys were so badly cut up that their survivors had to be amalgamated to form the **BRITISH BATTALION**. This unique regimental hybrid was "born" on 20th December 1941 at Ipoh under the command of Lt. Col. C.E. Morrison, of the 1st Leicesters (with Captain C. O'N. Wallis of the Surreys as Adjutant).

On 23rd December the Battalion moved to Kampar, 24 miles to the south of Ipoh, as part of 11th Indian Division which was ordered to hold the Japanese at Kampar. There were just 7 days for preparations, and the **BRITISH BATTALION** was given the major task of defending the main trunk road to the south. Battle was joined on 30th December 1941 and the Battalion 700 strong faced the 4,000 of Colonel Kanichi Okabe's crack 41st Infantry Regiment who were veterans of the Manchurian and China Wars.

In an epic four day struggle, under continual aerial and artillery bombardment, the men of the Leicesters and East Surreys displayed coolness and extraordinary heroism in repelling wave after wave of Japanese banzai charges on the forward slopes of Thompson's and Green Ridges. The courage and fighting spirit displayed by the **BRITISH BATTALION**, under the inspiring leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Morrison, against overwhelming superior enemy strength, reflected the highest traditions of the two Regiments concerned, and resulted in the Japanese receiving a bloody mauling for the first time in the campaign. According to the Japanese 5th Division war records over 500 casualties were suffered in front of the Battalion, and there was a continuous stream of wounded and dead being carried back to the forward field first aid posts. At HQ 25th Army General Yamashita thought that fresh Australian troops had been brought in to defend Kampar – how wrong he was!

The losses in men and equipment at Kampar were heavy, but the **BRITISH BATTALION** with the rest of 11th Indian Division continued to stand and withdraw, to withdraw and stand again without rests and without relief for a further five long weeks, and then those who had survived were committed to the poignant struggle for further survival as POW's. Throughout all this the men of the **BRITISH BATTALION** were sustained by the close ties and high traditions of the Leicesters and East Surreys. In their times of great stress men rose above themselves to exhibit endurance under inhuman intensity, selflessness and sacrifice to care for their sick and weary comrades amidst the appalling conditions of the Railway Corps in Thailand, and loyalty and courage to help one another to the end.

May I quote from the GOC, Malaya, Lt. Gen. Percival who wrote:- "Finally let me pay a tribute to the British soldiers. Throughout those long years, he bore his trials with courage and dignity. Though compelled to live almost like an animal, he never lost his self-respect or his great sense of humour. At the end, he emerged weakened in body but with his spirit unimpaired. It was an outstanding performance".

Perhaps the highest tribute to the **BRITISH BATTALION** was given by the GOC, the 3rd Indian Army Corps, Lt. Gen. Sir Lewis Heath, "I feel I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the outstanding performance of certain units who owed their successes to the leadership which they enjoyed.

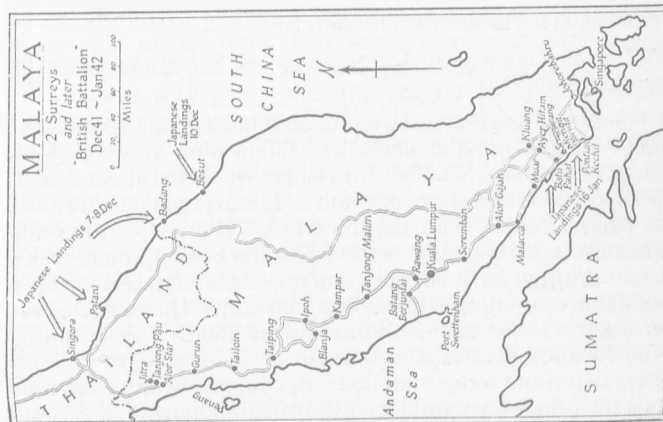
Prominent in my mind stands out the performance of the **BRITISH BATTALION**. This was the name under which they fought under the inspiring leadership of Lt. Col. Morrison, 1st

Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment, the amalgamated battalion of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, after these battalions fighting independently, had as individual battalions almost received the coup-de-grace in the fighting at Jitra and Gurun.

The **BRITISH BATTALION** despite casualties, which would have shattered the morale of any unit not imbued with the grandest spirit and magnificently officered and led, continued to fight on solidly and undismayed till the very end".

As a local historian, I say this to all my friends of the 11th Indian Division – "The British and Indian soldiers who fought and gave their lives must never be forgotten. Their supreme sacrifice cannot be easily forgotten by us who were there and lived through the harrowing days of the Japanese occupation. Like a good and grateful friend, we must remember their heroic deeds always".

CHYE KOOI LOONG



Visit of MR CHYE KOOI LOONG

The early days of June were marked by the visit of Mr. Chye Kooi Loong accompanied by his wife to present to the Association a copy of his history of the **BRITISH BATTALION**. Mr. Chye was a school boy of 12 in 1941 when the amalgamated **BRITISH BATTALION** came to Kampar on 23rd December to prepare positions to hold the route to the south against the Japanese. He was so impressed and inspired by the gallantry and heroism of the Battalion during the four day battle of Kampar that after the war he renewed contact with survivors of both The 2nd East Surreys and 1st Leicesters, and later with the Japanese also involved, with a view to writing a history of the **BRITISH BATTALION** to pay his particular tribute.

His history is a most excellent and detailed record and a most valuable addition to the History of the Regiment – regrettably it may not be possible for it to be generally published, but this in no way detracts from its great importance nor from the Association's special gratitude to Mr. Chye.

During his visit Mr. Chye was able to attend the Regimental Service at Guildford Cathedral where he was able to meet a number of ex-2nd Surreys, and he then went on to be a guest of Mrs. R. Roupell at her luncheon for officers of The East Surreys. The next day he and Mrs. Chye were received at RHQ at Canterbury after which there was a buffet lunch at the Fordwich Arms near Canterbury where the manuscript of his book was formally handed over and where he met more members of the 2nd Surreys led by RSM D. Boorer and C/Sgt W. Turner.

Mr. Chye has been made an Honorary Member of the Association, and it is hoped therefore that we will keep in touch with him as he has with many members of the **BRITISH BATTALION**.

He has been a schoolmaster throughout his life, and has been an athlete of distinction representing Malaysia at High Hurdles in the South East Asia Corner.

The original manuscript of his book, together with photographs and maps are held at the Regimental Museum at Clandon. A copy of this is available to be borrowed on short term loan.

JWS



*Mr. Chye Koo Loong with members of 2 SURREY'S
at The ASSOCIATION CHURCH Service*

Memories of a Platoon Commander.

J.D. Carter was a Platoon Commander in 2 Surreys and later the British Battalion

I started as a Platoon Commander under Capt. Kerridge (I think A Company) and when the balloon went up we took up defensive positions North of Jitra where we stayed about a week and then we withdrew to a position near cross roads at Jitra and I was placed on the West flank with Coy HQ nearer the road. Either the same evening or the following evening there was a certain amount of gun-fire from our right and I received a message from A Coy HQs runner that Coy HQ had been over run and that we were to withdraw independently. I decided that if the Japanese had broken through on the road it was no use taking that route so we marched on a compass bearing due west along the bunds separating the paddy fields hoping to find a road due south which would lead us back to the main body of the battalion. We marched through the night and eventually fetched up at a village which I subsequently discovered must have been Ayer Hitam and there, in the school, we spent the day resting and obtaining food from the local Chinese shopkeeper. In the meantime, after making enquiries and listening to suggestions I decided that the best plan was to travel that night by fishing boat due south along the coast for about 30 miles. This we did, after borrowing 50 Malay dollars from the Chinese shopkeeper, to pay the Malay fishermen for their services. I gave an IOU for this money on HM Government and often wonder whether it was ever presented for payment.

We disembarked North of the Sungei Pantani river and marched in land and were extremely fortunate to be picked up by a 30 cwt truck, which had been sent to collect people like ourselves and I well remember the suggestion that two journeys should be made over the bridge because it was very difficult for us all to get on to the truck as we were still at platoon strength with arms and equipment, but I insisted that we did and it was just as well because only a few minutes after we had crossed, the bridge was blown up by the Royal Engineers. We were taken back to Ipoh where we were re-grouped with similar numbers of a battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment to form the British Battalion under Col. Morrison.

I then continued as a platoon commander under Capt. Vickers in D Company and, at first, we were held in reserve but after a Leicestershire platoon position had been over-run we were sent forward to take over this position which was to the east of the road on the high ground and soon engaged a 15-strong Japanese patrol which must have been part of a larger force as our defensive fire coincided with the arrival of reinforcements from D Company led by Capt. Vickers who was subsequently awarded the MC for gallantry in this action. Shortly afterwards I was wounded by a blind from my own 2" mortar, my runner was killed and I was evacuated down the line to Singapore and was in the Queen Alexandra Hospital, fortunately as a bed-down case, when the Japanese marched in, ordered out all the walking wounded numbering about 170 and bayoneted them. My wounds healed within three months of the surrender and I rejoined the battalion in Changi, went up country to work on the railway but when my leg broke down returned to the base camp

at Chungkai and then finished the war at an Officers' camp, the name of which I cannot remember.

I was intrigued to learn from Mr. Chye Kooi Loong that the hillside at Kampar with the scrub and large water pipe-line which was our defensive position, has now been developed as a housing estate but, no doubt, there would be something left which could be identified with those heart-searching days at the end of 1941.

JDC



78 DIVISION

Mr. H.E. Rolph (Eddie) ex Signal Platoon 1st East Surreys is now Hon Treasurer of the Club, he has written a long and most interesting article about the Club and its visit to Italy in May 1984. This article has, due to space, had to be much reduced for publication in the Newsletter, the full article is held with the papers relating to 1st East Surreys at the Museum at Clondon.

Eddie Rolph also says that a similar trip to the one to Italy is planned to Tunisia in April/May 1985. The cost should be about £ 300 and the base is likely to be Hammamet, with trips to places mentioned in the Divisional History, and a Remembrance Service at Medjez el Bab Cemetery. He also says that the Division has an annual Re-union this year on 10th November. Any member of 78th Division interested in either the proposed trip or making contact should get in touch with him at 55 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 2BE.

The Battle Axe Returns to Southern Italy

The founding of the Battle Axe Club was sponsored in July 1945 by the Commander the late Major-General R.K. Arbutnot CB, CBE, DSO, MC to perpetuate the spirit of the 78th Infantry Division and the memories of those of our colleagues who had lost their lives.

That spirit still remains, and with the approach of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Cassino, the Honorary Secretary thought the Club should endeavour to be present at the War Cemetery at Cassino and lay a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice.

Ideally it would have been nice to have landed at Taranto and worked our way up the leg of Italy, as we did in 1943, but 40 years on, and with more modern travel former members of the Division and their wives congregated at Heathrow to take an Alitalia 'air-bus' to Rome, the place which in 1943 we thought, would soon be within the allies grasp. A coach took us on to Terracina, a holiday resort on Circean Riviera, midway between Rome and Naples.

The real tour began next day journeying via Cassino, where while it was cloudy and misty the feeling that all seeing eyes from the Monastery (or Abbey as it properly is) would not miss anything came back very emotively - such was the hypnotism of the place. From Cassino the tour went on through Venatro, Isernia, on to Campobasso and Termoti, and so to the Sangro. Here with memories of the cold and rain of that "Sunny Italy" of November and December 1943 and of the River, the party also visited the War Cemetery with its some 2,000 British and Indian graves arranged in crescents down the slope of the hillside on the site where 'B' Echelon of 1 Surreys had been.

After the Sangro it was back across the Appenines passing villages and towns with familiar and evocative names, Lanciano, Orsegha, Villa St Maria, Castel di Sangro, and eventually rather late to Terracina, with a free day to come. Following this on 17th May the party had a very full day devoted to Cassino, where a special Remembrance Service had been arranged. This took place in the Commonwealth Cemetery which contains 4267 graves, including many East Surreys from the 1st and 1/6th Battalions. The 78th Division party had now been swollen by some Germans from the hotel at Terracina, who had asked if they might join in, and there was too a holiday party from Sorrento. So some 100 people joined in singing "O God our help in ages past", in the prayers, and in the National Anthem. After the Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths, the party went on a visit to the German Cemetery, and then up to the Abbey itself by the winding uphill road with its tortuous hairpin bends, past Castle Hill, and with views of Pt 593 and Phantom Ridge, eventually taken by the Poles.

From the Abbey at last the marvellous position it occupies could be fully appreciated with on the plain below the Commonwealth Cemetery and the "mad mile" of route 6

seeming very minute. The Abbey itself is now mostly fully rebuilt and inside one marvels at the job of restoration, the decorations, the paintings and the treasures. It was then on to the official Service of Remembrance at the Polish Cemetery at 5 p.m. Here where the Poles had formed up to make their final attack representatives of the Italian Army were on parade, and the graves and plinths bearing the Polish Eagle were decked with hundreds and hundreds of carnations in the Polish colours of red and white.

The week was now nearly at its end, and on the last day but one there was a tour to Naples and Pompeii, but on the way quick visits were paid to the Cemetery at Minjurho where many of the 10th British Corps (which contained 131 and 169 Queens Brigades - Ed) are laid to rest, and the palace at Caserta, which was General Alexander's Headquarters and where the German Army in Italy finally surrendered unconditionally at the end of April 1945.

The last evening was a jolly affair, although a little sad, because that wonderful companionship which 78th Division always had, and which we had managed to recapture for a week, was coming to an end.

Next day, packing done, a quick getaway for a hurried sightseeing tour of Rome, and soon we were boarding our airbus for Heathrow, and our separate ways.

HER

Cassino Cuisine

Dr. W.A. Smurthwaite, who was MO to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Cassino, has paid tribute to the Battalion cooks and water cart men in the particularly difficult conditions in The Bowl, North West of Cassino. Jack Smurthwaite, who was awarded the Military Cross in June 1944, writes 'Somewhere in the history of those times there should be mention of the tremendous service of two lots of people, who, incidentally came into the jurisdiction of the MO, and whose efforts always seem to go unsung. I refer to the Battalion cooks and the operators of the water truck.

Food and water are immediate and enduring necessities after all. Water, if unpurified, can decimate a battalion as quick as any enemy; and, to my recollection, this never happened. As for the food, the cooks were always up there, serving whatever they could rustle up in spite of weather, hustle, lack of supplies and busted equipment.

The 'Cassino Cooker' was a miracle of simplicity, efficiency and improvisation. It was also about as safe as a truckload of napalm! But it never failed, and it provided hot meals for hundreds, day in, day out, up there in The Bowl.

Regarding the Cassino Cooker, it's best not to make one at all unless it's absolutely essential; but for the brave, here's how it's done. (There are no moving parts).

Equipment: Jerricans 1
Cigarette tins with wire handles 1
Corks 1
Needles, darning 1

Add a handful of rags and some petrol and you're in business.

Procedure: First dig a trench about a foot wide and ten feet long and make a small shelf at one end. The depth is immaterial. Then take the cork and pierce it with the needle, dead centre. Apply this to a point about four inches up the narrow face of the jerrican and give the needle a firm tap with a hammer. The resulting hole will be just about right for the jet which will follow if everything works.

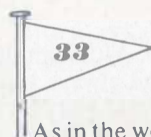
Next put about two inches of petrol in the jerrican and screw the cap down firmly. Then stand the can at one end of the trench and apply heat by burning a little petrol-soaked rag in the cigarette tin and place this temporarily under the jerrican. The rest is simple.

Petrol boils at quite a low temperature, and soon a jet of vapour will shoot from the hole you have made. All you now do is stand aside and throw a match at the jet and a lovely hot flame should travel the length of the trench. Voila! You have a perfect substitute for your busted horizontal primus.

It remains only to place the cooking containers across the trench and to remove the cigarette tin heating element as soon as the warmth from the jet is self-perpetuating in evaporating the petrol in the can.

The thing worked without the anticipated accidents. Nevertheless, who said Battalion cooks never have to take risks?"

WAS



33 CLUB REUNION

As in the words of the song, members of 33 Club, being old soldiers chose to fade away. The Annual Reunion of the Club was held on 12th May 1984, the anniversary of The Battle of Kohima. This was the 40th Anniversary of the Battle, in which the 33 Indian Infantry Brigade played such a conspicuous and successful part so this seemed an appropriate time for the reunions to end while veteran officers from the three infantry battalions and Brigade HQ were still more or less upright.

The Club, after its first meeting in 1946, at The Cafe Royal, London, has met regularly ever since. The Membership has always been restricted to a small number, but nevertheless Reunions have always been well attended. The tremendous support given to the Club by Major-General F.J. Loftus-Tottenham, CBE, DSO who has, throughout the years made every effort to be with the Club as often as possible, despite the many calls on his time. This year was no exception despite declining health and the long journey from Wiltshire.

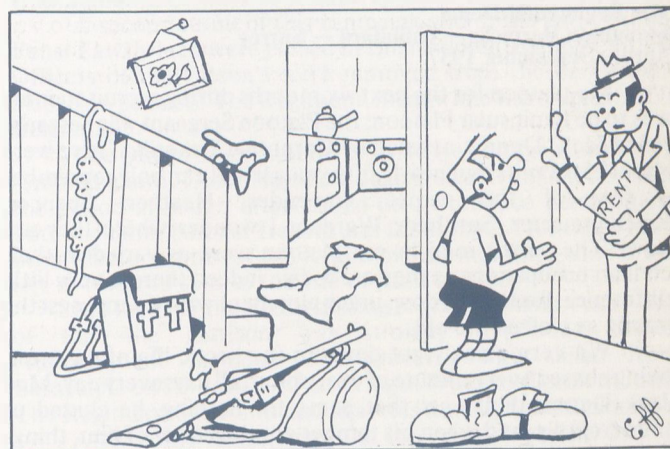
It was with great pleasure, respect for a fine Brigade Commander and genuine affection that members were able to drink a toast to "Loftus". Lt. Col. George Grimston led this toast, with a short tribute which was echoed by all. In a short and amusing reply, the General touched on a more serious note when he reminded the Members that the Brigade had served from the beginning to end of the Burma Campaign, and indeed suffered the last fatal casualty of the war in Burma.

28 ex-officers of the Brigade sat down to this last reunion luncheon, 15 of whom served with the 1st Bn The Queens Royal Regiment, spanning the whole period of the Campaign from the Arakan to Rangoon.

A toast to "Absent Friends" those who gave their lives during the War, and to those who have since died. It would be appropriate to say that Colonel H.G. Duncombe DSO would have been very much in the minds of all members of 1/Queens at that solemn moment.

The 33 Club Record Book, with photographs, lists of attendances and menus etc., has now been deposited with the Queen's Surreys Museum at Clondan.

TH



You won't get anything today. Dad's got a forty eight hour pass."

Newsletter Subscriptions

1. Subscriptions for 1985 will remain at £1.60. The Association hope to keep the cost at this level for 1986 but a final decision will be taken at The Trustees Meeting.

2. No action is required by:

- Those who have already paid in advance.
- Members of The Officers' Club whose Club subscriptions cover the cost of the Newsletter.
- Those who pay by Bankers Order but please check that your Orders are amended to cover FULL Cost.

3. PLEASE CHECK THAT YOU HAVE PAID.



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TOMMY ATKINS, 1937 - 1959



Pre-Enlistment April 1937

I was born in West Surrey in November 1920. Although there was no "service" tradition in my family, I had always had an ambition to be a sailor or a soldier. In 1936 when I was just 16½ years old, I went along to The T.A. Drill Hall at Bear Lane, Farnham, Surrey. I told the Sergeant-Major I was 18 and so I joined 'B' Company of the 5th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment.

At the time I was working in Godalming as a houseboy at the public school Charterhouse. My first term has happy memories and I was in the house of the Girdlestonites nicknamed "Duckites" after an earlier housemaster. The second term was not so happy and was spent in the house of Gownboys so named because in earlier times boys whose parents were not so well off financially were dressed in gowns to distinguish them from the boys whose parents were better off.

On the morning of April 1st 1937, whilst working at Gownboys, Charterhouse, I told the Butler that I was just going to change my jacket to serve at the table, but he didn't see me again for three days. On returning I told him I had joined the regular army and was off that instant. He wished me well which I thought was jolly decent of him considering the way that I had disappeared for three days without as much as 'by your leave'.

I joined the Regimental Depot at Stoughton Barracks and within the week I was hauled into the Orderly Room and challenged as to my age; I decided it was best to tell the truth, and so declared my right age which was 17 years on the previous November. The Orderly Room Quarter Master Sergeant then appeared and told me to make up my mind how old I was; he had been in touch with the 5th Queen's and they had recorded my age to be 19 years old in March of that year. I can only think that the Company Sergeant Major at Farnham must have been hard of hearing when I enlisted there, or he needed recruits so badly that age didn't matter anyway.

The outcome to all this was that I was instructed to leave the Orderly Room, and if I wanted to join the army to re-enter. This I did and was told that if I stated a falsehood on my attestation I would be liable for two years imprisonment.

The Clerk then asked 'How old are you', I replied 'Exactly the same as I was when I first entered the Orderly Room'. And so I became a regular soldier in The Queen's Royal Regiment, as from the 5th April 1937.

The Regimental Depot Stoughton Barracks — Guildford — Surrey April — September 1937

My platoon for the next six months during recruit training was to be Peninsular Platoon; the Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant (Mad Jack) Dennis, assisted by Corporal Cockerill. There were about 25 recruits, but nearly fifty years later I can only remember a few of the names; Lavender, Heather, Spencer, Kitchenmaster, Smithers, Warden; I wonder where they are now? The young men in my Platoon were as varied in their civilian occupations as they are today, indeed there is very little difference, for then as now, unemployment was rife amongst the young as well as the old.

We very quickly got down to the hectic life of a recruit, being chased every minute of every hour, all day, every day. Mad Jack Dennis didn't get that name for nothing, he chased us unmercifully, and when his temper got the better of him, things just flew in every direction, including one's kit being tossed out of the upstairs window of the barrack room. I soon got my first lesson on how not to split on a comrade. A chap from another platoon came round one evening selling a couple of pairs of army socks; he wanted the princely sum of tuppence. This was to enable him to buy a packet of five Woodbines, price tuppence, naturally I sensed a good buy. The next day we had a kit inspection, and as every soldier of those days knew, the sum total of items of kit was what was on display on the bed, plus what one was wearing, plus items in the laundry; the laundry items being supported by a laundry ticket. The keen eyes of Mad Jack saw these spare socks in my soldiers box, and of course he wanted to know where I had got them so early in my recruit life. Without thinking, I said that I had bought them from a chap in another platoon. That really sent the sparks flying. Mad Jack made me accompany him round to the other platoons to identify the

culprit. Fortunately, my brain engaged first gear very quickly, and so I said with my tongue in my cheek that I couldn't identify the chap. The outcome was I lost the two pairs of socks, which no doubt went into Mad Jacks bottom drawer, and I also lost my tuppence.

My next lesson was not so good either; I had had a misunderstanding with another chap in my Platoon, and the result was a challenge to a grudge fight in the Gymnasium that evening. One of the contestants had to report to the NCO in charge of the gymnasium to book the place and also to have an NCO present whilst the fight was in progress. Little did I realise that the chap I had had the difference with was a London A.B.A. Champion before joining the army, whilst I hadn't a clue on any point let alone the finer arts of boxing, friendly or otherwise. Talk about a lamb being led to the slaughter; I remember being helped on with the gloves, and seeing a sea of faces. The gymnasium was overcrowded and spilling outside the gym. The P.T. Cpl was present to referee the fight; there were to be no rounds, one was to fight on until one or the other gave in, or the Cpl. decided that enough was enough. Well Jimmy Warden, that was the name of my opponent, just had it all his own way; I was knocked down, and got up so many times, that I was like a yo-yo. The P.T. Corporal kept asking if I would give in; like a fool I kept saying No! In the end he could see that I was no match for this good boxer, and the fight was stopped. We shook hands and returned to the barrack room, me with a black eye and a monumental headache, and Jimmy without a mark, proving I didn't even land a punch.

The next day whilst in the Gymnasium doing vaulting over the box, I had difficulty in doing what was called the horizontal stride vault, I just couldn't get over; the P.T. Cpl, his name was Coote, called me over and said "Atkins, last night you showed commendable guts in a grudge fight and you got a bit of a hiding, now go back down the gym and get over that box or I will give you some more of what you got last night". Well the way that I sailed over that box would have done credit to an olympic performer. Cpl Coote called me over, said "that I could do it", gave me a good thump in the ribs and told me to go and do it again. After that I had no difficulty. The sequel to the gymnasium side of training was that I came second in the Platoon Competition, missing first place by just touching the vaulting box with my feet as I went over; Lieutenant H.G. Duncombe was the officer judging the competition. In the final shooting competition for the platoon I managed first place, and in the drill competition, second place. I managed to obtain a third class certificate of education which, lets face it, was a very basic elementary standard. The Education Sgt did say however that I should have no difficulty in obtaining a second class certificate; this I did exactly one year later.

I suppose the high light of the Depot Training was Guard Mounting, and the competition that went with it, with the coveted honour of being awarded 'Stick Orderly' for being the best turned out man on guard! The amount of work that went into preparing for Guard Mounting was quite something. The equipment of those days had to be blanched; a dirty job at the best of times, and every piece of brass had to be highly polished back and front; boots very highly polished, even to the soles and the studs. One mounted guard in full Marching Order, which meant the large pack absolutely Square on the back, haversack and waterbottle on either side, ammunition pouches, rifle and bayonet, and trousers with box crease worn at knee length, with long puttees. These puttees had to be worn so that the end piece had to finish exactly on the outside of the leg and the tape neatly knotted in a box knot. Many hours were spent in preparation until finally came the Guard Mounting Parade. The inspecting officer, normally the Adjutant, inspected every one with a fine tooth comb so to speak. Every little detail was looked at, even cleanliness of hands and finger nails. Personal drill was watched with keen eyes; the slightest mistake would result in not being made Stick Orderly. On one occasion fortune smiled on me. I was adjudged the Best Turned Out Man and awarded the Stick Orderly.

It was whilst at the Depot as a recruit that the seeds of an ambition were sown. I used to watch a person come out of a house situated at the end of the Block containing the Orderly

Room, Commanding Officer's Office, Adjutants Office and the Quartermaster's House. He was dressed in breeches, tunic buttoned up to the neck, long puttees, peak cap, and carrying a large cane, (pace sticks were not the fashion then). He looked a very severe man, and I couldn't help noticing that every one was in awe of him; he was of course the Regimental Sergeant Major. This was RSM Osbourne. I decided in my young and immature mind that if I was to be successful that was to be the high mark of my military career; to be what that man was and occupy that house. It took the best part of twenty years, and much water under the bridge, some times very troubled waters, before I achieved that ambition. Times have of course changed, and with it the approach to discipline; man management has undergone remarkable changes. I cannot claim to have been the awesome looking figure that I have described, whether I was, is for other people to say. I will name but a few of my predecessors: RSM's Osbourne, Percy Tasker, Fred Harcup, Charlie Cheeseman, Ben Noke, 'Copper' Kettle; there may have been others particularly between RSM Osbourne and Tasker, and between RSM Tasker and RSM Harcup.

The Regimental Depot is where the young recruit is born a soldier and instilled with Regimental Tradition. And so perhaps a couple of comments to close The Regimental Depot side of my story would be appropriate:

Mealtimes:- this was just as much a military parade as any other in those days; woe betide anyone who attempted to cross the thresh hold of the dining room in anything but official uniform, and that didn't include PT Shoes even for supper meals if and when there was supper. The Dining Room NCO would have an epileptic fit, if he could see how the soldier of today comes into meals looking more like tramps in any old type of civilian attire, but that is progress or so they say. Situated in the Regimental Depot was a square of grass, bounded by Married Quarters, Tennis Courts and Officers Mess, Peterborough Block, and on the fourth side the Drill Square. This piece of green, about fifty yards square was as holy as the drill square, and except for an occasional PT display, was there to be looked at, never to be walked on or used as a short cut from one point to another. The Annual Garden Party however was held on it.

When I returned to the Regimental Depot as the RSM in 1956 the green was almost unrecognisable from its former pristine condition. The war years had intervened; Air Raid Shelters had been dug along one side of the green, and I believe large areas of the green had been dug up and planted with vegetables.

In 1959 when the last Garden Party was held before the final closing of the Regimental Depot, I decided that if possible we would try and restore this green, with the surrounding hedges to something like its former glory; I fortunately had a very willing Cpl 'Spud' Taylor, who for want of something better to do was occupied for a number of weeks preceeding the final Garden Party on cutting, fertilizing and gardening in general. The end product was that the Officer Commanding, Major RSN Mans, received many compliments from former officers and other ranks who knew how the area used to look; that, of course, is satisfaction indeed. The final high light was when I was sent for by Major Mans. On arrival at his office there was General Sir George Giffard, GCB, DSO and former Colonel of the Regiment. He had come to hand over to me as the Regimental Sergeant Major of The Regimental Depot, his sword, which was to be used by the RSM on ceremonial occasions when the RSM carried a sword. It was a very lovely piece of workmanship, beautifully inscribed with the General's name. I don't think one could have asked for a more fitting occasion than this especially as it was towards the end of my own military service. On the closing of the Regimental Depot at Stoughton Barracks, we moved to Weyms Barracks, Canterbury, where the first stage of our amalgamation with The East Surrey Regiment was carried out. This was to be on October 14th 1959, and the new Regiment would be known as The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Of course, since that date, further re-organisation of the Regular Army has taken place, and the Regiments of the Home Counties have been amalgamated to form The Queen's Regiment.

TA

(The Sword referred to by Mr. Atkins is still in use today in the 1st Battalion, by the Regimental Sergeant Major. ED).

The Queen's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Ireland 1689-1985

1st Bn The Queen's Regiment has served in Ireland many times during its long history; the current troubles are nothing new, merely a continuation of hostilities which have been going on for centuries.

The Battalion's first service in Ireland came in the campaign of 1689-90. On the Catholic King James II being deposed from the English throne in 1688 in favour of the Protestant William of Orange, The Queen's under Colonel Piercy Kirke had been amongst the first to declare for William. James, however, was still King in Ireland and set about consolidating his position there. An attempt to garrison Londonderry with Catholic troops led to the famous siege which was lifted after some months by Kirke and The Queen's. Kirke was much criticised at the time for his slowness in raising the siege which may have arisen from unwillingness to engage King James since The Queen's contained many Catholic Officers and Men. Indeed one reason for the abandonment of Tangiers was that the Parliament of the day was concerned lest it become "a Training ground for Popish troops!"

Following the siege of Londonderry, The Queen's under Kirke fought with distinction at the Battles of Boyne, Aughrim, Charlemount, both sieges of Limerick, Lanesborough and Athlone. They also occupied Waterford. An unusual incident occurred during the siege of Charlemount, which is quoted, from an anonymous letter written in Lisnegarvy, in Colonel Clifford's History of the Standing Army 1660-1700. When Governor Tighe O'Regan was summoned to surrender the message was carried by a Drummer of The Queen's. O'Regan regaled the soldier with plenty of food and drink, and talked with him, asking him why he had left King James to take service under William. "Oh, you are wrong" said the Drummer, "it was King James that ran away from me, not I from him." "Why," replied the Governor, "That is one of King James's coats that you are wearing now." "Wrong again," said the quick-witted drummer, "it is one of the Queen's".

Following this campaign, the rascally Kirke managed to return to England with a large amount of personal loot, to the extent of 70 horses and 5 carts of treasure. How he managed to amass this much in a country as poor as Ireland shows the extent of his ingenuity and ruthlessness. One cannot imagine that nowadays the MFO system is quite geared to cope with Commanding Officers of Kirke's type.

A second result of this campaign and of the anti-Catholic Penal Laws which were passed in England was that the Catholic Officers of the Queen's were removed from the Service and placed on pension. The Regiment, meanwhile was shipped off to Belgium.

The Queen's were not to return to Ireland again until 1749, remaining until 1765. They were quartered at Dublin for most of the period although often called on to produce detachments both for other parts of Ireland and for abroad. This was a most unsatisfactory time for the Regiment, during which time it was left to rot until sent to the Isle of Man in 1765.

In May 1797 the Fenian Rising broke in Ireland. As a result of this the garrison was strongly reinforced, which reinforcement included The Queen's who sailed from Barnstaple on 8th June 1797, arriving at Waterford on 19th June. The Regiment was commanded at this time by Lord Dalhousie.

After some skirmishing the Regiment took the City of Wexford. Shortly after, a patrol of The Queen's surprised a noted lift on sight character named Bagenal Harvey. This Fenian had concealed himself in a cave, but was soon dragged off to torture and to death.

In addition to the rebels there was a large force of French Troops in Ireland in support of the Rising. After enjoying some initial success they were brought to battle by Lord Cornwallis and The Queen's at Ballinahinch, County Longford. After a sharp fight, the whole French force surrendered. This defeat signalled the end of the Rising, the leaders of which were mostly captured and hanged. The Queen's left Ireland in 1798 for England.

The Regiment returned once more in 1865, remaining until 1878. During this time the whole country was in a very disturbed state and the Regiment was concerned then, as now with low level internal security operations.

After the end of the First World War, the Battalion once again returned to Ireland where it was widely scattered in support of the Royal Irish Constabulary and in putting down the Sinn Fein Rebellion. During this time a Company of the Battalion was quartered in the Londonderry telephone exchange, which was to be occupied by the 1st Battalion in 1969. With the Partition of Ireland and the signing of an Armistice, the Regiment returned to England in 1923.

At the start of the current phase of trouble, the 1st Bn was on Spearhead at Lingfield, having recently returned from Bahrain. In August 1969 they were ordered, under the command of Lt. Col. H.C. Millman, to Londonderry in order to restore law and order which had completely broken down. The Battalion remained until December 1969, leaving the City in a reasonably peaceful and extremely clean state!

Recent events are well known. Since 1969 The 1st Battalion has served in Belfast in 1972, 1973/4, 1975 and 1978; assisted during the Ulster Workers' strike in 1974, and served in Londonderry again in 1976. The current tour in Omagh will certainly not be the last the Battalion sees of Ireland.

OVID

MALAYA 30 YEARS ON

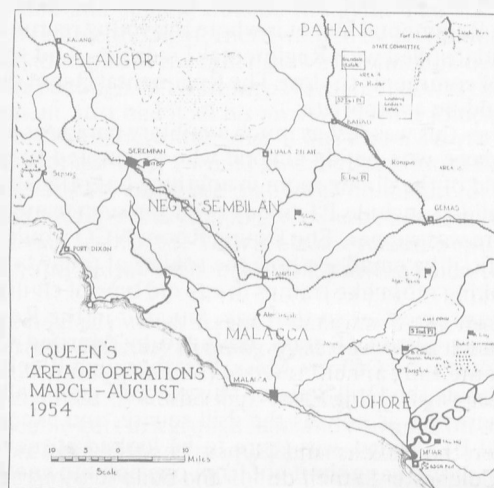
I served in 'D' Coy. 1 Queen's in Malaya 1953-1955. Major M.A. Lowry was the O.C. and WO2 Bohm the CSM. Our area of operations was on, and around Mount Ophir where the three states, Malacca, Johore and Negri Sembilan come together. Battalion H.Q. was at Tampin.

I went back to England in mid 1955 and joined the Kenya Police. I lived in Kenya until 1975 and then came to America to live. Now I am a teacher in Southern Colorado where I have settled. Being a teacher in America means that three months of the summer is vacation, so this year I declined a summer teaching job and went back to Malaya with my son for six weeks. We drove to San Diego and took a bus to Los Angeles. We then got on a Singapore Airlines flight to Singapore via Tokyo. The service on the aeroplane was excellent but sitting in one seat for eighteen hours with only a one hour stop in Tokyo did get a bit irksome. We got to Singapore at 11.30 p.m. tired out. Immigration formalities took about five minutes and we were waved through customs. Singapore has changed considerably, but there is still some of old Singapore left, so I was able to show my son a lot of the city as I remembered it. The Union Jack Club is now replaced by a thirty or so storey office block; the Nuffield Centre is now the Singapore Armed Forces N.C.O. Club. I did go inside there and found that practically nothing had changed, I got the feeling that I'd have been served at the bar had I tried to buy something. We did go into the Raffles Hotel, as I wanted to find out what it was that was too good for (or too bad for) Other Ranks twenty-five years ago. I didn't find the answer but did not go back again as only a fool would pay outrageous prices for what they had to offer.

Selangor Barracks is still an army establishment, but the nearby married quarters are now cheap housing for civilians. Bukit Timah range is still in use, I remember zeroing No. 5 rifles there till I thought my shoulder would drop off. We went to the island of Sentosa which is now a tourist trap, although very reasonably priced and had a look at the old British Army bases there. The island used to be called "Balakang Mati" and I believe had a glasshouse there. One Army barracks is still intact and looks almost as if it were vacated a month or so ago. To see those familiar buildings with neatly painted "O.C.C. Coy" and "C.Q.M.S." brought back some memories. We spent five enjoyable days in Singapore and then left for Malacca, as it is now known, and spent the night there. Malacca has changed some but not enough to be unfamiliar. The inhabitants are still very polite and although just as ready as ever to relieve you of your money, still do so with a smile! Our next stop was the old "D" Coy. base at Ayer Tekah. We had a taxi from Malacca take us there, but the roads have changed and it was a bit difficult to find. On the way we did encounter a Malaysian artillery unit and were surprised to find that none of the Officers or N.C.O.'s that we met had the faintest idea of their position on the map. That they were carrying out a practise shoot with their 105mm guns and we were going to spend a few nights on Mt. Ophir made me a little apprehensive to say the least. By the way, the map that I had was one that I had taken with me when I left Malaya in 1955. The ground, of course, does not change but I was not sure about the magnetic variation.

We finally got to Ayer Tekah, entering by the road that ran alongside the football field. I recognised it immediately although it is now somewhat overgrown, so I paid off the taxi driver and had a look around. It took me quite a while to get things in their proper perspective, as with all the buildings gone it was hard to visualise things as I remembered them. The 25 yard range is partially filled in; I had hoped to find a few bullets there, but with the great rocks and soil it would have taken a lot of digging. All that is left of the company office, where Johnny Morris, the Coy. Clerk ruined so much paper, is a large concrete block and some pieces of wood in the ground. The godown that was the messhall, NAAFI and Cpls Mess had gone, the Sgts Mess foundation is still there. In all, the place seemed a lot smaller than I remembered it, memory seems to play tricks on one.

The native kampong there has not changed one bit, and after talking a while with some of the natives who recalled the British soldiers there, we set off on foot for the village of Relau, where, as it was getting late, we camped that night in the rubber. Early the next morning we set out southward along the Relau Valley towards Tankak. As I said earlier, memory plays



tricks and the going was much harder than I remembered it to be. Perhaps the fact that I was thirty years older and twenty-five pounds heavier had a lot to do with it! We made about three miles that day before we camped. The going through the beluka was as tough as ever, and we were happy to get into the jungle where it was easier to walk. We spent the night near the Su ngai Relau and got eaten alive by mosquitos and leeches. I had the sores from the leech bites for two months after I got back to the States! We started south in the morning but soon found ourselves in a sort of box canyon that would have required a helicopter to get us out of, so we took into account the great blisters on my feet, and decided to set off for Chabau. Luckily, we hit an overgrown trail and by 4 p.m. after walking through Jungle, Bananas and Rubber and a Chinese Cemetary we arrived there. Once there we each drunk about six bottles of orangeade and thus refreshed, caught the bus back to Malacca.

From there we went on a journey to Kuala Lumpur, over to the East coast, North to Trengannu and from there by bus to Fort Butterworth. We then went leisurely back south via Penang and the Cameron Highlands, camping nights and providing meals for half of the insect population of the country. We got back in Singapore five weeks after we had left, did our shopping, prices are about half of what I would have had to pay for the same goods in the U.S., did a tour of Malayan Breweries and left the next day for the U.S. All in all, we had a very enjoyable trip that didn't cost us an arm and a leg and one that I would recommend to anyone contemplating it.

LJB

Congratulations : To Major General M.F. Reynolds, CB on his appointment as Colonel Commandant, The Queen's Division. To Major Hugh Greatwood on appointment as Secretary to Army Rugby Football Union. To Lt. Col. Mike Ball who is to command The 1st Battalion during its tour in Gibraltar. We wish him a successful and happy tour in command.

Best Wishes : From all our readers to Major Keith Yonwin and Mr. Sid Pratten, MM who happily are both recovering from heart attacks.



Aldershot is the accepted home of the British Army, signs on the outskirts of the town proclaim it so. Colchester, another garrison town, claims to be "Britain's oldest Recorded Town", also has long associations with the Army.

Colchester is situated near Harwich, a convenient port, and one through which troops passed in their journey to many continental wars. A tented military camp was established on a piece of heath land on the outskirts of the town in 1741. The troops stationed there varied in strength dependant upon the military requirements at that time. The town was also a place for recruiting as an old advertisement indicates "Any young Men of good character and figure, ambitious of serving his Majesty, in the Third (or Prince of Wales') Dragoon Guards may have an opportunity of entering that Corps, there being at this time a few vacancies."

Colchester, or Colonia as it was known by the Romans always had military connections. Traces of military occupation have been found and the remains of a castle verify this. Various inscribed monuments of centurions have been discovered during archeological excavations. One monument unearthed in 1928 was inscribed "Here lies Longinus son of Sdapezematycus, Junior Officer of the First Squadron of Thracian Cavalry from the territory of Sardica".

Colchester was stormed in AD61 by Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni tribe and her followers who massacred the Romans and destroyed their temple. The Queen went on to cause havoc among other Roman encampments in East Anglia until she was finally defeated. Colchester was re-built, fortified, and surrounded by a high wall in which were set gates for entry into the town. Part of this wall and one of the gates still exist today. The Roman legions were withdrawn in the 5th Century and the town became a prominent town of the East Saxons. The Danes who were always raiding East Anglia also occupied it on various occasions.

After the Saxons and Danes came the Normans who fortified Colchester to their design and built a castle, the keep of which today houses a museum, and is the largest remaining keep in England. After the signing of Magna Carta in June 1215 a large force of Frenchmen landed in Suffolk to come to the aid of the English Barons who were in revolt against King John. A detachment of them were stationed at the castle until three months later they surrendered, after being laid to siege by the King and his followers.

During the Civil Wars the town became a Royalist garrison and in 1642 Colonel Fairfax and his Parliamentary Army attacked the Royalist forces outside the town walls and after a fierce battle drove them through one of the gates into the town. Fairfax grouped his forces around the town and cut off any avenue of escape for the Royalists and the siege of Colchester began. This situation lasted for three months. The townspeople and troops were reduced to small rations, all horses had been slain for food and as food stores were low, and it was apparent that no relief force would come to aid the Royalists the town surrendered. The Royalist leaders were tried by a council of war and condemned to death and the execution of two of them took place outside the castle the day after the surrender.

In the early days of the garrison, troops were billeted at inns and with townspeople. The Innkeepers, in 1793 presented to the Corporation a petition in which they asked them "to give all encouragement to Government building Barracks in the town". Innkeepers were liable under an act of Parliament to billet troops but the amount they received for this service was inadequate which caused much concern among them hence the drawing up of the petition. By March 1802 wooden huts housing 5840 men had been built and in another 3 years this accommodation had been increased to provide for 500 cavalry 450 horses 6800 infantry and a military hospital of 414 beds. In 1741 a tented camp was set up on heath land to the west of Colchester to accommodate 10,000 men who it was planned would soon be sent to the continent to give support to the Empress of Austria against the Elector of Bavaria who was disputing her succession to the leadership of Austria. However, the English troops were not required and they were gradually dispersed to other locations in England.

Twice a year the troops billeted in the area were brought together for an inspection which was followed by a regimental

march past and a display of drill and other military manoeuvres.

The barracks requested by the Innkeepers in 1793 were built and over the years additional buildings were added to house regiments. In 1803 when it was expected that Napoleon would invade England 700 cavalry and 6000 infantry could be accommodated in the Colchester area and all troops were ready to march at twenty minutes notice. Constant alertness was required of all troops and much time was spent on exercises. The Duke of York reviewed troops on 17 October 1804 and in addition to the regular men there were part-time soldiers of the Loyal Colchester Volunteers. As well as unseasoned soldiers Colchester inhabitants also saw regiments who had returned from war zones for re-grouping. Troops from the battle of Corunna were re-equipped and recruited up to strength and then sent to Antwerp on an expedition that was planned to capture or destroy shipping in Flushing harbour. Flushing was captured but many of the troops were struck down with fever and the Army had to be withdrawn. Two regiments were sent to Colchester and many troops died of fever and were buried in local churchyards. In 1811 The Prince Regent reviewed troops at Colchester and four years later the town became the home for regiments returning from the battle of Waterloo.

In 1816 the Government put Colchester Barracks and the military hospital up for auction. The sale included barrack furniture and many garden and workshop tools. The sale of the barracks was not an isolated case, barracks at Ipswich, Harwich and Chelmsford also came under the auctioneers hammer.

Troops coming to these towns after the sale had to be billeted with the local population.

The Crimean War 1854-1856 showed the lack of barrack accommodation in the country and a new camp was made in Colchester to the east of the town on the road to Mersea. The new barracks were built and occupied and in April 1856 all troops were inspected by Prince Albert accompanied by Commandant of the Camp and the town Mayor. A manoeuvre in which four regiments took part was also seen by the Prince.

To strengthen the Army against the war with Russia foreign troops were recruited. Swiss, Germans and Italians served in the British Army. Several German regiments were stationed in a large tented camp at Colchester that housed 2,000 men. At the conclusion of the war most of the foreign troops returned home to their own country, some of them taking English brides with them. In one period of two weeks nearly 150 marriages were performed at the Camp Church.

In 1857 a temporary building for military offenders was erected, this was the forerunner of the Military Corrective Training Centre.

Cavalry as well as infantry were always at Colchester and a new cavalry barracks was erected in 1862 built on farmland purchased by the Government, some of the buildings still exist today.

The military always joined in the life of the town and contributed in many ways in the social activities. There were also the usual brawls and other "disturbances" which on occasions kept the military provost staff active.

During the period from the Boer War to the First World War Regiments came, trained, and left the barracks. Troops destined for the fighting zones proudly marched through the town receiving a resounding farewell from the civic dignitaries and the local population.

In the autumn of 1904 a major exercise was conducted that involved both Navy and Army. Troops were disembarked at Clacton and had to "fight" their way inland. Colchester was taken and the attackers moved towards London. The exercise was often hampered by the numbers of spectators that included fox-hounds, huntsmen and observers of foreign powers, the latter speeding around the area in large motor cars. After about a week when the umpires judged that the invasion had been successful the exercise was halted.

At the outbreak of World War I more troops were moved to Colchester and at one time between 30,000 and 40,000 men were training in the area. King George V visited them on one occasion.

Troops left for France and the battlefield and wounded soldiers returned to be treated in the military hospital. Aerial attacks by Zeppelins and aircraft also occurred. At the end of the

war troops were re-organised, re-equipped, and posted and once again a peace time routine was established.

Church parades were a fine sight on Sundays. After a service at the Garrison Church troops would parade for inspection before marching to their barracks led by their regimental band. On occasions concerts were given by the bands to the public.

During the Second World War Commonwealth troops were also stationed in Colchester. Australian and Canadian soldiers became popular with the townspeople and American troops and airmen also were in the area. Italian prisoners were sent to the garrison to build a camp that was later to be adapted as the Military Corrective Training Centre.

The town itself had also grown over the years and the barracks had become surrounded integrating the civil and military even more strongly. In the 1950's many barracks were modernised and others were re-built.

Today Colchester is still a military town. As well as barracks and married quarters, there are training areas, ranges, command workshops, an Ordnance Support Unit, and a Military Hospital. The Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment is also based in the area. It is here that clothing and equipment for all of the Services are developed and tested before going into production and service.

From the Iron Age to the Electronics Age Colchester has been a military centre and both town and army have benefitted from this union. The town that once heard and saw the chariots of Queen Boadicea now sees some of the latest vehicles of the British Army armed not with knives on the wheels but with sophisticated electronic equipment.

Colchester has been and is still a British Army "home".

RR

Colchester and the Regiment

The Queen's Royal Regiment's Depot Headquarters moved to Colchester on 5th December 1856 and remained there until March 1859. On the 14th August 1857 The 2nd Battalion was raised by Lieutenant Colonel Bruce who had belonged to The Highland Light Infantry. It was Lieutenant Colonel Bruce whose Scottish influence was responsible for "We'll Gang Nae Muir To Yon Toun" becoming a secondary Regimental March. The 1st Battalion went to Colchester on 7th April 1878 and remained there for 3 years.

The 7th (Service) Bn The East Surrey Regiment was stationed in Goojerat Barracks in August 1914 and the 8th (Service) and 11th (Reserve) Battalions spent part of 1915 in the town. Between the Wars The 2nd Bn East Surrey Regiment were the occupants of Goojerat Barracks from October 1936 to September 1938 and The 1st Battalion left for France with The Expeditionary Force in 1939 from the town.

After the Amalgamation of The Queen's Royal and East Surrey Regiments in 1959 at Bury St Edmunds, The 1st Battalion moved into the then, newly rebuilt Hyderabad Barracks in 1960 and departed from Colchester for Aden the following year.

The Battle of Ferozeshah, 1845

The following extracts are taken from a letter dated 26th December 1845 written by Lieutenant E.A. Noel of the 31st Regiment during the Sutlej Campaign.

'We have had two more murderous battles in which we have lost a lamentable number of officers and men. Four lieutenants and one captain are dead, and our poor Colonel is in a very bad way. I am almost perished with cold having just come off out-lying picquet. We have been without covering day and night ever since the 18th. Our tents and baggage are only now arriving. Three times we have successfully charged the enemy's blazing guns and bayoneted the wretches on the spot. They retired with some 20 guns out of upwards of 150 which they brought with them.

We are encamped in a jungle, ten miles from Ferozepore, anxiously waiting to know whether we are to cross the River Sutlej or not. Our men are sadly knocked up, what with forced marches, no commissariat, water as thick as mud and detestably unwholesome from the number of dead bodies which have fallen into them. Many of our fellows are attacked with dysentery, but, thank God, I am in good health. I commanded a company in the first action after my Captain was killed, and now have the command of it. I shall be proud in showing you a part of the enemy's Colours I tore off the pole and tied round my waist.

Last Sunday in the afternoon, after a long march of 18 miles, and nothing to eat or drink – not even water – we met the enemy and kept up a tremendous fire until dark, when we laid down upon the sand with the enemy sending shells into our exhausted corps the whole night. The cold was deadly. Our poor wounded officers and men were left to themselves. Several were never found, for next morning we were at them again by daybreak. This battle was murderous but glorious; the excitement of charging right into the mouth of the guns you cannot conceive. My head is perfectly turned with the confusion, cold, heat and horrible sights: these last are too horrible to relate.

Our privations, I assure you, have been fearful. I got a tub today – such a luxury – we had not changed our clothes for eight days. Our spirits are low at present, so many brother officers in a week or so being carried off throws a shade over our fellows who are attached to each other like brothers. I like the Regiment very much and long to see my exchange confirmed. I really hardly know what I am about. I thank God for all His mercies to me.'

The writer took part in all five major actions of the Sutlej Campaign, and bore himself with distinction throughout. At the Battle of Ferozeshah described above, Lieutenant Noel broke his sword in the final charge. Soon after, Lieutenant Bernard, the Adjutant, was killed and Noel took his sword. It can be seen in the portrait of Lieutenant Noel in the Regimental Museum. During this battle, Noel personally captured one of the four Sikh standards taken in the campaign.

At the Battle of Sobraon on 10th February 1846, both officers carrying the Colours were killed. Lieutenant Noel raised the Queen's Colour and led the Regiment in a flank attack which carried the enemy's position. During the advance, the pike of the Colour was shattered in his hand by enemy fire. This Colour now hangs in Canterbury Cathedral.

This gallant young officer survived the Campaign, and later served in Her Majesty's Body Guard. He died in 1899 at the age of 74, after service as Colonel of the 1st Gloucester Rifle Volunteers.

PGEH

Portrait of Catherine of Braganza, and Her Visit to Sandwich.

The portrait is hung in the old Courtroom in the Guildhall, Sandwich.

Extensive research has failed to produce the name of the painter or indeed a date, although it is thought to be around 1672 - 1700.

Considerable help was given to these brief notes by Alderman Charles A. Wanostnocht, who is the Curator of the Guildhall and Museum, and he was able to produce the following known history:

The history of these panels which are painted in oils on fir wood, is noteworthy.

In 1839, in a house occupied by a Mr. Stanley in Harnet Street, the series of panels was discovered hidden behind the plaster. They are attributed to William Vandervelt, the Dutch painter, who is known to have been in Sandwich about the time of their probable execution. They were given to Lady Ashburnham and sold at her death to Admiral Jolliffe, whose widow removed them to London. After an absence of nearly 30 years, she returned them to Sandwich, presenting them to the Corporation. This valuable gift was largely due to the efforts of Alderman W.J. Hughes to recover them for the town. Four panels represent the entry of Catherine of Braganza into Sandwich in 1672. According to the historian Boys, "Queen Catherine came to Sandwich on the 4th May with a great train, and there was a royal banquet provided for Her Sacred Majesty and attendants at the Mayor's door, for the Queen would not quit her coach." The reason for the Queen's refusal to leave her coach was because she did not wish to walk in the "Dirty Streets of Sandwich", a statement still remembered by the people of the Town, this despite the banquet laid on at the Bell Hotel in her Honour. It is also of some interest to know that, in attendance on the Queen on that occasion was James, Duke of York, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, later James II.

Whilst it is sad that neither the painter of the portrait or a date can be found, a continuing search of other papers which came to light may one day reveal just these two important items.

ANON.

FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

Cpl Bill Daybank would be pleased to hear from any ex-members of HQ Company 1 Queens. His address is 4 Hill Close, Clarksfield, Oldham, Lancs. OC4 5EU.

Bill Rice who was in the Drums and also batman to the legendary "Buzz" Waspe is anxious to contact any old Drummers from the Bn who served with him from 1934-39. His address is W. Rice, "Renbil", 7 Flail Close, Elmstead Market, Essex.

J.D. Carter was a Platoon Commander in 2nd Surreys and The British Battalion. He is anxious to contact members of his old platoon. His address is "Muntins" Queen Street, Yetminster, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6LL.

S.A. Sharp from 47 Hanson Road, Elizabeth Downs, South Australia 5113, is trying to contact Sgt S. Critcher ex 2 Queens and Band of 1 Queens in the early fifties.

D. Clemens writes from West Bergholt that he is now at 68 still running! He was awarded his Army Cross Country Colours in 1936 and on his return from the Far East as a POW in 1949 was awarded his Army Colours again. Qualified for AAA's Marathon in 1938 after winning Essex County 20 mile road race under 2 hours.

Col. C.O.N. Wallis and Major Favell took Mr. Clemens and his mate Pratt in the luggage boot of a Morris 8, two seater to Chelmsford to witness the race. He remembers the letter of congratulation on winning the race, followed by disqualification for running in two different County Championships in the same year! A AAA's rule he knew nothing about. Pratt was then declared winner and got the medal!

In Shanghai, a few more successes followed and he recalls being driven back to Barracks on the bonnet of Captain Bruchman's car. Post war he was Home Counties District and Eastern Command individual winner and also participated in the County and National Cross Country Championships. He decided to "hang up his running shoes" in 1952 only to take them down again in 1982. He took part in the Colchester half marathon and was the first veteran over 65. Before completing the London Marathon in 4 hours 28 minutes 2 secs, he ran several "half marathons" one of which took place after the WO's and Sgts AGM and Social at Kingston the night before!

Mr. Clemens is to be congratulated on raising £1,900 for the National Federation of FEPOW, £404 for the RNLI and £301 for North Essex FEPOW. Mr. Clemens is Vice Chairman of both clubs locally.

Mr. Flack of Bexhill-on-Sea writes:

"C.W. Lucas' letter from Guildford brought back memories to me, I also joined the 3rd Batt. at Clipston in 1919. I went to Wakefield and I was in the prison there, and after that we went to Nottingham and billets on the Northern station. We moved down to Aldershot in October 1919 and joined the 1st Batt. in June 1920, went to Ireland, Londonderry, I went to Strabane, Magrafelt, Buncrana and elsewhere. My platoon officer was Lt. Palmer. I came home in December 1920 on embarkation leave I joined the 2nd Batt. on the Frontier moving to Lucknow in December in time for Xmas. I was at Delhi in April 1922 for the Duke of Windsors visit there.

The Batt. moved to Allahabad and I came home in 1926. I was recalled from "Class A" reserve in January 1927. I went to Hong Kong, and Shanghai with the 1st Middx but came back end of the year as nothing happened. Coming back to Brig. H.G. Veasy, he was a Captain I think at the time I was in Londonderry, I think he tried to pinch the Lewis gun from a post in Derry!"

Mr. Avis writes again from South Africa.

Except for the short period of my active service (Newsletter No. 20 dated November 1981), my service with the 1st Battalion was uneventful. The most outstanding incident was the funeral of King Edward VII at Windsor. The Battalion entrained at Brentwood early that morning and travelled by a circular route round London arriving at Windsor before noon. The Battalion lined a portion of the street both sides leading from the railway station to the St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. It was a fine and warm day and "F" Company, commanded by Captain G.H. Neale, was on the shady side of the street. When the cortege was passing I raised my head and saw the grand uniforms worn by the

monarchs and other dignitaries of various nations walking in step with the music of the funeral march. It was a sight never to be forgotten and never to be seen again. The gun-carriage conveying the coffin was pulled uphill from the railway station by men of the Royal Navy marching four abreast.

When the Battalion moved from the Tower of London to Chelsea Barracks, I was sent with thirty or so other men to undergo a course of mounted Infantry at Longmoor under the command of Lieutenant M.W.H. Pain. The MI Battalion took part in the 1912 manoeuvres round about Cambridgeshire and adjoining counties. It was an enjoyable experience. I had never ridden a horse before attending that course nor have I been on one since. I still have a photograph of myself mounted on my horse. It was a fine animal and a good jumper.

After I was discharged from hospital, I reported at the Depot, Stoughton Barracks, and was posted to "B" Company under the command of Major Pain, the father of Lieut. M.W.H. Pain. I read in the History of The Queen's Regiment by Jock Haswell a Lieutenant Pain commanding a party of forty mounted infantry was involved in a little cavalry action in May 1887.

Mr C.S.A. Avis, (9961), recently celebrated his 90th birthday (23rd December 1983). He is one of our oldest Regular soldiers. Enlisting in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1910, Alex Avis went to France with the 1st Battalion in August 1914. He was severely wounded at the Battle of the Aisne in September, and spent 14 months in hospital before being posted to the Regimental Depot. He became a Life Member of the Regimental Association in March 1929.

In the early twenties, he joined the South African Police, and has lived there ever since. Mr Avis is an authority on Regimental history, and has been a regular contributor to our columns for many years. Our latest nonogenarian writes, 'My health is still very good, and, like Johnny Walker, I'm "Still Going Strong"' PGEH

Major T P Lloyd writes:-

"I was on holiday on the island of Malta recently and whilst there I visited the graves of three of my friends who died whilst I was stationed there in 1929 (1st Bn: The Queen's Royal Regiment). I took a few snaps of the graves and I would like you to know that the Cemetery was exceptionally well kept as were the graves. It was the first time I had been back to Malta for 55 years.

The names of those buried there were; Lt. W. Bradley; Pte. Butler and Pte Bond, and I actually attended their funerals.

The snaps came out very good showing all the details (Regimental numbers, date of burial etc.). I doubt whether any of their relatives are still alive, but if they are and they would like copies of these snaps, I would be only too willing to oblige.

I have a good memory and I can remember not two or three names of people who served with me but dozens, I even remember old Bill Marsden who looked after the pigs at Stoughton Barracks and how he got me to take a sow to the boar at some farm near the Barracks and I had to walk along the road to the farm with the sow on a rope. I knew nothing about pigs but I soon learned. Bill Marsden used to look after the vegetable garden and the pigs and used to produce a good deal of the food we ate and the bacon."

Captain Bill Roadnight writes:-

"Whilst on holiday I visited the Regimental Museum of the Dorset Regiment, in Dorchester. I was wearing my Regimental Blazer which carries the badge of "The Queen's Royal Regiment". Whilst walking up the main street with my brother, I was approached by a gentleman, wearing a uniform not familiar to me. He asked me when I served in the 1st Battalion and other details about myself, which I gave to him. He introduced himself to me as "The Town Crier of Dorchester" and had been in the radio programme "Down your Way". Major John Reed had actually heard this programme and got into communication with The Town Crier, whose name was Walker. Major General Mans also spoke to Mr. Walker on the phone and Mr. Walker remembered him quite well. Mr. Walker told me that he joined the 1st Battalion in Peshawar, this must have been when the Battalion moved to the Frontier, from Allahabad, in late 1940. He asked me if we could have a photograph taken. We had a very interesting talk about the Regiment, and various personalities we both knew. When I go away on holiday I always wear my Regimental Blazer and have met many ex-members of the Queen's Royal Regiment as a result."

Regimental Deaths

- Baker* – On 31st August, 1984, Sgt. T.H. Baker, DCM, aged 92, The Queens Royal Regt. Sgt. Baker won his DCM whilst attached to The Royal Engineers in April 1917. A staunch supporter of The Royal British Legion and the DCM League.
- Batten* – On 27th June, 1984, WOII E.W. Batten, aged 71 years, The East Surrey Regt from 1928 to 1945. 'Ernie' Batten was well known as a boxer, and was a member of the 1st Battalion Boxing Team which won the All-India Championship in 1933.
- Budgen* – On 31st October, 1984, RSM Jeffrey Budgen, 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment, aged 38 years. Obituary to follow in May Newsletter.
- Clarke* – On 16th May, 1984, RQMS W.G. Clarke, The East Surrey Regt.
- Clayton* – On 7th September, 1984, Pte George Clayton, The Queens Royal Regt. An inmate of The Royal Star and Garter Home.
- Cole* – On 14th June, 1984, Pte Charles Cole aged 67, The Queens Royal Regt and In-Pensioner, The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
- Cooper* – In May 1983, Capt. A.J. Cooper, The East Surrey Regt. Capt. Cooper was an English Teacher at the outbreak of the Second World War. He volunteered and joined The East Surrey Regt. After officer training at Sandhurst, he rejoined the Regiment. In 1943 he was seconded for duties with SOE. Towards the end of the War he was transferred to the RMP. He was demobilised in 1946. After the War he continued with a very successful teaching career including two tours of duty in West Africa.
- Donaldson* – In April, 1984, Major Andrew Donaldson aged 56, The Queens Royal, Queens Royal Surrey and The Queens Regt.
- Gibbs* – On 27th April, 1984, Lt. Col. D.L.A. Gibbs, DSO aged 79 years, The Queens Royal Regt.
- Hodder* – On 19th July, 1984, Mr. A.W. Hodder, The East Surrey Regt.
- Jones* – On 14th August, 1984, Mr. George Jones, The Queens Royal Regt.
- Keane* – On 16th September, 1984, Major M.W. Keane, The East Surrey Regt.
- Morgan* – On 4th October, 1984, Captain John Kenneth Morgan, The East Surrey Regt. Captain Morgan joined The East Surrey Regt. in 1917 and proceeded to France early in 1918. He served until 1920.
- Nash* – On 28th July, 1984, Lt. Col. W.C.E. Nash, C.St.J., TD, The East Surrey Regt. aged 76 years.
- Paxton* – On 15th August, 1984, Pte. Harry F. Paxton aged 81 years, The Queens Royal Regt.
- Phillips* – In July 1984, Pte. F.J. Phillips, 2/7th Bn The Queens Royal Regt.
- Ridger* – On 12th October, 1983, Major F.C. Ridger aged 82 years, The East Surrey Regt.

Regimental Families

- Quartermain, Mrs. W.* – On 26th February, 1984, aged 83 widow of W.F. Quartermain who died in 1969.
- Rousell, Mrs. N.* – On 29th October, 1984, Nancy, wife of Major C.G. Rousell, The East Surrey Regiment.
- Squire, Mrs. P.A.* – On 29th October, 1984, Phyllis Anne, wife of Lt. Col. G.L.A. Squire, MC TD, The East Surrey Regiment.
- Warren, Mrs. E.* – On 7th September, 1984, Eileen wife of WOII (Bill) Warren.

Obituaries

X Lieutenant Colonel D.L.A. Gibbs, DSO

After an outstanding time at Sandhurst – he was an under officer, passed out sixth and was awarded a soccer blue – Denis Gibbs joined The 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment in India in March 1926. He was with The Battalion in India, the Sudan and at Dover until he went to the Depot as Adjutant in 1929.

Back with 2/Queen's, he was Staff Captain of 9 Inf. Bde, and then Adjutant. He fenced (epee) for the Regiment and the Army, winning the Army Inter-Unit Fencing Competition with his then Adjutant Colonel L.C. East in the early 30's.

When the war started he had recently completed the Staff College and held Staff appointments with the B E F until Dunkirk, for which he was mentioned in despatches.

He served as a Battalion Commander for the rest of the war and was awarded the DSO with 1/6 Queens in North Africa and a Bar with 2 Royal Warwicks soon after D. Day in Normandy. He was captured at El Alamein in 1942 and escaped from a POW Camp in 1943. For 53 days he led a party of escaped POW's 625 miles down enemy occupied Italy until he reached our lines. He recorded the journey in a diary which was published privately as "Apennine Journey".

After the war Denis commanded 1 Queens in Singapore until their amalgamation with 2 Queens in Berlin and finally, for two years, he was Commandant of Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School.

Denis was essentially a regimental soldier. Always immaculately turned out, he was a strict disciplinarian tempered with a fine sense of humour and a merry laugh, loved and respected by all. A big man in every sense. Among the very many tributes paid to him was a typical one from a CANLOAN Officer who had served under him in 2 R Warwicks and wrote:-

"... outstanding and fearless soldier and excellent Bn. Commander the kind of soldier who has made the British Army what it was and what it is". How true.

Denis Gibbs was a devoted Churchman. After he retired he was a member of the Church Assembly 1965-1970 and a member of his Parochial Church Council for 33 years. His Vicar writes "... a great sense of duty. I always regarded him as a living embodiment of the 'Christian Soldier and Wordsworth's Happy Warrior'".

He died on 27th April. At the Service of Thanksgiving for his life a moving tribute was paid by Major General Sir Philip Ward, who had been his adjutant at Eaton Hall.

In 1933 he married Hilaria Edgcombe and they had four daughters. A happy family. To Laire, Jill, Margy, Rozzie and Penelope we offer our sympathy in their, and our, great loss.

Colonel L C East wrote:-

I probably knew Denis as well as anyone in the Regiment, having just met him in December 1925 before he joined the 2nd Battalion. I worked with him, was in the same fencing team, and we visited each others houses until the last months of his life. He was, I sincerely believe, the straightest man I've ever known. I cannot imagine him doing a dirty trick. At the same time he was very human and frequently used to "blow his top".

Brigadier R.A. Boxshall

I hope I am not too late to add my tribute to Brigadier R.A. Boxshall. I first met Peter Boxshall on 1st September 1939 when he was commanding the Depot. Then a few days later and within twenty-four hours of each other, we went to the First Battalion, he to command and I as a subaltern in 'A' Company. I found him rather terrifying, but I had tremendous respect for his soldierly qualities. Serving under him was a tremendous experience. This was especially so when we came back from France in June 1940. The Battalion had suffered many casualties and literally had to be rebuilt. This Peter (Wonky) Boxshall did and he made it into a most efficient fighting unit. On promotion to Brigadier, he relinquished command in 1941, but it was his excellent training that served the Battalion so well when it went into action in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. I know I am speaking for many non-regular Surreys, when I say that we owe "Wonky" a great debt for what he taught us about soldiering.

TAB

Major A. Donaldson

Andrew Donaldson, usually known as 'Don', was amongst the first of the post-war regular officers commissioned from Sandhurst, and joined 1 Queen's in Berlin during the blockade in early 1949. Educated at Wimbledon College School and the son of a distinguished Metropolitan Police officer, he soon showed that he was not only an able and efficient officer, but possessed a remarkable sense of humour and fun. Many National Servicemen must have been cheered by his droll comments during rain-soaked BAOR exercises, and many more will remember his productions of battalion concerts and pantomimes, particularly his excellent scripts of those performed in Malaya in 1954-55.

As a senior captain Don was selected to be the company commander of the Queen's company which reinforced 1 East Surreys in Cyprus, and went on to serve in that battalion in Benghazi. He was therefore fortunate in making many friends in both our regiments before the amalgamation. After attending Staff College and serving as a staff officer, his last posting was with 1 Queen's Surreys, once again in BAOR, and latterly with the retitled 1 Queen's at Lingfield, before retiring in 1968.

On leaving the army he emigrated with his family to New Zealand, where he carved out a successful second career, finally becoming the Group Personnel Manager of a well-known food manufacturing company based in Auckland. He visited the UK in 1978, and those of us who attended the Officers' Club Dinner that year were delighted to find that he had lost none of his zest and was still a raconteur par excellence.

Unfortunately Don's life was tinged with great sadness. His first wife Anne died of cancer at an early age, and three years ago he tragically lost his eldest son. However, he always remained an exuberant, yet shrewd, character, who was deservedly respected by, and popular with all ranks.

To his wife Margot and his family, who all now reside in New Zealand, we send our deepest sympathy.

R B J

Lt. Col. William Charles Edmund Nash, C.St.J., TD

Charles Nash was born in North Wales and educated at Aberdyfi Preparatory School and Brighton College. He was commissioned into the 6th East Surreys in 1928. He was an enthusiastic young officer, taking a very active part in all the Regiment's activities, excelling as a young officer in boxing and shooting, appearing at Bisley on many occasions. On the expansion of the TA just before the war, he played a leading part in raising the 2/6th Bn. He was a Company Commander on the outbreak of war, serving in France (notably Dunkirk), in North Africa and in Italy. He was the 1/6th Bn Beachmaster for the crossing of the Rapido at Cassino; following this he was seriously wounded, leading a reconnaissance patrol. He recovered back in England, and joined the Army on its advance into Germany, remaining there in the Military Government until his return to civilian life in 1948.

Until its disbandment in 1956, he was a Commandant (Col) in the Home Guard. In 1969 he retired from his business interests in London to his native North Wales. He played a leading part in local affairs and was County Commissioner for the St John Ambulance Brigade and was made a Commander of the Order for his services. He played a very active part in the Royal British Legion becoming President of the local Branch.

He was a great organiser and an entertaining host full of amusing stories, notably of his service life. He was a man of many parts; the greatest interest and influence of his life was the army and his wartime service.

He is sadly missed by his family and friends; he leaves a widow and two sons.

Major M.W. Keane

JN

Marcus Keane, who has died at the age of 78, was born in Ireland and commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1926. He was fond of outdoor sports and was an accomplished horseman. Marcus went to France with the 1st Battalion in 1939 and was posted to the 1/6th Battalion the following year. During the retreat to Dunkirk he commanded C and D Companies which had been amalgamated owing to heavy casualties.

At the end of the War, Marcus was appointed Town Major of Venice, a posting unique in Regimental history. He will be remembered as a kind, friendly and generous man who was popular with all ranks.

RQMS W G Clarke

William George Clarke was a member of that great Quartermaster's team which served the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment so well throughout the North African and Italian Campaigns. 'Nobby', as he was inevitably known, was one of the real old stalwarts of the Battalion. He had been Officers Mess Sergeant before the War, (overheard while Nobby was briefing the Mess waiters before a Guest-Night: "and if you must spill the soup down anyone's neck, make sure it's Mr. Appleyards!") and first saw active service as a CQMS in France in 1940. Promoted RQMS, he went with 1 Surreys to North Africa in 1942, and was one of the very few who soldiered with the Battalion right through to Austria in 1945. 'Nobby' was a much respected and loyal member of The East Surrey Regiment.

General Sir Campbell Hardy KCB, CBE, DSO - Royal Marines

The Regiment and particularly those of The East Surrey Regiment, were saddened by the death in July of General Campbell Hardy one of the most distinguished of Commandant Generals of The Royal Marines. During the War, he commanded 46 Commando RM in Normandy and won a DSO and Bar. He subsequently was appointed to command 3rd Commando Brigade in Burma, where he gained a second Bar to his DSO in the Arakan.

After the War he again commanded 3rd Commando Brigade in Malaya being awarded a CBE, and then became Commandant General in 1955.

General Hardy was always most aware of, and concerned, for the connection between The Royal Marines and The Regiment, and played an important part in fostering its continuance with The Queen's Surreys and now with The Queen's Regiment.

"CANLOAN"

The 40th anniversary year of the Normandy landings recalls to mind the tremendous debt we owe to some 623 Canadian Officers who volunteered to serve with British Infantry Regiments, and a further 50 with the RAOC.

In 1944 the British Army was desperately short of junior Officers and the Canadian Government offered to loan these on a voluntary basis under the code word "Canloan"; while the scheme called for junior Officers only, 1 Captain was included for every 7 Lieutenants, but many of higher rank reverted, and from other Arms transferred, in order to qualify. Canloan Officers served with almost every British Regiment and by the end of the war had suffered 465 casualties (75%) in killed, wounded and PoW.

Post War, the large Canloan contingent in Ontario had coalesced and the first "riotous and infamous Ontario Reunion" was fought at the Royal York Hotel, many still in uniform and bandages, in 1945. From this, the formal Ontario Association was founded, with Major Donald Findlay as the first President.

Major Don Dindlay, ED, QC, enlisted in 1926 in The Queen's York Rangers Militia, affiliated to The Queen's Royal Regiment and was in fact mentioned in The Queen's Regimental Journal of 1932 when the history of the Queen's York Rangers was featured. In 1943 he was serving as a Major on the General Staff where he had foreknowledge of the Canloan scheme and, being considered too old to serve with Canadian forces overseas he was the first and most senior Canloan Officer, reverting to Captain in order to qualify as Cdn. I. Following the practice of placing volunteers with affiliated Regiments wherever possible, he was posted to 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment with whom he served with distinction until wounded in late summer, 1944.

Recovering from his wounds, he returned to civilian life again and, in addition to following a successful legal career, devoted his spare time in service to others and the Canloan Association whose Reunions he attended with unfailing regularity until his death in February 1982.

All Canloan Officers are remembered by their British friends with admiration and affection, none more so than by the veterans of 131 (Queen's) Bde, 7th Armoured Div, with whom over 30 served. At least a dozen Canloan Officers served with 1/6th Bn. The Queen's from the Normandy landings until October 1944, when most of them, with others from 1/7th Queen's, joined those already in 1/5th Queen's when the Bde was reformed for the final push into Germany.

The link between 1/6th Queen's and many Canloan Officers is still very strong, fostered as it is by the OCA Newsletter, The Pascal Lamb, and by personal visits. It was on one of these that the writer had the privilege of attending the 10th Canloan Army Officers' National Reunion in Vancouver in June last.

Two large hotels within easy reach of Vancouver were taken over by the invading army of Canloan Officers and their wives and everyone had to book in at the "HQ" Hotel on Friday, 3rd June before the first official event at 2000hrs. "Pub Night with Nostalgia" when the Normandy landings and the ensuing battles were re-fought with and without embellishment. Innumerable Div. signs festooned the banquetting hall, prominent among them, of course, being the Jerboa of The Desert Rats.

More prominent still was the Regimental flag of the Regiment embroidered by Mrs. Rosalind Nice and reluctantly loaned, under pain of death, by 6th Queen's OCA.

After this pub night, fortunate were those staying the the HQ Hotel, for their's was the shortest distance 'twixt bar and bed!

On Saturday a delightful luncheon had been arranged on board HCMS DISCOVERY, a land-based HQ of the Naval Reserves with a wonderful view of the harbour and the Rockies in the background. Here a truly sumptuous feast left one replete with food and drink which led the wise ones (few in number!) back to their places of rest for a short re-charging of the batteries before the next parade.

This was the formal official Mess Dinner where the guests of Honour were the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Brigadier H.P. Bell-Irving, OBE, DSO, ED, and Brigadier A.T.P. Millen of the British Liaison Staff in Ottawa. Again, a splendid feast was served, toasts were drunk and speechifying kept to a minimum in order not to encroach upon valuable drinking and nattering time; but, alas, such a surfeit of the day's intake, both wet and dry, made ever-increasing demands upon one's rapidly fading stamina.

Sunday, 5th June, the day of departure, arrived but with it the all-important Memorial Cenotaph Service of Remembrance which was held in the Church within the City limits.

The Seaforth Highlanders of Vancouver had placed at the disposal of Canloan their messes - fortunately two adjacent ones were available to cope with the numbers - and Staff who produced a magnificent cold buffet to see us on our way for at 1500hrs "Goodbyes" were made and departure plans put into operation.

Among the Officers at the Reunion who had served with The Queen's Royal Regiment were Lieut. Col. Vincent Lilley, MC, CD, Majors Hugh MacDonald, CD and Eric Brown, Capt. Gordon Chatterton and Lieutenants Art Connor and Wally Ingraham. Vin. Lilley had previously served in the British Army as RSM in The King's Regiment and returned to Canada to be commissioned. Gluttons for punishment, both he and Major MacDonald volunteered for active service in even more severe climes, that of Korea, where they added more distinction to their already distinguished records.

Lieut. Joe Craib, also a Queen's Officer, had worked on the Vancouver Canloan Committee but collapsed on the very day of registration and was unable to attend the Reunion for which he had worked so hard.

Most of all, however, I was deeply impressed and moved by the very evident sense of loyalty to, and affection for their adopted British Regiments shown by all the Canloan Officers. This is something which is not just apparent at Reunions; it shows unfailingly any time one meets a Canloan Officer; it is a very deep-seated thing which will be with them for always and, sad to say, is a lesson which many of us could learn with humility.

C.H.N.

This letter to The Chichester Observer, Thursday 26th April, 1984 from R.M. Roach is reproduced with permission from the paper and Mr. Roach. (Mr. Roach is now an Assoc. Member ED.)

Sir,

It is said that you should not go back to the places in order to recapture old times, but now that there is to be a reunion on the Normandy Beaches I thought I should make an effort and return to some of the places in Sussex when my regiment was there in 1940.

The regiment in which I had the honour to serve was the 14th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Our colonel was Lt. Col. Alex Carmac Wilkinson, the international Australian cricketer, and wore the decorations of DSO, MC and GM.

Our battalion headquarters was in Mapsons Farm at Sidlesham, and the companies were strung out along the beaches at East and West Wittering, Bracklesham Bay, and Selsey. I called at Mapsons Farm, a lovely old house, and spoke to the farmer there, and he said that he had taken the farm over only six years ago, so here the visit fell flat. We had our intelligence officer in the farm house, and it was from here that I carried out my duties.

My visit to Cakeham Manor at West Wittering some time ago found that the Brown family were no longer there, and the person in the Manor let me climb the stairs to the tower which we had taken over during our stays as an observation post.

My visit to Selsey was disappointing. Where was the Marine Hotel, which was situated at the end of the High Street and on the front? It was this that the officers used as their mess. And the whole of Selsey was so built up compared with those war-time days.

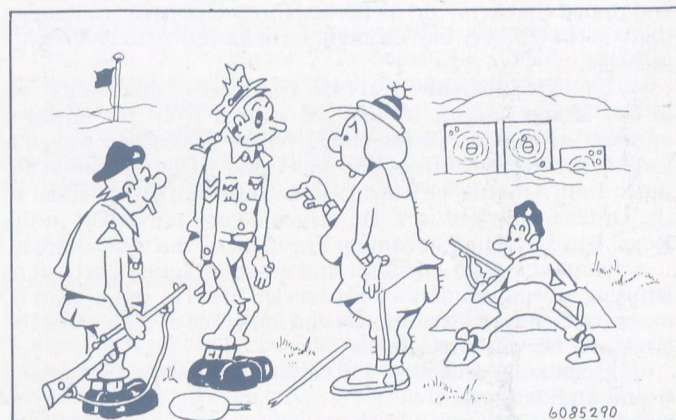
It was here that a platoon of our men walked over a minefield on the beach, claiming deaths and casualties, and it was here that Col. Wilkinson, and the Regimental Sergeant Major walked out on to the minefield to bring in the casualties to be taken to the old Royal West Sussex Hospital.

I could not see of course, the old observation post we had on the top of Trundle Hill at Goodwood; at that time the HQ was situated in Goodwood House. It was from there that I was sent away on a code and cipher course at Southern Command headquarters at Wiston House in Steyning, and here I found that the house was no longer open to the public, but had been taken over by the Foreign Office.

We had rest and recreation in Chichester, and I called at the building which housed the Talbot House or Toc. H. and I found that it was now the offices of the local Agricultural Food and Fisheries, and as there was no one in the office at the time I left a written note with my telephone number, but to date no reply has been received.

It was sad to say that our intelligence officer, the late Lieut. "Dickie" Dyer, was killed in his car on the Birdham Straight in a car crash, and the office was taken over by Lieut. "Bing" Grinling, who, I believe, was responsible just after the war for some of the reorganisation of the rebuilding programme in the Victoria area in London.

This all proves to me that one should never go back. But I am pleased to say that we still keep up our regimental reunion each year to chat about our places and exploits.



Next time you shout 'Scrubber' when I'm jogging,
your arm's going to get separated from them stripes.