

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

Regimental Association
Newsletter

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Editorial

This will be my third attempt at producing your Newsletter, and I should like to thank all those who have written to me expressing their appreciation and thanks. For my part I am very grateful to those who write articles, but perhaps more important, those readers who write in with their personal anecdotes and memories which can be published for the enjoyment of all our readers.

Whilst on the subject of letters, PLEASE when you write in do write as legibly as possible, and when sending in your subscriptions please do say who you are! Since the last issue I have received three subs in the form of Postal Orders, with rather terse notes "please credit my account"!!! Sadly my crystal ball was worn out at the end of my service, and so it is rather difficult to credit the correct account.

Still on the subject of subscriptions, the Regimental Committee decided not to raise the charges for the Newsletter for 1985. To those of you who owe for this year please forward your payment now. Postal charges are very expensive, and to those of you who live abroad and want your Newsletter sent by Air Mail, please include the extra postage with your remittance.

An argument has been rumbling for some time over who is the oldest soldier in the Regiment. It would appear to have been Private William McKay aged 98 years, whose death is reported in this issue, however I understand that there may be other contenders for the title so please do let me know.

With this issue is a specimen page of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment History written by Captain J.P. Riley. Captain Riley undertook this task as a labour of love, and has produced a first class history of the Regiment from 1959 through the years when The Queen's Regiment came into being and up to 1970. It covers not only the military and political changes from 1959-1970 but also sets the history of our Regiment during this period of unrest and uncertainty.

Due to the costs of printing today, the History will only be published if sufficient numbers express their interest in purchasing a copy. Please DO NOT send in any money now, but if you require a copy complete the form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Cathedral on June 2nd and the various Reunions throughout the year.

Les Wilson

Benevolence

During the period 1 January to 31 December 1984, the Secretary dealt with 180 cases requiring assistance. The sum of £16,400, including grants from the Army Benevolent Fund, was disbursed from the Associations Charitable Funds on assisting members of the Regiment or their dependants.

Anyone who knows of an ex-member of the Regiment who needs help or assistance is asked to contact the Regimental Secretary. All requests for assistance are treated in confidence.

Donations:

The Trustees wish to record their thanks to the following ladies and gentlemen for their generous donations - Miss E. Morris, Messrs G.A. Hardie, H.C. Russell, S.J. Lewis-Wheatley. Mr. S.J. Wood, whose death is reported in this newsletter left a sum of money "to his old Regiment".

President's Notes

During the Winter Association activities continue mainly through the various Branch events, and it has been a privilege for me to have been invited to a number of these. It has been inspiring to see how strongly these individual Associations keep together those who have served with particular Battalions. It was also very nice to find the Association's Main Reunion in November increasingly used as a gathering place for groups from Battalions, particularly last November 1st Queen's and 2nd Surreys. This keeping together is also well served by the letters which I and the Secretary receive - all these are very welcome: stories, memories, and vignettes from the past are important, as well as being of great interest, and where suitable they should be and will be preserved in the Regimental Archives at Clandon.

Mention of Clandon again leads me to pay tribute to all those at the Museum, who under Colonel Hill's leadership have worked long hours during the Winter to improve things even more. I also record a special "thank you" to the many who responded so generously to the Appeal to enable us to purchase for the Museum the sets of medals belonging to Brigadier General Mathew Lannowe, Major R. Wynn, and L/Sgt W.H.M. Osborn.

With the approach of Summer I hope that we shall have another season when many people will have the opportunity to see each other at the various Association events. The first of these is again the Annual Church Service at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 2nd June, at which we shall once more have the pleasure of hearing Archdeacon Peter Mallett preach. I have also specially invited the Surrey Army Cadet Force to attend, and this the County Cadet Commandant, Colonel Peter Tween, has agreed. I hope we can give them a good welcome as they are the future for the Army and our Regiment in Surrey, and some of them may hopefully serve later as Regular or Territorial Army soldiers.

Finally I mention one special personality: the first full lady member of the Association. At the recent Association Committee Meetings it gave great pleasure when all members unanimously elected Mrs Daphne Hill a full Honorary Member of the Association: no one could be more worthy of this. Many will know how Mrs Hill has dedicated herself to the Regiment both in connection with the Museum and in making contact and keeping in touch with so many members of the Regiment. Her interest is indefatigable, and she undoubtedly knows more about the histories of all Battalions of the Regiment in the Second World War than anyone else. She also incidentally served herself for some years in the A.T.S. and the W.R.A.C. - her first introduction to the Queen's was under Colonel L.C. EAST - and she is a Major in her own right. I welcome her very much as one of our members.

Toby Sewell

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Subscriptions for 1985 Newsletter are to remain at £ 1.60.
2. No action is required by:
 - a. those who have paid in advance.
 - b. members of the Officer's Club whose Club subscription covers the cost of the Newsletter.
 - c. those who pay by Bankers Order, BUT please check that your order's are amended where necessary to cover the cost.

DONT DELAY - PAY TODAY!



FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1985



Date

Details of Event

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE	
2 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. See 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, Bassingbourn. Details enclosed with 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.
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 Bassingbourn. Details with Newsletter.
1 November	Regimental Association Reunion, Union Jack Club, 1830-2345. Details enclosed with this Newsletter.
10 November	Remembrance Sunday, Services, Wreath laying, Kennington S.E., Kingston-Upon-Thames, GUILDFORD.
17 November	2/4th Queen's (1914-1918) Shrine Service of Remembrance and Dedication. Croydon Parish Church 3 pm followed by A.G.M. Further details from H. Mann, MBE, 22 Woodland Way, Shirley, Croydon.
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.

1986

10 February	SOBRAON DAY.
22 March	Queen's Surrey's Regimental Trustees and Association Committee meetings. Clandon Park, Guildford. Details to Members from Hon. Sec.

Congratulations.

We offer our congratulations to:-

Mrs J.M.A. Mayo on the award of the MBE for service to Army families. Mrs Mayo is better known to readers of SOLDIER by her nom de plume of Ann Armstrong. She was previously known to members of The East Surrey Regiment as Jacqueline Armstrong, daughter of Brigadier C.D. Armstrong, CBE, DSO, MC.

Colonel Denis Sweeney, late East Surrey's and County Cadet Commandant, Surrey A.C.F. on the award of the OBE in the New Year Honours.

Northern Ireland Awards.

We are delighted to record the following awards for service in N. Ireland.

Lt. Col. P.V. Panton Late CO 1 Queens - OBE

Lt. Col. M.R.I. Constantine CO 2 Queens - OBE

Lt. Col. D.A. Beveridge, MBE CO 3 Queens - Mention in Despatches

Major P.R.P. Swanson (son of Major Paul Swanson) - MBE

We record our congratulations on these honours, which mark the Regiment's special distinction of having all three Regular Battalions in Northern Ireland together in 1984.

Millman, OBE was present and accompanied the Mayor of the Royal Borough on the Saluting Base. At Guildford the President, as is customary, laid wreaths after Her Worship the Mayor at the Queen's Royal Regiment Memorial in Holy Trinity and at the Borough War Memorial in the Castle Grounds. Lieutenant Colonel F.B. Herd led the 5 Queen's OMA contingent and also laid a wreath at the Borough Memorial.

Prior to Remembrance Day the President of the Association planted crosses in the Regimental plots at the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey - the plots being those of the Queen's Regiment, the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Queen's Royal Regiment, the East Surrey Regiment and the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Bns The London Regiment.

The East Surrey Regiment O.C.A. Reunion

The 10th annual reunion of The East Surrey Regiment (All Ranks - All Battalions) will be held at Battersea Town Hall on Friday 18th October 1985, opening 6.30 p.m., Tickets £3 per head. Following the death of Secretary John Bedford, the Trustees are having some difficulty in obtaining the Association's records and correspondence. Your Committee have worked very hard to find a site as near as possible to our old "home" which is now under demolition. Battersea Town Hall is 10 minutes walk away.

Will all East Surreys interested please contact Chairman John Solomon, 85 Castleton Road, Mottingham, SE9 4BZ, Tel. 01-857 0717, or Treasurer Stan Jupe, 68c, Havelock Road, Wimbledon, SW19 8HD, Tel. 01-543 1747, in order that we can update our mailing list.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1984

The Association as usual took part in the Civic Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Guildford and Kingston-Upon-Thames. At Kingston the Association had been returned to its rightful place at the War Memorial and in the subsequent March Past. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier H.C.

S.J.J.

Museum Notes

Between 20th October and 13th November, 1984 there was a special display in the Heritage Room of the Kingston-upon-Thames public library, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of the Royal Borough to The East Surrey Regiment. The display of artifacts and material mainly came from the Museum at Clandon Park but three very fine figures of modern day members of The Queen's Regiment in different forms of dress, came from the Queen's Museum at Canterbury thus providing a link for the public between the old regiment and its successor today. All of this was assembled at Kingston and set up in one day thanks to some welcome military muscle assistance and a lot of hard work by Lt. Col. Les Wilson, Mrs. Daphne Hill, Mrs. Jean-Anne Stock and Mr. John Woodroffe and the great help of Mrs. Marion Hinton, the Curator of the Kingston Museum and Mrs. Anne Baker, the Antiquities Officer. We enjoyed a reception given by the Mayor of Kingston at which Colonel John Francis, on behalf of the Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, replied to the address of welcome by the Mayor, while Colonel Toby Sewell, President of the Regimental Association was also present.

Back at Clandon Park the winter work was put back a bit by the Kingston display, but it did leave the floor of Room 4 clear for a new tiled carpet to be laid, provided by a most generous grant from the Territorial Trustees; this has greatly enhanced the look of the room.

In this room new medal cases constructed by Major Sidney Hill are already filled with medals renovated and cleaned by a working party of NADFAS ladies who meet under Mrs. Jean-Anne Stock every week. Meanwhile Mrs. Daphne Hill has been busily getting in material for the "War in the Far East" special display for 1985 season; she is most grateful to those who have responded and would still appreciate further information, photographs, maps and equipment, particularly since the Display will now continue for 1986 as well.

There has been a considerable improvement in the overall medal display under the direction of Lt Col. Tony Hannaford. A part from the medal cases mentioned above, another large case was constructed and is now mounted in Room 3; all these cases being paid for out of the grant from the Territorial Trustees. These new cases are already filled with medals; in addition a jewellers cabinet was purchased and arrived in 'kit form', and has now been modified and successfully reconstructed in Room 4.

The Museum Committee wish to thank those who have taken out Deeds of Covenant in support of the Museum. As the position now stands, after the recovery of income tax, these Deeds of Covenant will yield a gross income of about £ 330 per year for the Museum. Prior to this we relied almost entirely on donations given by members of the Regiment and collecting boxes in the Museum into which the public put mainly small coins.



Regular Battalions

The 1st Battalion moved from Omagh to Gibraltar in January and will return to Tidworth in January 1987. The 2nd Battalion left Londonderry for Oakington last November and move to Minden in August next year following a tour in the Falkland Islands from November this year until March 1986. The 3rd Battalion will return from Fallingbostel to Canterbury in January next year and are scheduled for duty in Belize from April to October 1986.

TA Battalions

As regards the TA, a Home Service Company has now been added to the establishment of each of our volunteer battalions and planning is going ahead for the formation of the 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) in 1986.

Civic Honours

Work is now proceeding in preparation for the Freedom Marches between 21 and 25 May in Lewes, Ashford, Hove, and Eastbourne and the ceremony granting the Freedom of the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling to The Queen's Regiment on 23 May. This will be the first civic honour to be awarded directly



The Mayor of Kingston, Councillor David Weston assists Mrs. George Roupell to cut the anniversary cake, Heritage Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, November 7th, 1984.

Clandon Park re-opened on 2nd April; the Museum is open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on all days when the 'house' is open. To remind you, if you only wish to see the Museum and not the 'house', you must produce evidence that you are a serving or retired member of the regiment or a member of the Old Comrades Association; you will then be admitted without paying the 'house' entrance charge.

Following the successful Museum "At Home" Day held in September 1984, another such Day is scheduled for Saturday 28th September 1985. We are also delighted that the Officers Club Ladies Luncheon is to take place at Clandon on Friday 20th September, when the Museum will be open following the lunch.

HRDH



THE QUEENS REGIMENT

to the Regiment since its formation in 1966 and will thus be a great occasion.

Beating Retreat on Horse Guards

Another important event will be the Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands of The Queen's Division on Horse Guards Parade on Tuesday 11 June at 6.30 p.m., when the Prime Minister will take the salute. All Regimental Associations have details of how to obtain tickets and we are hoping for a very large attendance by all sections of the regimental family.

Grand Reunion

We are also hoping for a very large turn-out at the Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn on Sunday 14 July. This will follow the usual popular and successful pattern and, again, all Associations have received details of this special day.

Free Fall Parachute Display Team

The Regiment is fortunate in having among its members the Army Free Fall Parachute Champion and is currently training a Free Fall Display Team. It is planned that the team should start to give performances in 1986, subject to a suitable sponsor being found.

5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association

The Association will be holding their annual Reunion Dinner on the 18th May at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford, and will be looking forward to another good attendance. The Association welcomes any past members of The Queen's Royal Regiment who would like to attend and renew old acquaintances. Each year there are a few new faces who come along and meet old friends who they have not met in most cases for over 40 years.

On the 2nd June we will be well represented at the annual Queen's Surreys Association Cathedral Service at Guildford. This has become something of a reunion for all members of both Regiments, where after the service we adjourn to The Refectory for light refreshments and to reminisce and tell the usual old soldier's yarns.

We were very pleased to be associated in giving a donation towards the purchase of the late Major ~~Bob~~ Wynns medals, including the DCM which he won as a Carrier Platoon Sgt with the Battalion in 1940. His was the first DCM to be awarded during the Second World War.

Once again the Cranleigh contingent of C Company (1939) held their reunion Dinner at the Cricket Pavilion in October, forty five members and guests attended this very enjoyable function, organised by the Secretary Reg Hubbard. Guest of honour was Lady Mullens president of the Cranleigh Company, also Reverend Castle who was the Battalion Padre throughout the war, had travelled down from Essex to be with the members.

All information regarding the Old Members Association can be received from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Douglas Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey. GU3 3JE. Phone Worplesdon: 232043 (STD 0483).



5 O.M.A. DINNER 19th MAY 1984

Doug Mitchell, Secretary; Ron May, Treasurer; Geoff Regester, H. Beadle and J. Homersham

The Queens (Southark) Regimental Association

Once again we assembled in the Union Jack Club for our Annual Dinner on 2nd March with our President Lt. Col. Bill Griffiths D.S.O., M.C., in the Chair for the 24th time.

We were most pleasantly surprised to have with us, for the first time since the war, Mr. Tony Worrall, M.C., our battle patrol commander of many exploits and also Major John McArthur. Happily Major-General D.S. Gordon, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., could also attend.

Mr. Reg Hayward M.M., proposed the toast "Absent Comrades" in a most fitting manner.

Our Guest of Honour was Colonel "Toby" Sewell who had served with distinction with 2/7th Queens in Italy in 1943 and was therefore on common ground with the majority of the 64 members present, who had been with the 1/7th Queens. When proposing the toast of "The Regiment" he gave us a splendid speech on the Queens/Surreys Association and activities of the present Queens Battalions and made us feel very proud of their achievements.

David Smith organized the raffle assisted by John Ledwick and C.S.M. Pat Paisley. Happily some bottles went to desperate cases! and our funds benefitted by the generosity of members.

Our Chelsea Pensioner C.S.M. "Viv" Edwards was in sparkling form, despite his disability, entertaining us with two of his best stories, which had us rolling off our chairs.

A "get well" card was signed by those present, to much respected Paddy McCourt, unfortunately in hospital.

The thoroughly enjoyable evening reached a climax when our hard working Hon. Sec., Major John Tamplin, received a well deserved tribute and Presentation from Mr. Joe Rowe, M.M., on behalf of the Committee.

In addition to attending at Bassingbourn on 14 July, on Armistice Sunday we will form up at 1015 hrs in Braganza Street, Kennington, to march to the Service in St. Mary's. All Queens in the area and former members of the unit, in particular, will be welcomed.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



SUN WAI CAMP — CHINA
Sent in by Jock Alford



5 O.M.A. DINNER 19th MAY 1984

In this picture are H. Carter, R. Bacon, G. Gershin, S. Blay, F. Walker, B. Dinnage, K. Scott and C. Campbell

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

Since the November issue we have been plodding along, losing members and finding some replacements so we remain more or less at the same strength.

Christmas saw a successful Social held, thanks to the Deptford branch of The Royal British Legion. In February the Reunion Dinner/Dance was successful as a Social but as a Reunion it left a lot to be desired.

We are joining The Royal British Legion for the 40th Anniversary of VE Day and look forward to the arrival in May of our friends from Ghent and have a full programme lined up for them. The Association will be represented on the 11th June on the Horse Guards for the Beating Retreat.

A coach has been arranged for Bassingbourn and we hope to see some old faces at our Ladies Night Dinner/Dance on the 26th October at the Union Jack Club.

Finally there will be a Christmas Social again but matters are not beyond the talking stage yet.

To sum up we are still alive but would like to see some new (old) faces, we know they exist!

The Colours of the Second or Queen's Royal Regiment 1661 – 1959

Introduction

The Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment are of interest for several reasons; first because of the antiquity of the Regiment and the amount of source material available; secondly because of various unique distinctions borne upon them and thirdly because of the existence of a third Colour of the Regiment. This series of short articles traces the History of the Colours from 1661 to 1959. Later articles will cover the History of the 3rd Colour, the Colours of the Volunteers and lastly the Colours of the Regiment's successors, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Tangier 1662 – 1684

Although the Regiment undoubtedly carried Colours in Tangier there are no contemporary accounts or warrants which describe them. Stoop's painting of The Review of the Army at Tangier (now in the National Army Museum) does, however, show Colours which correspond with those described in Brooks' **General and Complete List, Military etc.** published in London 1684, and in **Colours and Standards of The British Army Tempora James II.**

These Colours in general follow the pattern of those borne during the Civil War period and are described as "a red cross bordered white and rays as the admirals on a green field with their Majesty's royal cypher in the centre". (See Figure 1) : see illustration.

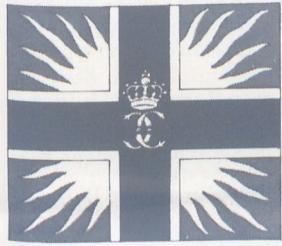


Fig. 1

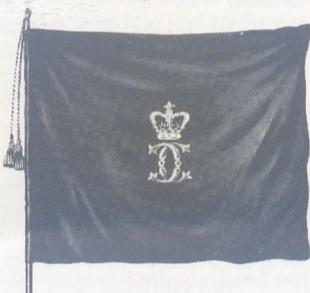


Fig. 2

The background colour of green is simply explained. In the Stuart era, the Colour associated with the personage of the King was blue, of the Queen green and of The Duke of York yellow. The Tangier Regiment therefore, having been raised to garrison part of the Queen's dowry, would naturally take for their Colour that of the Queen.

At this time it was the custom of Regiments of Foot to carry a total of ten Colours – one each for the Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel and Major (who all Commanded Companies) and seven other Company Colours of the same design as that of the Lieutenant Colonel but with a distinguishing numeral denoting the Company. Thus 10 Colours.

The Reign of King James II

A Royal Warrant of James II dated August 1686 authorises the payment of £ 206 5s 6d for 10 Colours for the Queen's. As the Regiment had 10 Companies in 1686 it is clear that the practice of the earlier reign has been continued. It is likely that these Colours are copies of those carried in Tangier rather than new designs, since the warrant makes no reference to any new sealed pattern.

These 10 Colours (see Fig 2) were: See illustration

First, the Colonel's Colour. This was green with the cypher of Queen Catherine in the centre surmounted by a crown. Other Regiments would here have the Arms of their Colonel but the Queen's had the special distinction of displaying the cypher of their Royal Patron.

Secondly, the Lieutenant Colonel's Colour. This was again a green ground, but bearing a red cross bordered white with the admirals rays at each corner. One Major's Colour was the same except for the addition of a white or gold blaze in the top sinister canton.

Thirdly, the Captains' or Company Colours followed the design of the Lieutenant Colonel's Colour except for a distinguishing numeral in the top sinister canton. Each Colour had the cypher in the centre.

It is not known at what date, where or by whom (if at all) the Tangier Colours or the 1686 Colours were presented, although the 1686 Colours were certainly carried in Ireland during William III's campaign there.

The Reign of Queen Anne

In 1703 as a result, so Davis says in his **History of the Second Queens 1887**, of valour at the defence of Tongres the Regiment became Royal and should therefore have changed its Colour, both of facings and colours, to blue. That it did not is proof of its pride of belonging to the old Queen, since the "Royal" distinction was extremely rare at that time. The green Colour was retained by the Regiment until 1768.

The Colours themselves were altered at this time since from 1688 Infantry Regiments began to be reorganised into 3 divisions: 2 of Musket and 1 of Pike. Each division held a stand of Colours as it could operate independently. This practice, which was general on the continent and had been the model used by Gustavas Adolphus and Turenne, persisted until the introduction of the bayonet during the reign of Queen Anne. The Colours, therefore, were first reduced from 10 to 3, and then when pikes disappeared, to 2, with the exception of the Queen's.

The Early Hanoverian Period 1714 to 1768

For reasons unknown, the Queen's had maintained three Colours after the disappearance of pikes – more will be said of this in a later article on the 3rd Colour – until in 1750 when the Regiment was in Ireland this was reduced to two. A description of the Colours at this time (1750) is given by the then Ensign Donkin (later Major General) in **Donkin's Military Collections 1777** thus:

- "1st. The Union throughout and in the centre the Royal Arms.
- "2nd. The Union throughout, and in the centre the Queen's cypher.
- "3rd. (A Regimental Sheet) of sea-green colour, which was the original facings of the regiment, and in the centre the Colonel's arms.

It would appear likely from this that the First and Second Colours were new Colours replacing those of 1686 (although there is no information on when or where these were presented) since by this time "The Union" referred to took in the cross of St Andrew on a blue ground, displacing the old green. Also, Donkin says that the Royal Arms were in the centre of the first colour and not, as in 1686, the cypher. It is, however, quite likely that the 3rd Colour is the old Colonel's Colour of 1686.

After the 3rd Colour was removed in 1750 by General Fowke, then Colonel of the Regiment, the two remaining "Unions" continued in use until the following year when a Royal Warrant of 1st July 1751 authorised two new Colours for the regiment. These, for the first time, displayed The Lamb and were in service until 1768. They are shown as Fig. 3.

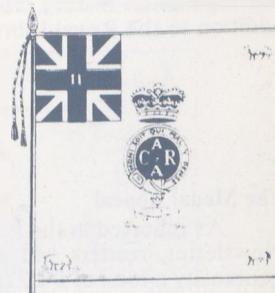


Fig. 3

These follow the description given in the Adjutant General's MS of 11 November 1747. This ended the practice of any colonel displaying his own arms on his Regiment's Colours and regularised the design of Colours as the 1st or King's Colour being the Union, and the 2nd or Regimental Colour being the Regimental Colour and bearing the Regiment's distinguishing devices. In the case of the Queen's, these were the cypher of Queen Catherine and The Lamb, described as its "ancient badge".

In 1768 The Royal Warrant of 19 December abolished the use of the green colour and substituted Royal Blue. The Colours of the Queen's therefore also changed although the general pattern of 1747/1751 is followed. These Colours, which remained in service until 1772 are shown as Fig. 4.

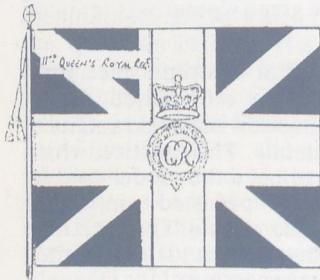


Fig. 4

(To be continued) OVID

Presentation of a new Guidon to The Queen's York Rangers (1st Americans) by Her Majesty The Queen.

An outstanding event in the life of one of the Queen's Canadian allied regiments, the Queen's York Rangers took place recently.

Last year a new guidon for the reconnaissance Regiment was authorised by the Canadian Department of National Defence, the design being approved by Her Majesty The Queen. At the same time there was published the first complete history of the unit: The Queen's York Rangers, an Historic Regiment, by Major S.H. Bull, CD.

In September Her Majesty paid a visit to Canada and spent three days in Toronto. In the afternoon of the 29th September at a formal reception The Queen was presented with a special edition of the Regimental History. In the evening she attended a "Royal Salute" under the floodlights in the Canadian National Exhibition Stadium where with 55,000 spectators she was entertained with displays by a dozen different military units and bands.

The central event of the evening was the consecration of the new Queen's York Ranger Guidon and its presentation by Her Majesty to Lt Col D.E. Rive, CD, and his Regiment. The moving ceremony was conducted with great success, and the large crowd showed its appreciation of the Queen and the Regiment with deafening roars of applause.

The following morning Her Majesty sent a gracious letter from the Royal Yacht Britannia to Lt Col Rive, congratulating the Queen's York Rangers on their fine appearance and "immaculate drill". She also expressed her pleasure at receiving the regimental history which, she said, would be "a valuable addition to the Royal Library".

The Medal Appeal

As reported in the Presidents Notes and elsewhere in this Newsletter, readers will now know that as a result of their generosity a total of £ 1,271 was raised. This enabled three very distinguished sets of medals to be acquired for The Regimental Museum. They are now on display. The Chairman & Trustees of the Museum wish to record their very sincere thanks to all who contributed.

Regimental Archives

A steady flow of personal memories and contributions has been received to be held in the Archive Section of the Museum at Clandon. Many of these have been generated through the encouragement of Mrs Daphne Hill in her organization of the "War in the Far East" Exhibition. All are of great value and will be carefully kept. Extracts from some may be included in future Newsletters, but in general most are too long for this. However they may be seen at Clandon on application to the Museum Curator, or photo copies can be supplied at cost, if anyone would like a copy of any particular paper sent to them.

A list of the main papers received over the past 6 months is:

Author - Colonel A.M. TRINGHAM, DSO

Letters and Diaries together with photograph albums presented by his daughter, Mrs. Gerald Critchley - these cover his early service with:

1 QUEEN'S 1893-1899 - in Malta, in India and on the North West Frontier, including the Tirah & Malakand Campaigns.

1 DEVONS 1899-1901 - in South Africa: he had volunteered for secondment. He was in the Defence of Ladysmith where he was wounded. He was awarded the DSO and was Mentioned in Despatches.

1 QUEEN'S 1902-1903 - in India.

Author - Colonel J.B. COATES, CBE. MC. DL

The QUEEN'S - Various Stories & Reflections.

Author - Captain R.F. KENSINGTON

1ST QUEEN'S - 1940 to Kohima

Author - Lt Colonel J.R. TERRY

1st QUEEN'S - Burma 1945 & Siam 1946 Notes to supplement the Regimental History Volume VIII.

Author - Major A.S.C. HOBROW, MC

1st QUEEN'S - Shillong and back to Burma, 1944, 1945. A personal account.

Author - Major Robert STRAND, OBE

1st QUEEN'S 1945, 1946. The end in Burma and Bangkok.

Author - Major (now Canon) R.R. ACHESON

2nd QUEEN'S

(1) Some impressions of an Emergency Commissioned Officer - extracts from letters home.

(2) 1942 - 1945, Ceylon, India, and The Chindits.

Author - RSM T. ATKINS

2nd QUEEN'S Burma - The Chindits (he was then a Sergeant with the Battalion).

Authors - Various

2nd EAST SURREYS 1941, 1942

A compilation of various articles covering the Malayan Campaign & The BRITISH BATTALION. (These have been put in pamphlet form for sale at the Museum).

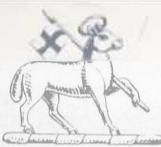
The Royal Star & Garter Home

Among the many good causes deserving of support, perhaps the one nearest to the Armed Forces is the Royal Star & Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen. This year the Home is trying to raise £ 1 million for essential renewal projects and to meet the annual running costs.

The Home's current News Letter outlines a range of fund raising activities, and appeals for our help. The Regiment already supports the Star & Garter by annual subscription, but there may be many of our readers who would like to be associated personally with the comfort and treatment of ex-servicemen disabled in the service of their Country.

The Queen's Regiment has twelve inmates at the Home including R.W. Pinney from The Queen's Royal Regiment and W.G. Randell, W.J. Jenkins and G.W. Brown from The East Surrey Regiment.

Further information may be obtained from Rear Admiral J.W.D. Cook, Appeals Director, The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6RR.



2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment
The Isle of Wight September 1937 - December 1938

At the end of our training at Guildford in September 1937 we were posted to the 2nd Battalion stationed on the Isle of Wight. The Battalion at the time however was away at Summer Camp at Wimbourne, St. Giles on annual training. It was with some excitement we learned that the Battalion were due in Barracks shortly and then later in the distance the sound of the Band and Drums playing. We were expecting to see about 800 men march through the barrack gates; imagine our surprise when only about 300 came through, and that included the Band and Drums, such was the state of recruiting at that time and most battalions were suffering the same. Hore Belisha was the Minister for War at the time and he introduced a scheme that reservists could re-enlist and serve their reserve time with the 'Colours'. About one hundred reservists joined the 2nd Battalion but not all of them were originally Queen's, there were quite an assortment from other regiments.

On arrival from Stoughton Barracks I was posted to 'D' Company. The rest of my platoon except for Pte Kitchenmaster were very quickly selected for drafting to the 1st Battalion and except for the two of us, the whole of my platoon from recruit days went off to India. I have never seen any of them from that day to this, some forty-five years on; I often wondered what might have happened to them. The pace of life in a Regular Battalion was vastly different from the Depot; I found it much quieter, one wasn't chased around; indeed all one had to do was to make sure to read daily detail to see what one might be on, and to get on with what one was detailed to do. In the winter months of 1938 the Battalion was organised into two companies, Training Company and HQ Company. Everyone had to go through Training Company, no exemptions! The Training period lasting about six to eight weeks, and then there was a change over to HQ Company whilst another group went through training.

The system was that when a man was deemed efficient at the subject in question, he would be 'Passed Out', and did not attend any further periods on that subject for the remainder of the Training. It was on this training that I first remember Sgt Sharpe. He was the drill instructor. How I tried to pass out on the drill, but to no avail. I'm afraid I did not impress Sgt Sharpe, at least not until two days before the end of the course, when I did eventually pass out. I think he could see that I was trying very hard, but no doubt concluded I was young and had a lot to learn; he was so right of course.

Sam

I now volunteered to join the Motor Transport Section which to me seemed a much better prospect and more interesting, and I was accepted for the next driving course and so joined the MT Section. The reader might like to remember names that I mention now; some of them were to become very well known characters in the Battalion during the next four to five years. Sgt Sharpe for instance was to be commissioned and finally retired from the army many years later as a Staff Lt-Col. (QM). Motor Transport at this time was in its infancy, mechanisation was being introduced into the army, and horses were on the way out. The motor vehicles in the Battalion at that time were little open Austin Sevens used for transporting Officers; 8cwt Pick Ups for Company Commanders with their wireless operators, 15cwt lorries for transporting equipment and men, and 30cwt six wheeled lorries for heavier equipment. I successfully passed my driving test under the watchful eye of the MT Sgt Galloper Ottaway. His nick name derived from the fact that he had transferred from a Cavalry Regiment where he had been was called a rough rider. He later appears as a commissioned officer. The MTO at this time was 2/Lt. J.U. Stobbs. A number of the drivers were older type soldiers with service in China, India, Malta to their credit. Names I remember are; Pte George Deacon (Mad as a march hare, and known some times as the Black Abbot); Cpl Bomber Brown, Pte Micky Price, a rejoined reservist ex-Queen's, Snowy Hersy, known as such because he hadn't a hair on his head, one could call him anything, but woe betide the person who dared call him Baldy. Soldiering along beside such experienced chaps as these could do nothing but good for a young inexperienced lad like myself. These older

soldiers whilst always prepared for a laugh and a joke were also very responsible chaps, and I consider it a privilege to have been numbered amongst them as their mate.

The Isle of Wight was not a large garrison; indeed beside ourselves, there were only Coastal Artillery Batteries at strategic points around the Island, such as Bembridge, The Needles and Yarmouth. The Barracks where we were stationed were called Albany Barracks and were next door to Parkhurst Prison. On the opposite side of the road was a Work House and a Maternity Hostel; and away to the back of the barracks was a Borstal establishment. Perhaps all these establishments was the cause of our being there, yes, even to the Maternity Hostel! Our nearest town was Newport, this was within easy walking distance of the barracks. For the drinkers there were plenty of pubs. I seem to remember one pub regularly cropping up in conversation was The Brown Jug. I couldn't afford to drink. Out of my weekly pay of 14 shillings, 7 of them was made as an allotment to my mother, two were kept by the C/Sgt to meet any debts that I might incur on clothing or barrack room damages, the remaining five were all mine. So a weekly trip to Woolworths for 6 pennyworth of sweets, a ninepenny seat in the cinema constituted my weekly recreation; the remainder of my princely sum of five shillings was for washing and cleaning kit.

The only training area on the Island was Newtown Ranges; here we fired our annual Musketry Course. In 1938 we were able to live under canvas on the ranges, but the previous year the Battalion had not been so lucky, it just rained and rained and rained. Driving Training on the other hand was quite good, especially for beginners such as myself. On the Island, there are some very steep hills, particularly around Bembridge (and The Needles), and so stopping and starting on hills was practised until we really became very good at not running back when setting the vehicle in motion; night drives I particularly liked. It was most pleasant driving in convoy, starting from the Barracks around midnight, and journeying through the Island in the quiet hours of the morning. There were however, not many night drives. In the summer of 1938 we had been warned that our next station was to be Palestine, and so we went to the mainland for training. We were sent to Bisley to run the butts for the annual shot and then on to Tidworth, Salisbury Plain where we came under command of the Brigadier Bernard Montgomery. After strenuous training we were back to the Isle of Wight for a short while. The Commanding Officer during our stay on the Island was Lt-Col R.K. Ross, DSO, MC. The Adjutant was Captain D.L.A. Gibbs, followed by Captain H.G. Duncombe; the RSM was RSM De-albatranson, and before leaving the Island it was to be RSM Bob Hawkins; the Quartermaster was Captain Buzz Waspe! The Battalion went on Embarkation Leave during December 1938. On the 31st December 1938 we left Albany Barracks for the last time. We went by march route to Cowes, I.O.W., where we embarked enroute for Southampton, and here we embarked on the Troop Ship HT Nevassa, and sailed for Palestine. It would not be right to conclude my recollections of our stay on the Isle of Wight without mentioning the names of a few young officers who were stationed there with the Battalion, and who were later to become General Officers; I am thinking of 2/Lt D. Lloyd-Owen, 2/Lt Rienhold, 2/Lt M. Forrester. These three officers were to gain very good war records and attain high rank in the army. During my days with the MT Section I often drove these young officers around in whatever vehicle I might be driving at the time.

TA



"Sure an' tis a coincidence Paddy, this one's got my number on it!!"



2nd Bn THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT IN BURMA

The Battalion formed part of 16 Infantry Brigade, and in September 1943 learned that it was to form part of the Long Range Penetration Force under the command of Major General Orde Wingate. This force, to be used behind the Japanese lines in Burma, was known as "the Chindits".

16 Brigade was commanded by Brigadier Bernard Fergusson DSO; and the Battalion was split into two columns - No 21 under the Commanding Officer, Lt Col J.F. Metcalfe, and No 22 under his 2IC, Major T.V. Close. It was the only brigade which was not to be flown into Burma for the 1944 operations, and so, after driving 70 miles down the Ledo Road, it set out on foot in single file over the Naga Hills to the Chindwin River. This was crossed on 29th February 1944.

Each column consisted of about 450 men and 70 animals. Each man carried five days rations and his own weapon, grenades and ammunition, while the mules carried the wireless sets, medium machine guns, flame throwers and medical supplies. There was no room for unnecessary items, so it was not long before everyone grew beards.

As the columns were behind the Japanese lines, all supplies were dropped by air on to dropping zones marked out by parachutes by day and fires by night. Small landing strips were also marked out so that the light planes could land and take out wounded.

The official reports of 16 Brigade's march into Burma describe it as 'the heaviest imaginable, with torrential and continuous rain.' The going alternated between steep hills and mountains with few stretches of level going. The cold was intense at over 5,000 feet and the packs of 70 pounds carried by each man became heavier, owing to saturation of water. A dry bivouac was practically unknown, leeches were innumerable and water sometimes difficult to find. Wireless communication was difficult and supply dropping in the hills was hazardous, some 50 per cent of parachutes drifting gently away, hundreds of feet down the cliffs, thus being irretrievably lost for ever.'

The columns averaged about nine days to cover the first 35 miles at the start, but after crossing the Chindwin, the going became better. 16 Brigade established a stronghold called 'Aberdeen' in the Meza Valley from which the columns harassed the Japanese lines of communication between Indaw and Banmauk, before making a main attack on Indaw. It was impossible for them to destroy all the huts, so they made a sketch and one of the officers, the RAF officer with 21 Column, flew out to India and led a bomber squadron over the target, which destroyed all the bashas in that one raid.

The two Queen's columns finally marched to Broadway, and returned to India by air on 4th May 1944. 16 Brigade had marched over 500 miles, much of it over country which had never been tackled by human beings before. The following figures for 21 Column will give some idea of the short but hard

campaign. In Burma for 94 days, of which 67 were spent on the march and 27 halted. Total mileage covered was 575, an average of 9 miles per marching day, and the highest point reached was 5,700 feet. Sixteen air supply drops were taken, and six air strips constructed.

The two Queen's columns had now added Burma to the memories of the Western Desert, Tobruk and Syria, and had also added the Japanese to the Germans, Italians and Vichy French which they had fought. **EBGC**



CHINDIT, the name given to Orde Wingate's two Burma operations and the men who took part in them, is a corruption of the word 'Chinthe'. This is the mythical animal, half lion and half flying griffin, that sits at the entrance to Burmese pagodas to ward off evil spirits.

THE PADRE

The Regimental History of The East Surrey Regiment records, 'The Padre, the Reverend Henry Babb, MBE, was outstanding in his devotion to the British Battalion. He was not on the posted strength of the Surreys, but he had been their Chaplain for a year before the Japanese war began. When the Surreys lost their own Chaplain at the Battle of Gurun, Henry Babb gave a great deal of his time to the British Battalion, and was a great source of comfort and inspiration in the dark days of captivity.'

Mr Babb, a pre-War Regular Army Chaplain, writes,

'I was chaplain to the Military College of Science at Lydd. Then I was posted to the East Surreys when they occupied the Chinese High School in Singapore. I was with the 2nd Bn East Surreys during their stay at Singapore, and at Jitra, north of Alor Star.

But, just before the war started in Malaya, I was promoted to be IC of the chaplains from Headquarters of the Division in North Malaya. My period with the East Surreys was an exceptionally happy one, and I have nothing but praise for the officers, NCOs and men of the 2nd Battalion - they were all very kind to me.

The young chaplain who replaced me* was killed south of Alor Star during the early part of the war in Malaya. He was not replaced as I had few chaplains to call on, but I went out of my way to keep in touch with the Battalion and the Leicesters.

During POW days I was able to take at least one or two services during the week, and on Sundays Holy Communion to any fellow prisoners when they returned from work on the Railway line. Also services in the hospital but in either a camp on the line or at base, Chungkai.'

* The Reverend Peter Rawsthorne, killed in action at Gurun on 14 Dec. 1941.

PGEH



CHUNKAI by H. Babb

The Queen's Jocks

In 1943 Pte J. Stevens, who had been serving in the 15th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, was surprised to find himself with a draft of 40 Queensmen en route to Burma to join the 1st Bn The Seaforth Highlanders in the 23rd Indian Division.

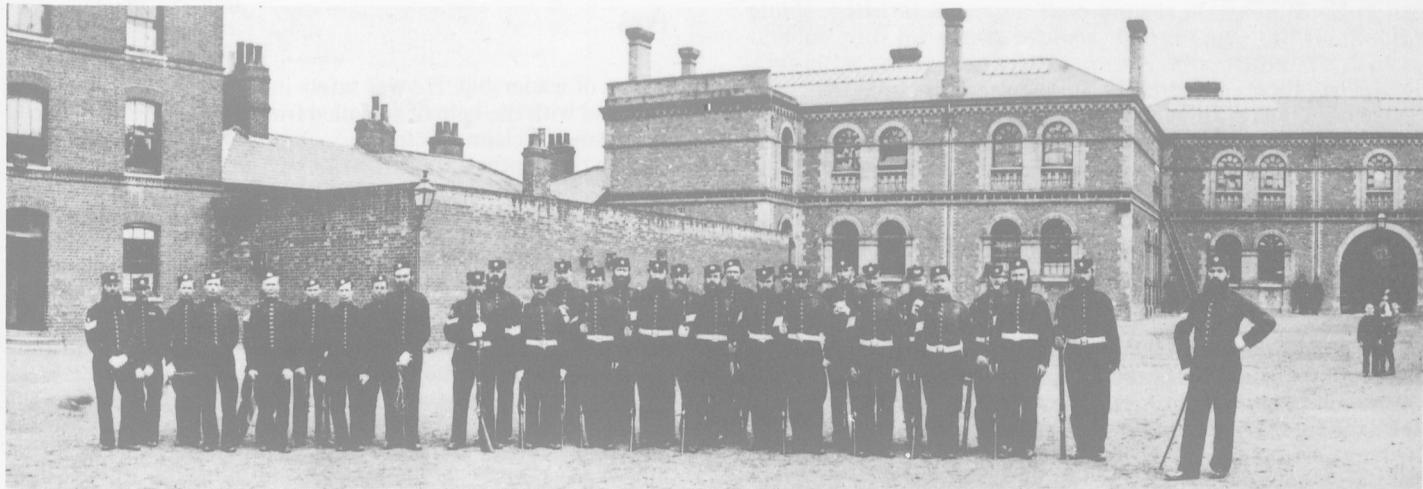
The Queen's draft fought with the Seaforths at Imphal and Ukhru, and soon made a name for themselves. Awards for gallantry were made to CSM Stevens (no relation) who received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal and Cpl J. Colgate who won the Military Medal, while L/C Scoones and Pte J. Murray, the Medical Orderly, were mentioned in despatches.

Privates J. Murton, A. Powell and C. Shingler were killed in action and many others wounded. This small detachment serving in a Highland regiment were a credit to the Queen's.

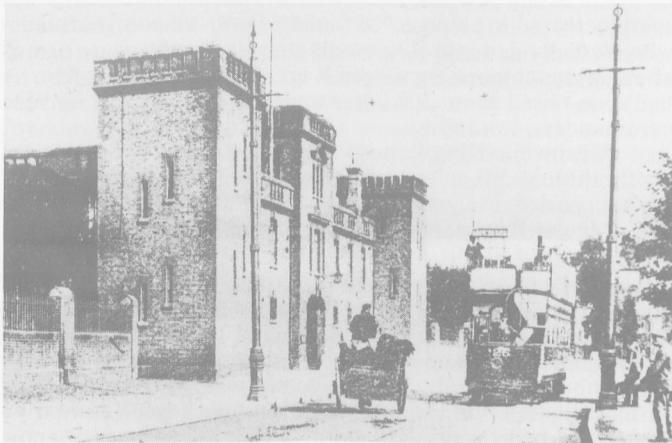
After the unconditional surrender of the Japanese in Burma in August 1945, fighting continued in the Dutch East Indies, and the Seaforths, with their element of Queensmen, were sent to Java in 1946. The General Service Medal was awarded for these operations.

Mr. Stevens would like to hear from any Queensmen who served with the Seaforths in Burma. His address is 19 Eashing Point, Wanborough Drive, Roehampton, London SW15 4AN.

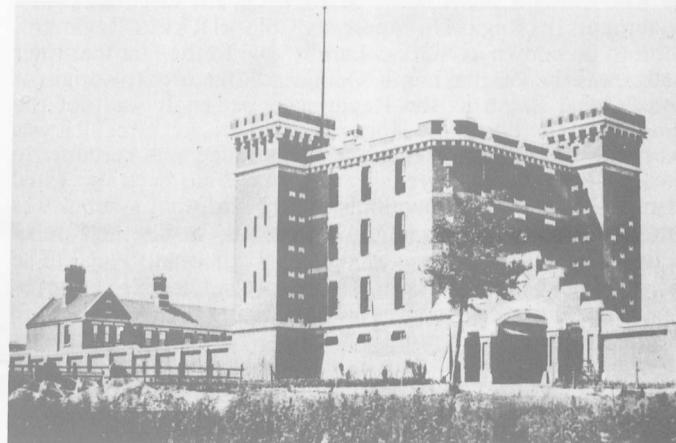
OUR OLD DEPOT'S



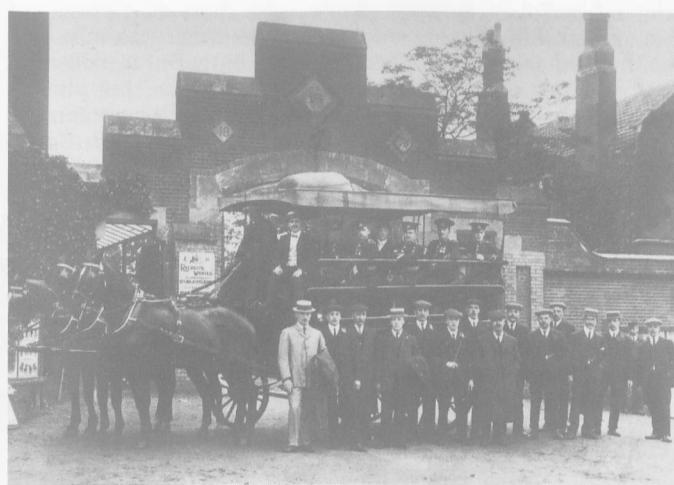
THE PARADE GROUND, MILITIA DEPOT, in the 1860's. The 2nd Royal Surrey Militia came together only for three weeks every summer for training. The men were usually billeted in pubs in the town, only the sergeants living permanently in the depot. Drilling began in May, 1853 on the cricket ground in Woodbridge Road, and in November of that year the Mayor asked for the militia's help in keeping order on Bonfire Night. Church service was attended alternately at St. Mary's and Holy Trinity, and the officers' mess was held at the White Hart. In 1855 the Militia were marching out of the town along the Shalford Road behind their band when an escaped bull charged the bass drummer, injuring him and scattering the column. This incident was uncharitably said to be the only time the Militia saw action, although 7 officers and 315 men had transferred to regular regiments to fight in the Crimean War. As a result of the Cardwell reforms, the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia became the 3rd Militia Battalion of The Queen's (West Surrey) Regiment in October 1876, and in 1908 became part of the Territorial Force.



KINGSTON BARRACKS 1876



STOUGHTON BARRACKS in 1876. In April 1854 the government approached Guildford corporation with an offer of £100,000 in return for a camp for 20,000 soldiers on the Hog's Back. This was rejected, and the government then offered it to the village of Aldershot, which accepted with alacrity. In 1873, however, Edward Cardwell, who lived at Eashing and was Secretary of State for War in Gladstone's first ministry, decided that Guildford, like all county towns, should have a barracks. Each regiment of the army was to be linked to a particular district, and West Surrey was allocated to one of the oldest, the 2nd or Queen's (West Surrey) Regiment. Stoughton, still mainly open fields at the time, was selected as a site and the building, with its imposing brick keep, was occupied in October, 1876, becoming the 48th Brigade Depot. In 1881 the regimental number was dropped, being renamed The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. From 1876 to 1900, however, neither the 1st nor the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's spent more than six years altogether in England, serving mainly in India and Ireland.



THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE 1910,
The Corporals depart for the Derby.

KINGSTON BARRACKS 1914
The Volunteers and Reservists report for duty.



THE QUEEN'S AT SEDGEMOOR

1685

The three hundredth anniversary of the battle of Sedgemoor falls in July this year, and as every schoolboy knows this was the last battle fought on English soil. In the West Country various activities are in hand to commemorate the event, possibly even a reconstruction of the battle. In recent years numerous books have appeared dealing with the Monmouth Campaign and Sedgemoor, but most seem to concentrate on the causes, personalities concerned, etc., without going into much detail concerning the actual Regiments which took part.

In 1685 the Regular Army was still in its infancy, only a handful of Regular Regiments being in existence. Prior to the formation of a Standing Army the defence of the realm was in the hands of the Militia under the County Lords Lieutenant. The 'Queens' Regiment had been raised in 1661 by King Charles II for the defence of Tangier which along with Bombay was part of the dowry of his Queen, Catherine of Braganza. He often styled it 'Our Dearest Consort the Queens Regiment', and after his death in February 1685 was sometimes called 'The Queen Dowagers Regiment' or the Tangiers Regiment. But up until 1751 when Infantry Regiments were given numbers (the Queens becoming the 2nd of Foot) Regiments were usually known by the name of their Colonel, or Commanding Officer.

Colonel Percy (or Piercy) Kirke had been Governor of Tangier before taking over command of the Queens, and it was he who brought them home in 1684. On the disembarkation documents the Regiment appears as 'Colonel Kirkes' Regiment, soon to be known as 'Kirkes Lambs' due to the fact that their badge was the Paschal Lamb. Opinions differ as to the origin of the Paschal Lamb as the Regimental badge. It was not the emblem of the Portuguese House of Braganza, yet after all it was worn by the Queens Regiment? The badge was certainly in existence while they were in Tangier and it has been suggested that the adoption of an unmistakably Christian symbol was useful when fighting the infidel Moors. (In Tangier the Paschal Lamb was certainly depicted on the Regimental 'Flag'). The origin of the badge is not part of this story but needs to be noted because during the Monmouth Campaign, which was about to begin, the Regiment is more usually referred to by its nickname, 'Kirkes Lambs', rather than by its official title.

The Paschal Lamb badge worn by the soldiers was easy to recognise and a point to bear in mind when considering the conduct and general behaviour of the Royal Army in the weeks following the battle. Maybe other Regiments behaved just as badly but perhaps their badges were not so distinctive. Not only were the 'Lambs' easily recognisable, but their Commanding Officer, Percy Kirke, was a cruel and merciless man, not easily forgotten by those who crossed his path.

Historians can only write after an historical event (never before it happens) and thus it is difficult to find out exactly what Percy Kirke was really like. After Sedgemoor his name is usually preceded by adjectives such as 'odious', or 'despicable', or by the kind of phrases mothers might use to frighten small children when they are naughty! But even beforehand he is described as 'rough spoken', 'short tempered', and a harsh disciplinarian. He does not seem to have been a very nice man.

Charles II had many children, none of them legitimate. A Protestant succession was required by the people, but he could only legally be succeeded by his brother, James, Duke of York; and he was very much a confirmed Roman Catholic. This is not the place to go into the succession and its problems, but it was the cause of the Monmouth Rebellion.

The eldest illegitimate son was James, Duke of Monmouth, who was born in 1649, his mother Lucy Walter soon being discarded by the King. He was however brought up at court very much a Protestant, and is described as a handsome charming boy who was 'the universal terror of lovers and husbands'. He had plenty of what we now call 'charisma', though not much common sense, tending to believe in lucky charms and amulets rather than listen to the sound advice of real friends. Thus he could be easily led into believing that he was the rightful Protestant King. Although he had some military experience, having fought alongside John Churchill (later 1st Duke of Marlborough) and Percy Kirke, in the Dutch wars, he had no

1985

powers of leadership. He was safely in Holland when his father died, and with the help of so-called friends planning an invasion of England to claim the throne.

In the depths of his heart, and in spite of his lucky charms he knew he had little chance of success unless the Protestant gentry came over to him on landing. Of this he could not be certain, and unless they did the tiny force he was able to raise in Holland would soon be rounded up. By pawning his mistresses jewels and other means he eventually sailed from Texel on 30th May with some 80 exiles and a few Dutch gunners. His little fleet was delayed by contrary winds and it was not until the 11th June that he landed near the Cobb at Lyme Regis.

On landing he declared himself the rightful heir to the throne and appealed to all Protestants to come to his aid. He was largely ignored by the gentry, but soon gathered around him quite a large 'army' of ploughmen and miners of the Western Counties, armed with ancient fowling pieces, home made swords and pikes, and even with scythes and pruning hooks. By the time he was ready to push on to Taunton his strength had grown to about 3,000, quite enough to deal with the local Militia en route.

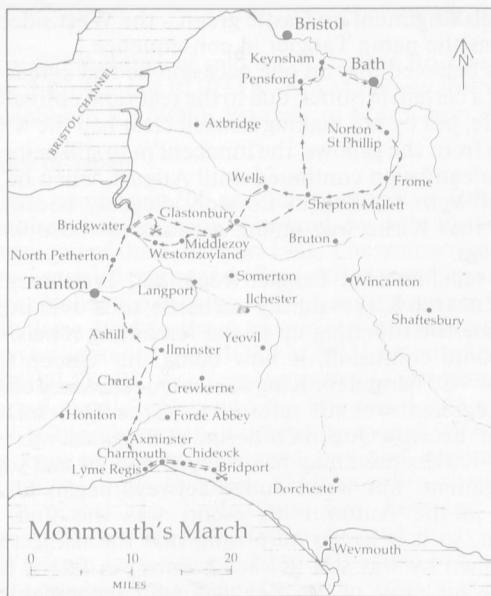
Now they were very much in Protestant country (Blake had held Taunton for the Parliamentarians against the 'papist' Cavaliers in the Civil War). Here he foolishly proclaimed himself the rightful Protestant King and issued dire warnings as to what he would do once he had defeated 'King' James. Thus his 'army' soon increased to about 6,000 foot soldiers - all poorly armed - who were divided into Regiments (the Regiments were names after various colours, e.g. Green Regt., Blue Regt., etc.). Also he had soon raised about 500 horse under one of his most sensible commanders, Lord Grey.

Meanwhile King James knew exactly what was going on, firstly through his spies in Holland, and almost daily from his own supporters in Lyme and Taunton. Quickly he assembled his few Regular Regiments around London, hoping still that the Militia could deal with his rebellious nephew. 'King' Monmouth having little to oppose him left Taunton (June 21) and made for Bristol the second city in the land. As he advanced through Bridgewater, where he was again received as the rightful king, all went well for him, and it was not until he had passed through Glastonbury and Wells that King James realized the seriousness of the situation. On the day that Monmouth left Taunton he dispatched two cavalry Regiments under John Churchill (now Lord Churchill) to block the road to Bristol, and a few days later by a series of forced marches they were joined by an under strength Regiment - Colonel Percy Kirke's 'Lambs'.

Monmouth hoped to cross the River Avon and occupy Bristol, but much to his surprise was defeated by the local Militia and a handful of Royalist cavalry just short of the town at Keynsham. This reverse was depressing and caused him to turn up the river and attempt to cross over at Bath. But by now Bath was not only occupied by Churchill and Kirke, but also by several other Regiments now under the overall command of Lewis Duras, Earl of Feversham, the King's new commander for the forthcoming campaign. Monmouth sent a herald to summon the city for the 'rightful king', but he was promptly shot.

Realising that he could not now cross the river his morale fell even lower, and in pouring rain he withdrew southwards to the little village of Norton St Philip, closely followed by the Royal army. Monmouth established his H.Q. at the George Inn (still exactly the same as it was in 1685 - and still serving a very





good pint). His outposts were soon attacked by the cavalry of the Duke of Grafton, his own half brother, and 500 Musqueteers commanded by Kirke. (In Civil Wars – the worst kind of war – close friends and relations are often on opposing sides. See later paragraphs, in brackets). Monmouth's ill-armed 'army' easily beat them off, but even this modest success did nothing to relieve his overall depression, and next morning his sodden 'army' trudged back through the muddy lanes and into Frome.

Meanwhile Feversham withdrew his regular Regiments back to Bradford-on-Avon, Westbury, and Warminster, thus covering the roads to London should Monmouth consider advancing on the capital. But Monmouth had already had enough; desertions were now rife, and hearing of possible reinforcements gathering around Bridgewater he continued his retreat back to the area he had left in such high hopes only two weeks earlier. An hour or so after his 'army' had left Frome the Royal army entered the town. Their entry being described by a local Quaker as 'terror marched before them for we could hear their horses grind the ground almost a mile before they came'. On their arrival they promptly strung up the local constable for having proclaimed Monmouth the rightful king.

Monmouth's damp and dejected 'army' camped in and around Bridgewater, while Feversham who followed closely (and who was now well supplied with tents) deployed his army in the little village of Weston Zoyland only a few miles away. Feversham had laid out his position well. Between him and Monmouth, Sedgemoor lay flat and marshy, criss-crossed by wide water filled ditches known then (as now) as 'rhines' or 'reens'. There were few trees, only growing corn and thus his regulars would have excellent and unrestricted fields of fire. Immediately to his front was the Bussex rhine (now filled in) which would be a difficult obstacle for intending attackers to cross. He deployed his infantry behind this, with on the right Dumbarton's Regt., then two battalions of the 1st Guards Regt., next a battalion of Coldstream Guards, Trelawney's Regt., and finally on the left, the 'small' battalion of Colonel Kirke. Cavalry patrols were sent out in front patrolling the moor, and as he went to bed that night (July 5th), Feversham was quite confident – his defences were militarily sound. He went to bed at Verney Farm, while Percy Kirke bedded down in the vicarage.

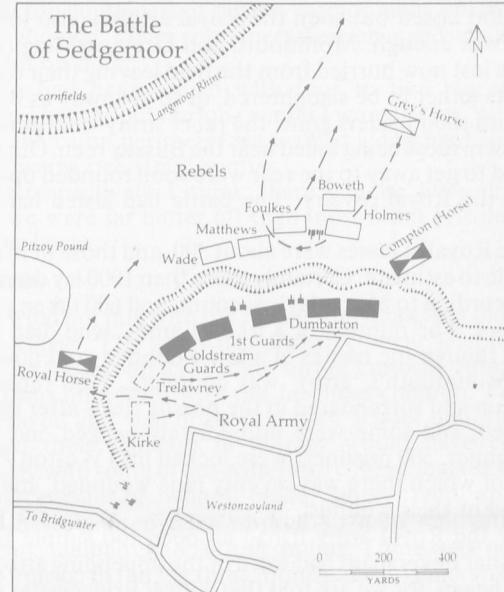
That afternoon Monmouth had more deserters, and by having a look at the Royal forces from the church tower soon realised the strength of their position. He could even recognise the Regiments, some of whom he had once commanded; he knew many of the senior officers personally – particularly his half brother, Grafton, and Churchill and Kirke.

(In passing, but hardly relevant to the battle, it might be worth mentioning that it often paid to have a sister who could be installed in court as a Maid of Honour. Percy Kirke's sister, Mary, fortunately was in this position and it did not take her long to become one of King James's favourite mistresses. He is alleged to have liked his mistresses to be plain rather than pretty, and he also appears to have been somewhat 'kinky' preferring those who wore green stockings!)

Mary Kirke (or 'Moll' as she is sometimes called) was the mistress who 'gave James most satisfaction', and it seems even stranger that at the same time he was prepared to share her favours with his young nephew, James Duke of Monmouth! This latter young man had mistresses other than Percy Kirke's sister, the most attractive being Lady Henrietta Wentworth who he loved dearly – in fact much more than his lawful wife Anne, Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleuch.

To add to his complications his Lady Henrietta had at one time been courted by, and nearly married to Lord Feversham, Monmouth's rival commander at Sedgemoor. John Churchill the Royalist second-in-command at the time of the battle, had as a young man shared the bed of Barbara Villiers, one of King Charles II's many mistresses, and was probably the father of one of her children. Barbara had given King Charles several sons one of whom, the Duke of Grafton, also commanded a regiment for King James during the battle.

The sex life in post-restoration court seems to us nowadays as somewhat peculiar and is well illustrated when one considers



that on the day of the battle of Sedgemoor, Monmouth was not only fighting against his half-brother, Grafton, but that his own favourite mistress the Lady Henrietta had once almost married Feversham, the Royalist Commander and Percy Kirke's sister, Moll, had not only shared his bed on many occasions but also that of King James.)

Monmouth could not possibly stand up to a frontal attack by the Royal army (although he outnumbered them considerably), and the options now open to him were not exactly reassuring. He could make a second move on Bristol (though this road was now well covered by Royal cavalry), he could continue his retreat, he could carry out a formal daylight attack, or as a last resort he could gamble on a night advance across the unknown moors and fall on the Royal army just before first light. As we would say now, 'he was on a hiding to nothing', but the last of these options, hopeless as it was could just conceivably come off. An unreconnoitered night advance, with an untrained 'army', over unknown ground to attack well positioned professionals was suicidal – and so it proved to be.

A local man named Godfrey volunteered to act as guide and lead them the three or four miles to the Royal camp; he was also to claim that no proper sentries had been posted and many of the Royal soldiers were drunk. Due to desertions Monmouth could now only muster about 3,500 men (the Red, White, Blue, Yellow and Green Regiments), his four guns, and Grey's body of now 600 horse. The Royal army numbered about 700 less than the rebels (the Militia were not called into action) viz., 14 troops of horse and dragoons (about 700) and 34 companies of foot (about 2100) with 16 field pieces.

At dusk the rebels set out on their difficult approach march intending to contact the right flank of the Royal army, thus allowing Wade's cavalry to get in behind their defences. But Godfrey soon lost his way having forgotten about the numerous reens to be crossed, and the infantry began to bunch up and lose direction. The silence of the march was broken by the sound of a single shot, insignificant in itself, but heard by the patrolling

Royalist cavalry (it is unclear who let off the fatal shot) and enough confusion followed to cause the whole of the Royal army to stand-to, and skirmishing to start up between the opposing cavalry. Grey's horse managed to reach the Bussex reen but could not get across, and by about 2 o'clock, Monmouth's now disorganised infantry also somehow reached that fatal ditch. As they also could not make the crossing they began to open fire at where they imagined the Royal troops to be, but as it was still dark their fire had little effect. Monmouth was now at his best, on foot, pike in hand he urged his men to stop firing, cross the reen and engage the enemy at close quarters. The Bussex reen could not be crossed and it was beginning to get light. Feversham and Churchill were now in full control and seeing where the bulk of the rebel infantry were – on the right of their line, ordered the two Regiments on the left, Trelawneys, and Kirkes to move over to that flank. These two Regiments were soon in the thickest of the action.

Monmouth's infantry were still milling around in confusion, and as first light appeared were soon being shot down in their hundreds. The rebels fired back as long as their ammunition lasted but soon the Royal artillery also joined in, and that was enough. Monmouth and Grey realising that the battle was lost now hurried from the field leaving their confused Regiments either to be slaughtered, or to get away as best they could. With their leaders gone, the rebel 'army' continued to be mown down, most being killed near the Bussex reen. Others who attempted to get away to the rear were soon rounded up and cut down by the Royal cavalry. The battle had lasted barely two hours.

The Royalist losses were about 300, and those of the rebels impossible to estimate. Certainly more than 1000 lay dead on the moor, according to Macaulay's account, and 600 taken prisoner on the spot. The number of Kirkes 'Lambs' who died are not recorded though the names of a few wounded are known. The rout of Monmouth's 'army' was complete. 1200 rebels were rounded up and surrendered in the nearby fields after the firing had ceased, and some were immediately hanged, including a Dutch gunner. 500 prisoners were locked into Weston Zoyland church, 'of which there was seventy nine wounded, and five of them died of their wounds'.

For the Royal army it had all been too simple and it is possible that Feversham had word of the impending attack even before it began, for we are told that a loyal Bridgewater girl had gone to his camp beforehand to warn him, 'in reward for which she is said to have encountered her own ruin.' Not far from the Bussex reen a huge grave was dug for the slain, but it was not up to Percy Kirkes standards so he ordered the local constable to throw more earth on to it. The expenses incurred in this operation, including 'making gallowes and gibbets jimmies to hang up fower prisoners', came to the not exorbitant price of £ 2. 4s. and 1d.

The day after the battle (July 7th) Feversham sent some horse dragoons and 500 foot into Bridgewater, the whole force being commanded by Colonel Percy Kirke. All able bodied young men who could not account for their whereabouts on the day of the battle were rounded up and thrown into various prisons. It was now that the name of Kirke and his 'Lambs' became so odious throughout the West Country. Some he hanged without trial, some had a trial of sorts, and some were set free – provided that they could pay Kirke a suitable bribe. He is supposed to have hanged 100 captives within a week of the battle. No doubt other Regiments and other officers were also involved, but it is the distinctive badge of the Paschal Lamb, and the name of Kirke which has come down through history as the perpetrators of these atrocities. After a few days in Bridgewater he moved with his 'Lambs' to Taunton, where he suspended some of his victims from the Inn sign at the White Hart. He

camped his Regiment on Castle green – the West side of which still retains the name Tangier in consequence.

It is believed that on one occasion he had agreed to spare the life of a certain prisoner, due to the tears and entreaties of the man's wife, but by not making himself clear had the wrong man cut down from the gallows, the innocent man still being hanged. His terror campaign continued until August, when he, and the Regiment were recalled to London allegedly because of the rumours that Kirke was selling pardons to those who could afford them.

On relief another Tangier Regiment, Trelawney's, which had been next to Kirkes during the battle, took over in the West to continue the rounding up of the remaining rebels. This has caused some confusion, it now being the 'Queen Consort's Regiment' – so named for King James Queen, Mary of Modena. Kirkes Regiment was still referred to as the 'Queen Dowager's Regiment' because Queen Catherine of Braganza was still alive. A few of Kirkes men may have stayed behind and joined this new Regiment, but when Judge Jeffreys began his 'Bloody Assizes' in the Autumn his escort was this 2nd, Tangier Regiment, so it is hardly surprising that the name they were often known by was still 'Kirkes Lambs', in fact it became a nickname for most of the Regulars who accompanied Judge Jeffreys through the Western Counties.

Some of Kirkes brutal behaviour has clearly been exaggerated with the passing of time but that of Jeffreys is more accurately recorded. Of the Sedgemoor prisoners perhaps some 300 were hanged (also drawn and quartered), and hundreds more transported to the West Indies. His 'Bloody Assizes' when over at last made him exclaim that in his circuit of the West Country he had hanged more men than had been hanged since the time of William the Conqueror!

It is doubtful if John Churchill who as the great Duke of Marlborough, and possibly our greatest soldier, had learnt anything of value from the battle of Sedgemoor. The real tragedy being the brutal treatment meted out on the poor country folk who backed the wrong side. When in 1689 the king fled the country to be replaced on the throne by William of Orange both Churchill and Kirke rapidly changed sides, and with the arrival of a new Protestant king at least a few of the rebels who had been transported, and were still living, were able to return home.

And what of Monmouth? A few days after the battle he was found by the local Militia hiding under an ash tree near Ringwood. He was brought before his uncle King James, and on bended knees pleaded to be forgiven – it all having been a terrible mistake! But of course James could not forgive him, and on July 15th he was taken to the scaffold. (Several of his other senior officers were in fact eventually pardoned – the appropriate money having been handed over).

On the scaffold Monmouth behaved with great dignity, but once again his lucky charms were to be of no use to him. He gave the executioner (Jack Ketch) six guineas in the hope that he would do the job properly, and another handful of guineas to his servant (William Williams) to be handed over if his head was severed in one blow. But sad to relate Ketch required five blows with the axe before the head was finally severed, and history does not record who kept the extra guineas. Today the battlefield is very much the same as it was in 1685, though many of the rhines, or reens, have been filled in due to modern farming methods. Many years later a memorial stone and inscription was placed on the site to commemorate the last battle fought in England. It reads:–

"To the Glory of God, and in memory of all those, who, doing the right as they saw it, fell in the Battle of Sedgemoor, 6th July 1685, and lie buried in this field, or who, for their share in the fight suffered death, punishment or transportation, PRO PATRIA.

R.C.T.



King James II



Duke of Monmouth



Baron Jeffreys

FAR EAST PRISONERS OF WAR

The great majority of soldiers of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment who were taken prisoner in the fall of Singapore in 1942 worked on the infamous BURMA-SIAM railway throughout. However, a few were sent to Japan, and in this article H.F. Ruoff records his experiences in KANOSE Prisoner of War Camp, Japan.

The Journey to Japan

A draft numbering 500, including many East Surreys (and Leicestershires) left Banpong, Thailand, by train for Singapore on the afternoon of the 27th May, 1944. The train journey south in steel trucks took 5 nights and 4 days. After spending a few days in the River Valley Road camp in Singapore, we were marched on the 5th June 1944 to the dockside at Keppel Harbour and were taken by lighter to the HIOKIMARU anchored out in the Roads. HIOKIMARU was a coal burner of 4,000 tons carrying a load of scrap metal, rubber and tin. We sailed that night in a convoy of 16 merchantmen, escorted by a small warship.

The convoy put in at Manila Bay and later at Takao (Kaohsiung) in south Formosa (Taiwan). We then headed northwards across the East China Sea. Sinkings by U.S. submarines including the torpedoing of a vessel carrying nearly 800 P.O.W.s. from Java, occurred during the final 24 hours of the voyage. We reached Moji in the north of Kyushu on the evening of the 26th June, and crossed over to Shimonoseki on the mainland (Honshu) the next morning by ferry boat.

On the quayside we were split up into several groups. 103 of us were sent to KANOSE by train via Osaka where we spent the night under a railway arch.

Kanose Prisoner of War Camp 16-D, Japan

This camp was situated about 30 miles inland from the western seaport of Niigata, Honshu, coming under the Tokyo Group of Camps. The Camp Commander was a Lt. Hiroshi Azuma.

The prisoners were employed at the Kanose Carbon and Carbide Company works and lived in a nearby godown. The camp held 234 prisoners. 83 U.S.A. and 48 British R.A.F. and R.A. were already there when our draft of 103 including eight East Surreys joined them at the end of June 1944.

Lodging

At Kanose, a very large godown in the factory grounds had been converted into living quarters for the prisoners. A wide passage ran through the centre. Off it on either side were three long rooms used as dormitories and living rooms. All six had a wide walk-way in the centre and raised wooden ledges about 7 feet wide by 2½ feet high ran along the sides of both walls from end to end. The ledges were covered with thin rice-straw mattresses laid side by side for sleeping purposes. Rows of washbasins lined a passageway at the rear of the building.

Work

Six electric furnaces lay in a line in the building where carbide was produced. Prisoners working on them were divided into three shifts of eight hours duration. Every furnace had three large electrodes, each a yard in diameter. When activated they became white hot and the surrounds had to be stoked every few minutes with a mixture of coke and quick lime. We were clothed in overalls, puttees, gauntlets, socks, wooden clogs, caps and scarves so that only our eyes were exposed to the intense heat when shovelling. Every hour, two or more tons of molten carbide were drawn off at a lower level into cast iron containers capable of holding half a ton of liquid. The containers were mounted on small wheeled trolleys on railtracks. They were pulled by long iron rods from the front and pushed from behind by empty trolleys. Because they were old, the containers often had gaping cracks caused by years of heavy usage. They were carefully examined before use and any gaps were sealed with mud and quicklime! It was hardly surprising that innumerable minor incidents were the order of the day, but, in fifteen months there was only one serious accident. Three prisoners were killed after being showered with molten carbide when a container collapsed.

At the finish of a shift we took hot baths in a communal wash-place before returning to our lodgings. During the summer we were required to complete more additional hours work clearing the local hillside for the planting of vegetables. There were no rest days.

Climate

Continental extremes of climate were experienced. Summer was fine and hot with sub-tropical fauna and flora flourishing in the forests and on the hill-sides. But astonishingly there were four complete months of snow from the beginning of December until the beginning of April. Bamboo trellis-work was placed around the godown at the end of November and once it started, the snow continued to fall until the huts were completely covered over turning it into one gigantic igloo. Occasionally we climbed on the roof to shovel snow off. But it was a dry cold and therefore tolerable.

We walked to and from the factory along pathways of snow piled six feet high on either side. In order to keep the living quarters warm in winter we were permitted at the end of a shift to drag half ton containers of red hot carbide along rail tracks right into the godown. These containers were changed when the next shift went on duty.

We had been issued with four to five pieces of thin clothing. Throughout the long winter I wore the lot. When going outside the camp perimeter we walked along hard snow paths wearing warm rice-straw booties.

Retrospectively I think there can be little doubt that overall we were far better off than most other prisoner-of-war camps in Japan.

Conclusion

We did not mix with the Japanese civilians nor did we go to Kanose village. The locals had probably never seen foreigners before and looked on us as some sort of curiosity from another world. I was impressed with the Japanese children. They were well behaved and well dressed in their school uniforms – one suspected their standard of literacy would have compared favourably with some of our American colleagues, a surprisingly high percentage of whom could barely read and write. The Japanese women who worked so hard cultivating their allotments, seemed cheerful and smiling. There were no signs of food shortages. In the last three months the prisoners' rice ration was cut but we were by no means on starvation diet as we had been when up-country in Thailand.

It is my sincere belief that the dropping of the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima with the resulting tragic loss of life, did on balance save many lives (my fellow prisoners and myself not least) by bringing the conflict to an abrupt end.

HFR

Jane Austen's House, Chawton, Hants.

For the Regiment Jane Austen's house at Chawton, near Alton has particular and interesting connections. It was here that Jane Austen lived from 1809 until her death in 1817, and here she completed or wrote the main number of her novels. It is a delightful house with many memories and artefacts connected with Jane, her writing, and her family, including her distinguished Royal Navy brothers, who became Admiral of the Fleet Sir Francis Austen and Rear Admiral Charles Austen. The house is now host to some 30,000 visitors a year.

The Regimental connection comes because this National Memorial to Jane is also a memorial to Lieutenant Philip J. Carpenter, 1st East Surreys who was killed in action near Lake Trasimene, Italy on 30th June 1944. The house was bought by Lieutenant Carpenter's father Mr T. Edward Carpenter JP of Mill Hill as a gift to the Nation in memory of his son. Mr Carpenter then set up a Trust to restore the house and collect mementoes and memorabilia, and how well this has been done. The circumstances of the gift and the memorial to his son are recorded in the entrance room with the badge of The East Surrey Regiment prominently displayed. The house continues to be run by the Trust set up by the Carpenter family. It is very well worthwhile visiting.

Footnote: Those who served with 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1962 – 1963 may also recall the Battalion's special affiliation with HMS Chawton, a minesweeper of the Hong Kong Squadron. If then we had been aware of the connection between Jane Austen's House and Lieutenant Carpenter the affiliation would have seemed even more appropriate.

JWS

A Visit to Malacca and Negri Sembilan

This Spring my wife and I spent four marvellous days in Malaya where I had served as a National Service Officer with the 1st Battalion Queens Royal Regiment - 1954/5.

Unlike Singapore, rural Malaya remains firmly linked with the past - kampongs, paddy fields and water buffalo all seemed familiar even after the passage of 30 years. The roads were much improved and inevitably there were more cars; but the most startling change was in the plantations where rubber trees had formed an almost unbroken fringe along the roads. Now the force of economic trends has brought about an accelerating changeover to small stocky oil palms giving a much more open aspect to the landscape. Currently the ratio is 60% rubber to 40% palm oil.

We stayed in Malacca, where there has been extensive land reclamation along the water front and also two high rise hotels obtrude rather unpleasantly. Otherwise the town remains the same beautiful old place full of historical associations.

Our first expedition was to the old battalion headquarters in Tampin. This is now divided into two parts, a military police barracks and a drug reformatory centre - like everywhere drugs are a critical problem. The main buildings such as the sergeants' mess and entertainments hall are empty shells whilst the officers' mess is now a lecture hall; but it is not too hard to remember the camp as it used to be.

I had a long talk with an NCO who had just returned from a week's mission in the jungle in Perak. His friend had lost a leg in a terrorist booby trap two days before.

There is minimal publicity of the fact but CT's are very active in the North and are starting to infiltrate into the borders of Negri Sembilan. I enclose a photostat of a newspaper article which appeared in the Straits Times on the day we arrived. As a matter of interest no-one is completely certain if the legendary Chin Peng is alive or dead. We met a delightful man who remembered him as a boy working in his father's bicycle shop in Ipoh. Even then he had a special charisma.

The next day we sought out the old D Company camp at Ayer Tekah on the North side of Mount Ophir which I had the privilege of commanding for a time. The little kampong inhabited by the tappers of the estate was still there looking just the same from the site although it has spread extensively beyond the brow. The football field also remains but the camp buildings had all been pulled down. There is now a small rubber factory on the site of the old godown (warehouse) which had comprised the Naafi, recreation rooms, armoury etc. and I spotted the stone slab where returning from a mission one day I had watched with horror the Dhobi Wallah bashing out my only suit having given it a thorough wash. I also located the foundations of the officers' mess but could not recognize anything else.

Our final trip was to Kebun Baru - the scene of Operation Petard which Mike Lowry commanded so successfully earning the award of the MC.

The village which is on the South side of Mount Ophir on the road between Tangkak and Segamat has obviously prospered, as it now sprawls over the whole area of the field of action. Therefore, I could not locate with certainty the position of the food dump which was the focal point of the attack. However, the little bridge where I had crouched at the head of the cut off party was still there very much the same. The section of CTs, having been alerted of the approach of the assault group, was retreating by this escape route. I froze looking at them for what seemed an eternity - although in fact it was only a few minutes. Then it became clear we could wait no longer as they were about to slip away into the jungle so we charged - with a resultant kill.

As my wife and I stood gazing around in the heat of the midday sun it was impossible to recapture the suspense and tension of that moonlight night 30 years ago.

However, perhaps the most biding impression was of Mount Ophir itself. With its peaks hidden in the rain clouds, it dominated the area. Its brooding presence still seems as ominous and threatening as when I used to stand at its base, weighed down with pack and equipment, before the weary climb up its steep slopes with its continual halts to check compass bearings.

We had a most interesting trip and it was a joy to revisit this beautiful country in peaceful circumstances.

CEBLC

Extract from New Straits Times 12th March 1985.

Genting Highlands, Mon. - Communist terrorists are active in Pahang and are attempting to establish bases in Negri Sembilan. Their strategy is to use Negri Sembilan as a staging point for infiltration into Johore through Malacca. This was revealed at a joint Press conference.

The Communist strategy became evident following the discovery of food dumps and their activities along the route to Negri Sembilan from the Pahang border. Security was being tightened at the border between the two States to thwart attempts by the terrorists to establish bases in Negri Sembilan.

The two State Governments are also planning to implement a joint programme of ceremahs and courses this year aimed at heightening the security awareness of residents along the common border.

Datuk Najib said in the interior of Pahang where the Communists are believed to be carrying out illegal farming, vigilance had been stepped up to cut off their food supplies. Pahang, he added, has the highest number of Communist terrorists in Peninsular Malaysia.



ALL RANKS REUNION 1984

Maj John Rogerson, CSM T Isaacs, Bill Warren, John Coote, Brig Mike Doyle, Col John Francis, Col John Davidson, CSM B Rawlings and the President Col Toby Sewell.



ALL RANKS REUNION 1984

The Black Abbott, Boy Elkins, Joe Norman and Sid Waldron put the world to rights AGAIN!!

"Money, Money, Money"

A little momento has been received in the Museum from Lt Arthur Damery, 22 Column 2 Queens Royal Regiment. It is a tatty Japanese currency note, foisted on Burma during their occupation.

As members of 22 Column, men were ordered to block the motorable (in dry weather) road between the Japanese garrison towns of Banmaut and Indaw and to ambush any convoy using the road. (Page 325 of the Regt. History refers).

On 25th March 1944 a largish convoy of enemy lorries was destroyed along with large chunks of road, culverts, telegraph poles etc.

Imagine their delight on discovering that one of the trucks was carrying enough crisp new banknotes to pay off the national debt. Picture the scene ... a handful of scruffy, unshaven, 'millionaires' handing round great wads of the stuff!!

All short lived of course - they could scarcely bowl into Banmaut and order 'champers' all round - in any case a bowl of rice would have been more welcome and the currency was worthless anyway.

Is anyone else still holding their 'cut' after the 'hold up', all those years ago?



FROM THE DIARY OF SERGEANT I.C. BERRY
Burmese Intelligence Corps 7th Indian Division S.E.A.C.



THREE DAYS IN MAY

May 6th 1944

With a party of the 1 Queen's we heaved our way out of the mud at Bokajan today and made for Kohima, about 70 miles south. The scenic beauty of the winding mountain road would be well worth a tourist trip in peacetime, but the heavy rain and obvious lack of maintenance has made it a nightmare trip for our convoy.

Negotiating the S bends in a skidding truck, with wheels whirring hopelessly in the slime is an experience not at all funny. Especially so when I had the occasional burst of courage to look down the precipitous cliffsides. A large hoarding fixed to a tree didn't help, either. It announced, in red lettering:-

**YOU ARE NOW UNDER OBSERVATION BY THE JAPS
SO WATCH OUT IF YOU WANT TO LIVE**

Well, this seems to be it, all over again.

In the distance, Kohima looked as if it had just had a fall of snow and, for a short while, it was the most inexplicable of sights. Snow, here? I could not make anything of it at all, even through my binoculars. As the convoy got nearer, it appeared that the effect was caused by the constant parachute droppings on the beleaguered West Kents, who had been surrounded on the hills by the Japs for some three weeks. The snow-white 'chutes were draped everywhere: there must have been thousands of them.

The 2nd Div got through to the West Kents some days ago, and I feel it will not be long now before we are used. Skirting around Kohima itself, we have dug in at a spot below Jotsoma. We are all plonked in on top of one another here: artillery, mules, infantry, the lot. And what a racket! Somebody's 25 pdrs (I think they must be 2 Div) loose off a terrific barrage all through the night every 5 minutes or so, and, to crown another beautiful day it poured down in torrents.

May 7th 1944

I Queen's have gone into action this morning against a strongly held hill feature called Jail(sic) Hill. The Japs are also shelling us with heavier stuff (or so it seems) than they used on us in the Arakan. During a lull, I inched my way around to the hill and heard a constant, clear bird-call without quite comprehending what it could be. It was, of all things that fly, a cuckoo.

What a mess this place is in! Everything: tracks rent and gouged, trees without a single leaf or branch showing, hillside torn to pieces by constant shell-fire and monsoon rains. To use someone else's well-worn expression:- It is an abomination of desolation.

May 14th 1944

The Japs have been finally pushed off Jail(sic) Hill, although their snipers are still very active, and they manage to lob an occasional mortar bomb in among us. The dead are heaped up in their shattered fox-holes, while searching them has been an arduous and stinking job. In the holes Mohamed Akbar has to grasp hold of both my feet while I go over the bits that are left of them. On the way back to TAC. HQ., loaded to the gunwales with Jap stuff, I met Brig Loftus-Tottenham and he asked me if I had ever seen a mess like the Hill. For once I truthfully answered 'no'. He was enthusiastic and genuinely elated by the way our artillery had pounded the position in support of the Queen's and Gurkhas.

Just one quick glance at Jail Hill gives a complete picture of war and its utter destructiveness. It is the most appalling mess I have ever seen. The red earth is torn and churned by the thousands of shells pumped into it during the four days, and the deeper craters, like filthy abscesses, are quickly being filled by muddy water. Dead and smelling Japs are literally festooned on tree-stumps after the attacks of our Hurri-bombers, and inside the flooded fox-holes lumps of flesh splash around.

Not a blade of grass or a green leaf remains on the trees of this once lovely well-wooded slope; the clammy, rolling monsoon mists now rolling over it makes it just about the most unearthly scene ever.

Kohima August 8th 1944

It was a very, very special occasion today in this well-battered little hill town of Kohima in Assam. General Wavell, Viceroy of India, came to see our troops and the Nagas on a ceremonial visit of thanks to us all.

I was deputed by 7th Ind Div HQ to accompany him around the area. The cautious HQ boys felt there could be an odd fanatic among the natives who might toy with the idea of throwing something heavier than flowers at our distinguished visitor.

The Naga headmen, who had trooped in for days from over the surrounding mountains, were dressed in their brightest and most festive garments. All wore red blankets (the Naga badge of rank), elephant tusk armlets, wicked looking spears and the choicest assortment of muskets - ancient and modern - I have ever seen. One wizened old Lhota Naga sported a very fine Japanese Meiji rifle with a telescopic sight; something I have never seen. I have a feeling he is going to lose this last item.

Thepuvie, who has been my interpreter throughout the campaign, had managed to squeeze himself in among the Naga hierarchy. Front row too! How he has the nerve I don't know because he, for one, had diligently kept his head down whenever the shooting started a short while back.

I felt sorry for the Viceroy being on the receiving end of piles of Naga gift spears and dhowls this very hot day. At one time he seemed to be weighted down with an armful of old iron and tribal blankets. Some Service museum or club back home will have cause to rue this day in the future. It was a joyous moment, also, when a Kezama headman presented him with a small, live pig, caged in a skin-tight bamboo basket with handles. The thing squealed miserably throughout the ceremony.

Our men appear to like old Wavell very much better than other and lesser brass-hats who have descended on us from far away Delhi in this war. The 1st Queen's are particularly well disposed towards him. For his part I think the Viceroy - old warrior that he is - enjoyed being with us in this battle-scarred hill station. With a friendly wave to us, he left in a jeep for Imphal during the late afternoon. This was the signal for rum to be dished out in gallons among the Nagas.

How they love this special brand of bath-tub liquor! It gave me a headache just to watch them lacing the rum with gourds of their potent zu. The drinking orgy went on throughout the night and as they warmed up each one of the lying rascals capped the other's story of a valiant deed against the Jap invader. Thepuvie translated a few of these tales for me and they were something to marvel at.

Still, a good time was had by all. Including myself.



"Sergeant, as from now your little 'so and so's' to be called Smith, his Mother's sent marriage and birth certificates - to prove it!!"

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

T.R. KIENZLE writes:- Reading Tommy Atkins article, brought back memories of Stoughton, March 1938. Our drill instructor was Sgt (Taffy) Jones. Very strict on parade, but in the evening would sit with us and help us adjust to our different ways of life.

We, Peninsula Platoon, were his last squad before his retirement. No, I didn't drive him out! We presented him with a parting gift - against the rules? - and I swear that tough old nut shed a tear or two. I have often wondered about him. Although I called him a few names, albeit under my breath, Taffy taught me a lot.

I first saw Sgt Dennis in the Battalion, with his bad hand that was bitten by a camel. Then we dampened his sex life in Jaffa, but that's another story!?

The pigs were the pride of the Depot. Recruits came second to them. Used to visit dear old 'Buzzy' Waspe after the War, and he always took my children on a tour.

Tommy never mentioned the two V's that had to be in our puttees. Forget why. Was it for smoking Victory V cigarettes. No, they came later.

This could go on for ever, but time won't permit. However, it is a nice thing to recall those days.

Mr. JOCK HENDERSON, M.M. writes on his visit to The Union Jack Club attending the Annual Reunion:- Gentlemen, last November I attended the Regimental Reunion at the Union Jack Club and what a pleasant surprise I got, seeing that it was 41 years since I last was there and in those days walked into the entrance and on the right was the Barber's Shop, run by an old Irish Guardsman and he charged 6d for a shave and haircut.

Not so today, I walked up those impressive steps to the entrance where I was met by a porter who directed me to the booking desk and was given a key and told that my room was on the 20th floor. This was quite a shock to me, but I was soon in a lift and up I went. On arrival I still felt lost, but I heard a voice in one of the rooms and I knew who was speaking immediately. It was Tommy Atkins and Percy Barrier. I soon found my room, had a wash and then down the lift again to the Gasgoine Room and there met the Secretary and a few of the old stalwarts of the Regiment including our Chelsea Pensioners. I spent a splendid evening with an abundance of food to eat, and it was whilst eating my supper and listening to Viv Edwards, that my memory began thinking whatever happened to the following officers and men who I had the honour to serve with commencing with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regt in Malta 1929 and then to China, India, UK to the 2nd Bn, I-O-W, Palestine, W Desert, Syria and a short time in a Prisoner of War Camp half way to Crete and returned to Alexandra, back to Syria and then to Tobruk then to ME OCTU. Here I turned down a commission and Col Oxley-Boyle sent me to the 1st Bn Buffs as RSM and back up the Desert and Alamein and on to Enfidaville.

Some of those names of bye gone days I remember are:- Cols Ross and Ponsonby, Major Prendigast, Capts Bingham, Please, Lieuts Gibbs, Elias Morgan, J.B.H. Kealy, Foord, Sydernam-Clarke, RSM Osborne, CSM's Gus Hartridge, Grip Clemshaw, Hawkins, Sgts McCoy, Blossom, Bud, Wally Webb, Sellicks, Lee, Caldicott (Band Sgt) Jock Plaw, Cpl Sammy Lynwood, Sam Sharp, Jack Dennis, Wally Hacker, Ridgeway, Roadnight, Viv Edwards and Ptes Bushnell, Hall, Atkinson, Fagin, Frames, Pullin, Stannard, Dellad, Deaking (Band), Jim and Arthur King, Paddy Lavan, Stacey brothers, Paddy Monahan, Thomson etc.

Now I wonder how many of these good officers and men are with us today, or how many can remember them, if so why don't you join us next November at the Union Jack Club and maybe someone can arrange for the use of a piano and if we are lucky probably Arthur King or Alan Bristow might play something for us. Whilst I am on about a piano, I wonder if Garry Lockwood remembers me bringing one to his Sgts Mess and also one of my Sgts to play it, in the Desert of all places!

A.H.F. WILLIAMS writes on joining the Association:- "I was delighted with the Newsletter, in particular the articles by ex Cpl Rolfe, has enabled me to rejoin the 78 Div Club which I had joined on its formation. How I envy those who went back to Cassino. Who would have thought that the muddy hillside where our "B" Echelon was located would become the last resting place of so many of our Old Comrades? I was sad to read of the death of

Lt Col Nash who I first met when I joined the 6th Bn in 1932. I also remember RQMS 'Nobby' Clarke when I was a CQMS in the 1st Bn."

W.A. COCKROFT, from 38 Hargrove Street, Campbelltown, NSW, Australia makes contact with his old Regiment after many years and writes:- "A few facts about myself, 6141470 Pte W.A. Cockroft, A Coy, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regt, after transfer from the 1st Bn at Port Sudan in 1938. My father was Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Surrey Rifles and RSM Estall (I refer to his rank in 1937) was a recruit under my father at Aldershot.

Sadly like so many who made the raising of a family the be all, and end all in life, I lost touch with nearly all of those that I had known in the service.

In 1966 it was time to look to the future. Australia looked good, and I have never regretted the move and neither have my family.

I retired in 1980 and am very involved with the administration of the Campbelltown Senior Citizens Club of which I am President.

I am sure that you will be pleased to know that on the big ANZAC Day parades in Sydney, or wherever I find myself on that day, each year the East Surrey Old Comrades Association badge is also on parade.

Another display of the Surreys badge is at Grafton ex-servicemen's Club in northern N.S.W. In the foyer is a display case showing a map of the British Isles, broken up into counties with cap badges of the various regiments surrounding and tied to the county by a thin tape, it's not a wartime one either, but a badge similar to the one I spent years polishing!!

I had a letter the other day from my old platoon commander, Mr Carter, good to know he got home, he wasn't too good when I last saw him with a lot of bits of mortar bomb in his legs."

D.F.S. PAPWORTH has recently become a member of the Association and subscriber to the Newsletter. He lives in Meghalaya, India, joined 15th Bn The Queen's at Redcar before being drafted to 1 Queen's in The Arakan via Deolali (Nasik) in September 1943. In his letter he says: "I have written to Mrs Daphne Hill regarding photos of Kohima etc., and will be only too pleased to send them along with some of 'modern' Shillong. This is where we rested and reinforced after Kohima and Ukhral - Christmas and New Year forty years ago!! I have also some of Taikkyan and Rangoon Cemeteries both Commonwealth War Graves, which I visited last February where I suppose all of the 1st and 2nd Queen's casualties have been reburied from the Arakan and Burma. It seems unfortunate that none of the War Graves gives the battalion nor the place where the casualties fell, which detracts from the interest in being able to follow the course of operations of battalions throughout the Campaign and obscuring somewhat the individual casualty himself. However the registers do give the battalion but not where they fell.

If I can be of any use to The Regimental Association or the Newsletter, or indeed to anyone visiting these parts on the 40th Anniversary of the end of the War, I will be only too pleased to do what I can to assist. As you will probably know permits are required to visit Gauhati, Shillong, Kohima and Imphal."

G.W. DIMOND, another ex CSgt writes to say "that it is nice to read of the officers with whom one served over the years, sad of course to read of the passing of some who are no longer with us" but he goes on "but I can say that our East Surrey T.A. officers were Gentlemen, and I was proud to serve with them, Bless em all!"

(6085742) D.A. KNIGHT would like to hear from any member of CORUNNA PLATOON (Sgt Tasker) Depot 1933 - His address is 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ (01-854 7376)

(6139376) A. JACKSON would be pleased to hear from ex members of A. Coy 1st SURREY'S who came home from Lahore, India and went to France with the B.E.F. in October 1939 - his address is 14 Maynard Close, Erith, Kent. DA8 2BQ.

(22524628) N.H. MORRIS, who joined 1 SURREYS at Barnard Castle in 1950 and went with them to Tripoli would like to hear from any old members of A. Company - his address is Hele Cottage, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, Somerset.

22524628 Private N.H. Morris is trying to contact his old pals in A Coy 1 East Surrey's at Barnard Castle and Prinn Barracks Tripoli. In particular he would like to hear from Cpl Lawlor, Pte Fleet, MM and Pte Kelly who was the Coy Storeman. His address is Hele Cottage, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, Somerset.

D.R. FORSHAW has recently joined The Association. His letter can be seen as an inspiration to us all; extracts are reproduced here. When we are reading this, we should remember that Mr. Forshaw sent a perfectly typed letter to the Secretary. He is blind

"I joined The East Surrey Regiment on 9th April 1935, 6141055 on Boy service and was discharged Category 'E' in July 1946.

The Regiment was posted abroad in 1938, and after billeting in Singapore, Hong Kong and finally into barracks in Shanghai, China. On being the last British troops to leave China in August 1940, the 2nd Battalion found themselves back in Singapore, first of all under canvas in Changi then into a form of barracks within "the Chinese High School". After a brief stay there we were then posted to North Malaya, Kedah state. We were still there when the Japanese decided to play their game. So then the 'Good Old Irons' came under complete active service.

I survived all the action throughout, and then became a POW on 15th February 1942. Back to Changi again for a while and then on to a working party in Singapore until I was in the Japanese 'A' Battalion going to work on the Siam, Burma Railway. I became blind on the 4th October 1942 after working a few of the camps, and still survived after having many more illnesses, and after at least five months I was actually moved down to a notorious hospital camp. I eventually landed up in Japan itself, a place called Funatsu up in the range of mountains, a lead and zinc mine, not so far from one of the atom bombs, and still I was alive.

In September 1945, an 'American' trio with an interpreter, came and put us all in the picture and then got us all out of that 'hell hole'. Most of us having to be carried.

I'm sorry to go rambling on, but there is so much to talk about. I have been a St Dunstaner for several years now and have been taught many activities, such as Braille, touch typing, metal work, carpentry and in the sporting line, flat green bowling, archery, gardening, also fishing, so that I am quite able to overcome my disabilities."

Training Class Hands - Signal Section, September 1926.

Captain Bill Roadnight wonders whether any of the above class hands are still members of the Regimental Association. He

writes: I am in communication with two of the original class Jock Alcock and Charlie Whitney, many other names come to mind - Chick Southern, Sarah Couch, Jock Jess, Bill Barclay, Bill Mepham and many others. This class was formed from volunteers from the rifle companies. The signal Officer was Lieut. G.M. Elias Morgan, whose demise was notified in a recent Newsletter. Sgt. Gannon was the signal sergeant and Harry Baille (whose demise, in Australia, was in a recent Newsletter, was signal storeman.

This class left Grand Shaft Barracks at Easter and embarked on HMT. Nevasa on Good Friday 13th April, 1927. We carried on our training on the Nevasa, where we had the complete run of the ship for training, i.e. heliograph, lamp, and the usual rudiments of signal training. We arrived in Hong Kong, where we were accommodated in the top block of Wellington Barracks. The remainder of HQ Company were also in this barracks, the rest of the battalion were in other locations. The resident battalion was the 1st K.O.S.B.'s.

We arrived in sufficient time to prepare for the King's Birthday Parade, held on the Min Yuan racecourse. We left Hong Kong Island and were ferried across to the New Territories, where we then took up residence in Nanking hutments. The 2nd Bn. The Scots Guards were in the Hankow hutments.

We passed our qualifications as signallers later that year and the majority of our class remained with the signal section until we left for Floriana Barracks in Malta, early in 1929. We were all then entitled to wear the signal flags on our sleeves.

I am writing this short extract in case it brings back any memories to other ex class hands, or any other member of the 1st Bn, the Queen's Royal Regiment, who was in Hong Kong at the same time. I know Colonel John Kealy, DSO, was, also I believe Brig. P.H. Richardson, DSO.

FALL IN THE DRUMMERS, Dmr. Tom (Bet) Driver is hoping to contact ex members of The Corps of Drums, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1956-1959. In the picture with Tom Driver are:- Woods, Raynsford, Jenkins, Witworth, Allen, Smith, Brand, and Bell on the bass drum. Tom Driver can be contacted on Bury St. Edmunds 64635 or 58 Westley Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.



Major R. Wynn DCM

Major Reg Wynn was a Sergeant in the Carrier Platoon of 1/5th Queen's when he won the DCM for his gallantry on 21st May 1940 - the first DCM to be won by the Regiment in the 1939-45 War. As told in the Regimental History of The Queen's Royal Regiment Vol VIII, during the Battle of the River Escaut the Carrier Platoon pushed well forward into enemy lines inflicting considerable casualties on the Germans before a carrier commanded by Corporal Peters was hit by anti-tank fire. Corporal Peters had his thigh shattered and two members of his crew were captured. Sergeant Wynn with two other of the carriers under heavy fire rescued Corporal Peters before retiring back to the main body of the Battalion.

When the Battalion got back to England after Dunkirk, Reg Wynn was commissioned and joined 2/7th Queen's. He went overseas again with that Battalion in 1942 and was promoted Major in April 1943 during the Battle of Enfidaville at the end of the long approach march from Iraq. He became 2/C of the Battalion after Salerno and saw through all the fighting of the Winter of 1943/1944 in Italy before returning with the Battalion, after Anzio, to Egypt. There in June the Battalion regretfully said good-bye to him on his appointment to a post in MEF. To quote from Roy Bullen's History of 2/7th Queen's; "He had been a tower of strength in the Battalion and in difficult situations the sight of this burly officer calmly puffing his pipe and apparently untroubled by the machinations of the enemy was a tonic to the troubled and weary."

To have his medals now in the Museum preserves the memory of a very stalwart war-time soldier.

JWS

Brigadier-General E.B. Mathew-Lannowe CMG DSO

Brigadier-General Mathew-Lannowe (M-L) was of the great tradition of old Queen's Commanding Officers. On commissioning in 1895 he joined the 1st Battalion in India and took part in the North-West Frontier campaigns of 1897-1898, including the operations of the Malakand Field Force, the Mohmand Field Force and the Tirah Expedition. He was then Adjutant of the 1st Battalion from 1902 to 1905, which was the time of another great Commanding Officer Colonel, later Brigadier-General, F.J. Pink.

Brigadier-General M-L was with the 1st Battalion when they went to France in August 1913 and was severely wounded at the Aisne. After further service in France in 1915 and 1916 he held appointments at the Machine Gun Corps Training Centre, at the War Office and at the end of the War he was Commandant of the Tank Corps Training Centre in the rank of Brigadier-General.

His great time regrettably was when he came back from "tanks", at his own request, to take command of the 2nd Battalion of The Queen's for the Waziristan Campaign of 1921.

He finally became Commander of the 2nd (Rawalpindi) Brigade (during which time he had both 1st East Surreys and 1st Royal Sussex under his command) before retiring in 1931. He died in 1940.

Colonel J.B. Coates, who was his Adjutant for part of his time as Commanding Officer of 2nd Queen's has written:

"In the Waziristan Campaign the Battalion was fortunate to have him. He had much experience of the Frontier and tribal warfare. He knew the two main principles. Never do the same thing twice: Never let up, literally for a second or the worst is likely to happen. This was difficult to instil into the British soldier moving for hours on end when everything appeared to be perfectly peaceful. In order to achieve this he insisted on impeccable standards - examples of this were:

On campaign, Camps often had to be set up. This was done as a drill, all the 80lb tents being raised on a whistle signal. The ground was often stony and hard but M-L insisted that every tent peg was aligned and the same height out of the ground.

Later when the Battalion was at Lucknow and I was his Adjutant he came into the office one morning after he had been on the range and he said that Major Watson's chin strap was not firmly round the point of his chin. I was to write and tell him that the Commanding Officer took great exception to this. Major Watson was the Second in Command and the senior Major.

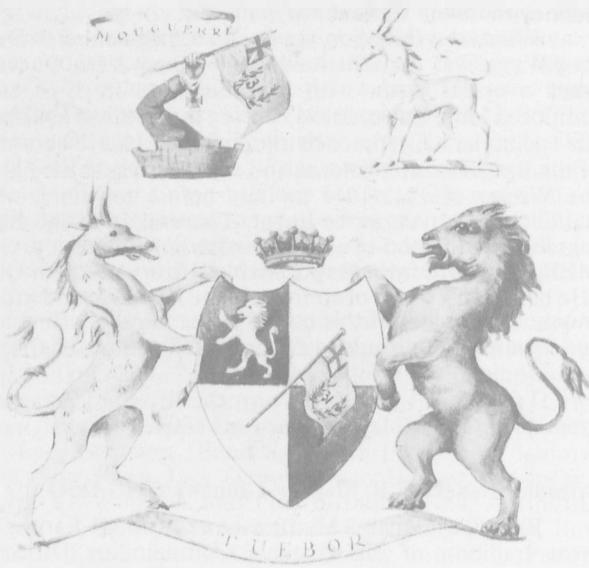
As in all else he took great interest in the Band and Drums. He told me that they could total 100 but no more. (1). The front rank of side-drummers must be eight and not four. He took great exception if there was any fault in the side-drummers stick drill or the alignment of the ranks.

His handwriting was immaculate and never varied. He wrote pages of instructions.

Undoubtedly M-L put the efficiency of The Queen's and the care of the battalion before any consideration of his own advancement. He was a fine soldier."

(1) Present day Commanding Officers may well be amazed and certainly envious! (Ed)

Lord Strafford and the 2nd/31st Foot



During the Peninsular War, at the Battle of St Pierre on the 13th December 1813, Major-General Sir John Byng, Commanding the Brigade in which the 2nd Battalion The 31st Regiment was serving, took the King's Colour from the officer carrying it and personally lead the final charge near the village of Vieux Mouguerre. When the Battalion was disbanded after the campaign in October 1814 the Colours were presented to General Byng and are still preserved at Wrotham Park the seat of his grandson.

In 1815 General Byng, who became Lord Strafford, received authority to bear "over the arms of the family of Byng, in bend sinister, a representation of the Colours of the 31st Regiment, and the following crest, namely out of a mural crown an arm enbowered, grasping the Colours with the word 'Mouguerre'.

ALBUHERA

Unfortunately the Regiment was unable to secure Major G. L'Estrange's Gold Medal for Albuhera, but its sale in the Spink's Auction in December recalls the exceptional services of the 31st Regiment at Albuhera. In Major Gregory Blaxland's very excellent "Guide to The Queen's Regiment" full tribute is paid to the 2/31st, commanded by Major L'Estrange, but their steadfastness and valour is often overshadowed by the extraordinary heroism of Lieutenant Latham in saving the King's Colour of The Buffs, and then the 57th's dauntless steadfastness and valour, immortalized in their Colonel's exhortation "Die hard the 57th", and later in Lady Butler's picture "Steady, the Drums and Fifes". It would seem certain however that but for the 2/31st the whole right of the Allied Army under Lord Beresford would have collapsed beyond retrieval at the outset of the Battle, and that Albuhera instead of being a famous victory could have been a ghastly disaster.

The 2/31st, only 418 strong, were part of Colborne's Brigade, of the 2nd Division, which was ordered to support and restore the right of the line held by Spanish Divisions who were being outflanked by the French. The Brigade led by The Buffs were carrying out their task effectively, when in a violent hailstorm which cut visibility almost to nil, they were ridden into from the flank by a strong force of French cavalry. The 2/31st who were the rear battalion of the Brigade just had time to form Square by an original manoeuvre of Major L'Estrange's own devising. The Battalion was able thereby to survive while the other three battalions of the Brigade were cut to pieces - it then moved forward on to the ridge to the front where it was in due course joined by Houghton's Brigade, which included the 57th, who there won their immortal fame.

The conduct of the 2/31st at the time received universal praise, and in his History of The Peninsular War Lord Londonderry names "the 31st and the 57th as equal in bravery in the action." While in his subsequent Despatch Lord Wellington wrote:

"There is one officer, Major L'Estrange of the Thirty First, who I must recommend in the strongest manner for promotion in some way or other. After the other parts of the same Brigade were swept off by the Cavalry his little Battalion alone held its ground against all colonnes en masse."

Major L'Estrange was awarded his Brevet promotion, and eventually went on to become Lieutenant-General Sir Guy L'Estrange, KCB. Meanwhile his method of forming "the Albuhera Square" continued to be practiced in the Regiment until 1856.

It is to be hoped that sometime in the future General L'Estrange's Gold Medal may come to the Regiment so that, through this, honour can be paid to him and his gallant Battalion.

JWS

"BRAGANZA BILL"

or
An Encounter with an Elephant

1 Queen's had for a very short period an elephant while in Burma. This was kindly given to them on the march to Ukhru to help carry the supplies from airdrops. The animal duly arrived, complete with mahout (the elephant, it was thought, had been trained at one time, but had been running wild during the Jap occupation). It had been liberated by Elephant Bill and put to work again.

The mahout took a very poor view of the whole arrangement. He had no desire to go to war and was slightly afraid of the elephant, and certainly afraid of soldiers! Further, no one could make themselves understood to him. Not surprisingly he decamped on the first or second night, leaving the Queen's with one elephant that they had no means of controlling and they did not even know what to feed it on. The sex was not known, but another one of the opposite sex shadowed the Battalion on each day's march, and they continually trumpeted to each other. On about the third night there was much muted trumpeting, and the elephant broke away from the tree to which it was chained by the leg, and disappeared for ever (and much to their relief) to join its mate.

R.F.K.

Regimental Deaths

Amor - On 26th February 1985 6137721 Colour Sergeant Henry Leonard Amor, The East Surrey Regiment. Served from 1928 till 1935 in Ireland & India. Recalled in 1939 he served until 1946 with the BEF, West Africa and Burma. A staunch & loyal member of his Regiment and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

Bedford - On 10th February 1985 Private John William Bedford aged 70 years, The East Surrey Regiment. John finally passed away after a very long and painful illness. He will be remembered by members of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in pre-war years. He assisted in the formation of the East Surrey Regiment Reunion Association, who's annual reunion at Clapham Junction has been enjoyed by ex East Surreys from home and abroad. Thank you John - We will remember.

Bigg - On 20th April 1985 Sergeant F.W. Bigg, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Collis - On 21st February 1985 Private H. Collis aged 88 years, The East Surrey Regiment 1914-1918.

Dean - On 3rd January 1985 In Pensioner George Leonard Dean, aged 79 years, The East Surrey Regiment and the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Farrup - On 16th January 1985 Major Victor Thomas Farrup, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Field - On 23rd February 1985 6097392 Private Frederick William Field, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Called up in 1940 he served at Gravesend before embarking for the Middle East in October 1940. He was with the 2nd Battalion in the Desert and Tobruk, Ceylon, India and Burma. He was with the MT Section for most of his service. Returning to England in 1945 he spent his last year of service at Aylsham in Norfolk and at Sandhurst. He was discharged in June 1946. A staunch and loyal member of his Regiment.

Grigg - On 7th November 1984 Christopher Grigg, The East Surrey Regiment. Inmate at the Royal Star & Garter Home Richmond.

Lawrence - On 11th February 1985 aged 88 years (23 London) The East Surrey Regiment. He was wounded at Givenchy in 1914 and was invalided out of the Army the following year. He was re-employed with the Admiralty Sea Cadets and was again wounded at Brest. As a pre war Regular he was an athlete of considerable prowess holding Regimental running and boxing championships. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal during the First World War. His wounds eventually led to the loss of an arm and a lung. As a result of his wounds he underwent some forty operations all borne with considerable fortitude and courage and his sense of fun and never-say-die attitude to life never left him right up to the end.

McKay - On 8th April 1985 Private William McKay aged 98 years, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at The Residential Home, Southwark.

Rice - On 24th November 1984 Sgt Len Rice, aged 59. The Queens Royal Regiment. During the war Sgt Rice served with the Royal Navy in HMS Nelson, before transferring to the Royal Hampshire. He was attached to the Parachute Brigade from 1945 - 1951. He served with the 1st Bn The Queens until amalgamation and then completed a tour of duty at ERE in Cyprus. He was discharged in 1962.

Smith - On 20 February 1985 Private Gilbert Smith MM, aged 92 years, The East Surrey Regiment. He and his brother served in The Regiment during the 1914 - 1918 War. His brother Sam was killed in July 1916. Gilbert was awarded the Military Medal in 1916, for rescuing wounded soldiers in No Mans Land.

Wood - On 7th November 1984, 6136274 Sergeant S.J. Wood aged 81 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Sgt Wood joined The 1st Bn in January 1923 and served in Hong Kong and India. He was discharged to the Reserve in November 1935. During the second World War he served with The Royal Pioneer Corps from 1942 until his discharge as a Sergeant in June 1946.

Regimental Families

Bolton - On 23rd December 1984 Mrs. Joy Bolton aged 88 years, widow of Colonel Edward Bolton, DSO, The Queens Royal Regiment.

Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks KCB KBE DSO MC

The passing of Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks was an occasion for sadness nationally, but also within the Association. He was said to be very much a soldier's soldier, which perhaps means that he was an Infantryman with a deep understanding of the Infantry and the problems that Infantrymen face. As an Association we may particularly recall his generous references to both of our Regiments in his Forewords to the Short Histories written under his Editorial direction.

His contacts with The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1939-1945 War were extensive, and these he catalogued in his extra Special Introduction to Major Jock Haswell's Book. In this he first praised the 1/7th Queen's at Dunkirk; he then records his command of 44th Home Counties Division, and how again he had 131st Queen's Brigade under his command in 13th and later 10th Corps in the 8th Army. 10th Corps was joined by 169th Queen's Brigade at Enfidaville, and but for being badly wounded in an air attack in Tunisia he would no doubt have continued to have all six battalions under his command at Salerno and for the initial stages in Italy. In remarks, having praised the superb discipline of The Queen's, his summing up on the Regiment was: "that they are among the steadiest troops that anybody could wish to have under command."

His contacts with The East Surrey Regiment were few in War, having only had the 1st Battalion briefly under command in 11th Brigade during the final days at Dunkirk. However having read Michael Langley's History he wrote: "I feel proud that my own Regiment, The Die Hards, and the East Surreys now form part of The Queen's Division". He also specially recalled fond memories of the Barracks at Kingston where he used to play cricket between the Wars. He wrote: "The opening batsmen for the Middlesex Regiment, neither of whom were very good, were Bucknall and Horrocks, both of whom successively commanded 30th Corps in Europe during The Second World War".

Colonel L.C. East who served with 1/5th Queen's in 44th Division and in 13th Corps under him, and was subsequently his Provost Marshal in B A O R, after the War, writes:

"He was a magnificent Commander, who led from the front: he was a thinking soldier. It has been said he was the brains of the 8th Army. He was moreover a very modest man and is reputed to have been scared stiff when he agreed to appear on Television."

Colonel East who followed in his footsteps as an Olympic Athlete at Modern Pentathlon also recalls that "Jorrocks" represented Great Britain in the Paris Olympics of 1924 ("The Chariots of Fire Olympics"). As said at his Memorial Service this was an extraordinary achievement for someone very badly wounded in 1914 and a prisoner for most of that War because of this. The very wide cross-section of people who attended the Service in Westminster Abbey underlined Colonel East's final remarks;

"The Army, and the Country, can always be proud of him."

J.W.S.

The East Surrey Regiment

A dinner was held on Friday 26th April at Simpsons-in-the-Strand for officers who served in the East Surrey Regiment. 71 officers attended. The next such event will be on Friday 24th April, 1987.

The Mule in the Chindit Columns

We were told at the outset of our training that we must get used to the idea of moving around without wheeled transport. What we could not carry ourselves would be carried by animals. The animals provided to help us were mules, ponies and bullocks, but mostly mules. I think we had about 60 mules, 7 or 8 ponies and 2 or 3 bullocks for our column. We had mules of various sizes - little chaps not much bigger than an Old English sheepdog up to enormous animals almost the size of a shire horse.

The first contingent arrived one morning and the troops were given instruction in loading them. At this stage the animals were very fresh and frisky, and did not take kindly to such attention. A certain amount of injury and a whole lot of frustration was suffered during our introduction to the mule, but as time went on our relationship with them changed into what was virtually a mutual admiration society. We came to realise what a marvellous animal the mule is, with tremendous powers of endurance and the will to go on until he drops. Sometimes a mule would go too near the edge of a steep slope, miss his footing and roll down the steep side, load clattering, until brought to a halt by a tree. A sweating soldier would clamber down, remove the loads and persuade the animal to stand up. With the loads replaced, the mule would struggle back up the hill and resume its place in the order of march as if nothing had happened.

I understand that mules cannot reproduce themselves, but are the issue of mating a male donkey and a female horse. This may well be so, but we found that they certainly had some of the feelings of male and female, and we had a number of couples who had paired off together. We could not separate them, and woe betide anyone who tried to!

We were told all mules could swim, and this too perhaps is true, but we found many mules would not swim when we wanted them to. On early river crossing exercises we had tremendous difficulties getting some of them into the water. The mule is so strong and determined that the combined efforts of ten men were required to pull and push him in; then, after swimming a few yards, he would sometimes spot a piece of bank jutting out into the river, and in no time at all he would be back on the near side again! Another endearing trick of the mule was to wait until we had exhausted ourselves and collapsed on the river bank, when he would quietly walk in and cross to the other side.



The men who were allotted to the job of caring for the mules, the muleteers, became very fond of their charges, and the mules in turn seemed to have a special regard for the particular two-legged creature who looked after them. Later, when we were in Burma, and some of the mules died or were killed, their muleteers were heartbroken.

(Reserved copyright)
C.S. Phillips

Regimental Booklets

The Museum have produced three booklets, Cassino; The 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya 1941-42 and The Queens Royal Regiment in Burma. The first two cost £ 1.20 post paid. The Queens Royal Regiment booklet will cost £ 1.50 post paid. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to 'The Queens Royal Surrey Regiment, Museum A/c.'

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Readers may be interested to know that one of the Companies of the RMAS bears the title "Salerno Company". In February it was decided that in order to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Battle and to establish a link between this Company and our Regiment, a presentation should be made to the Company by the Queen's Surreys.

Accordingly, Colonel Sewell, Colonel J.B.H. Kealy, DSO and Lt. Colonel Wilson visited the Academy and presented a copy of the Salerno painting to the Officer Cadets and Staff. This painting now has pride of place amongst a large permanent exhibition of Salerno memorabilia in the Company lines.

It was particularly apt that Colonel John Kealy should have been present. Not only was he a very distinguished Commanding Officer at the Battle but also it was he who after the War was the GSO 1 responsible for the amalgamation of the RMC Sandhurst with the RMA Woolwich to form the present establishment.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT CHRISTMAS CARD 1985

This year's card will feature, in full colour, a reproduction of a specially commissioned water colour by Mr. C.C. Stadden. This is the fourth in the series illustrating our Former Regiments. The scene depicts a Regimental Ball, Christmas 1847. The 57th (WEST MIDDLESEX) Regiment of Foot.

The cost, which includes matching envelopes, is £ 1.75 per dozen, available from R.H.Q. The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1JU.



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