

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

Regimental Association  
Newsletter

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



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

Editorial

This edition of the Newsletter contains an article written by John Woodroff the Curator, on our Museum. A great many of you will have visited the museum during the last year, particularly those who made the journey on the Open Day and found the trip well worthwhile. This article is aimed at those of our members who have not yet made a visit and also those of our comrades and their wives who, for a variety of reasons are unable to pay a visit. The museum trustees hope to publish a museum guide with historical notes on our Regiment next year.

The history written by Captain Riley which we hoped to publish in November has been delayed. It is now with the printers and further details will be published in this Newsletter, and direct to individuals who have ordered a copy.

Letters from members continue to arrive with snippets of regimental information. Where they are of interest to our readers I have and will continue to publish in the newsletter. This period has seen a bumper crop of letters and articles. If your article or letter has not been published I apologise. Some have been kept over for the next edition. However, please do keep writing in, and I am delighted to tell you as a result of letters from readers we have been able to assist several of our less well off comrades. In addition the newsletter has been able to allow readers to contact old friends who over the years have lost contact with each other.

The annual church service this year saw one of the best turnouts for many years. It is hoped that at next year's service, on The Glorious First in the 325th anniversary year we will see an even larger parade.

This newsletter also sees the last of Sgt Biggs's cartoons. Readers will recall that his death was reported in the last edition. Sgt Biggs was a staunch member of 2 Queens and a very loyal Queensman. He had the ability to draw and above all made people laugh. A wonderful gift. A very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all our readers.

Les Wilson

President's Notes

When I took over as President I was conscious that I had not seen the Regiment's Tercentenary Monument since many of us attended the ceremony to unveil and dedicate it in October 1961. I felt ashamed that I wasn't either sure how to find it - I have since discovered that I was not alone in this! To rectify my ignorance I made an expedition to Wimbledon Common and asked the Ranger's staff who said "Oh - you mean the Tangier Regiment memorial". This is indeed what it may seem, since at the time and for absolutely sound and correct reasons it was decided that the inscription should not refer to either of our old Regiments, nor of course does it refer to the new. The time now seems to have come when we should do something to link our Monument to both the past and the future, and I am glad to say that the Association Trustees have agreed that, in 1986, the Monument will undergo some refurbishment and will be additionally inscribed to state that The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment was formed from The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, and that all three Regiments continue in The Queen's Regiment to-day. It may be that when

this is completed there will be some ceremony to mark this and our 325th Anniversary, and indeed that of The Queen's Regiment, but the practicalities of this have to be considered. Any plans will be approved by the Association Main Committee, in consultation with RHQ The Queen's Regiment, and will be announced in the Spring.

In writing for the Newsletter I hesitate to record yet another thing which marks the passing of time, although inevitably any Association like ours is much concerned with memories. However since so many of our members served in the 1939-1945 War it may be of interest to them to note that the last sailor, soldier or airman to wear 1939-1945 War medals leaves the active list in December - This is Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall who was commissioned into the KRRC in May 1943, winning an MC with them in early 1945. He has just retired as Chief of the Defence Staff after a career of great distinction, and that the reputation of the Army stands so high to-day reflects much on his work and leadership in a succession of important appointments over the last 20 years or so.

Finally, may I wish all members and their families a happy Christmas and a healthy next year, and good wishes to all those meeting together in the various re-unions that take place during the Winter months.

Toby Sewell

(Editors Comment: It is a pity of course that the late CDS joined the wrong and rather a junior Regiment!)



*I don't remember much about the first,  
but the second was definitely on Rushmore Arena.*



## FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1985



Date	Details of Event
17 November	2/4th QUEENS OCA Annual Shrine Remembrance Service at Croydon Parish Church at 3 p.m. Followed by Reunion tea in the Parish Church Hall.
20 December	THE BRITISH BATTALION DAY.

1986

10 February	SOBRAON DAY
22 February	6th (Bermondsey) Bn The Queen's Royal Regt. Dinner Dance - Union Jack Club.
1 March	Queen's (Southwark) Regt Assn Reunion Dinner - Union Jack Club.
22 March	Queen's Surreys Regt Trustees & Assn Committee Meeting, Clandon Park. Details to members from Hon Sec.
29 March	Regimental Museum reopens to the public.
17 April	Queens Royal Surrey Regt. Golf Society Spring meeting Richmond. Details to members.
23 April	YPRES DAY
27 April	2/4th QUEENS OCA Annual Reunion Luncheon, The Croydon Parish Church Hall, Old Town, Croydon at 12.30 p.m.
16 May	ALBUHERA DAY
17 May	5 Queen's Royal Regt OMA Reunion Dinner (Prov)
1 June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE Regimental Assn Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral, 1100 hours.
12 June	2/6th East Surreys Reunion St Valery en Caux (Prov)
9 July	Queen's Royal Surrey Golf Society v. Royal Marines
13 July	The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion, Bassingbourn. Details in May Newsletter.
6 September	Salerno Reunion - Union Jack Club 1900 hours. Details from S B PRATTON MM, 58 Sandford Road, East Ham, London E6 3QS.
9 September	SALERNO DAY
9 September	1/6th Queen's OCA visit to Ghent.
16 September	Queen's Royal Surrey Golf Society Autumn golf meeting - Details to members.
27 September	Museum 'Open Day' Clandon.
10th October	The Queen's Regiment, Officers Club Cocktail Party. London.
11 October	WOs & Sgts Past and Present Dinner Bassingbourn.
14 October	325th Anniversary of the raising of The Tangier Regiment, later The Queen's Royal Regiment.
14 October	6th (Bermondsey) Ladies Night.
24 October	The East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades reunion, The Grand Hall, Battersea Town Hall.
7 November	Annual All Ranks Reunion. Union Jack Club.
9 November	Remembrance Sunday. Parades at Kingston - Guildford - Bermondsey.

### Annual Association Church Service

The Annual Service took place this year on Sunday 2nd June (Trinity Sunday) in Guildford Cathedral. It was conducted by the Sub-Dean, the Rev Canon P.G. Croft assisted by Canon F.S. Telfer. The Address was given by the Ven Archdeacon Peter Mallet, who we were very glad to see fit again, and the Lesson as is customary was read by the President.

The Congregation was larger than for some time and included a detachment from Surrey A C F, who we were very glad to have with us. Those present included the Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier H.C. Millman, Major-Generals M. Forrester, D. Lloyd Owen, R.S.N. Mans, and Brigadiers G.B. Curtis, M.J.A. Clarke, M.E.M. MacWilliam and P.H. Richardson.

Next years Service is to be on Sunday 1st June, and the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Michael Adie, has kindly agreed to preach to us. An even bigger turnout and gathering in the Refectory after the Service will be hoped for.

### The Regimental Monument

The surrounds of the Monument have much changed through the making of the A3 into dual carriage way and the building of the under-pass beneath the large roundabout at the

top of Putney Hill: all this involved a great deal of earth moving and redistribution.

To find the Monument:- On the road going south from the roundabout towards Wimbledon and Merton, after about 1 mile turn right to the Windmill. At the Windmill, park in the main car park to the north of the office and golf club buildings. From the car park walk due north over the hillocks, and after about 600 yards the Monument will be found in a large hollow.

(It could make a nice Sunday afternoon stroll)

### 40th Anniversary Luncheon

The 23rd October saw an informal luncheon at the East India Club, London, for officers who had served with the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment during World War II, the occasion being the 40th anniversary of such gatherings.

The following were present:-

Canon R R Acheson	Father J Gardner
J Baker	H R D Hill
A G Cheston	R M Marrett
E B G Clowes	J Robertson-Walker
J Cowrie (from Canada)	
J Cotton	A P W Simon
J Dell	J Williams

AGC

## Museum Notes

'War in the Far East' special display was ready for viewing by the general public thanks to the efforts of Mrs Daphne Hill and the excellent co-operation of ex-members of our two old Regiments. We are most grateful to all those who assisted in providing historical accounts, photographs and items loaned or given for the display. In particular I would like to mention, yet again, Major Bill Deayton-Groom for his excellent pictorial maps covering separately 1 Queen's in the Arakan and Kohima, Queen's (Chindits) covering their long march from the Ledo Road and subsequent battles in the Indaw area; and 2 Surreys, who suffered such heavy casualties that they were amalgamated with 1 Leicesters to form the 'British Battalion', and their subsequent battles in Malaya and Singapore.

The latest addition to the display arrived in August consisting of an almost life size cutout of a mule, carrying two ammunition boxes, coming out of the jungle with his handler. This now impressively backs the Far East display table. We are indebted to Lt Col Les Wilson and the artistry of Mr Charles Stadden for this fine production. Mr Stadden was a sergeant and in charge of mule transport at the Battle of Cassino.

Of the many items presented for the Far East display two are of particular note. Captain J Sumner MC, RAMC, Medical Officer of 1 Queen's, presented his MC 'as an expression of my regard for the gallantry of the officers and men whom I served with at that time in my life and whom I have never forgotten'. Captain Sumner now lives in Canada.

The other was a pewter cross made in Singapore in 1941 and which the padre the Rev H. Babb, MBE used in the prisoner of war camp on the railway where he was known by the Japanese as 'Mr Amen'. Henry Babb, now 80 years old, lives near Cambridge.

Booklets giving historical accounts and personal reminiscences of all three battalions in the Far East, are now on sale in the Museum. We are most grateful to all those who helped to provide the material. At the same time we are also selling a revised version of the Cassino booklet.

We wish to welcome Mr C.E. Allen as the new administrator of Clandon Park. Christopher Allen's first cap badge was, appropriately enough, the badge of The East Surrey Regiment.

Finally, Clandon Park closes on Sunday 20th October. Our Winter working party will meet every Wednesday commencing 6th November until 11th December. After Christmas they will start again on 8th January 1986.

HRDH

## The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society

The Spring Meeting of the Golf Society took place at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on Thursday 9th May; 24 members attended.

Challenge Cup:	Michael Power (76)
Dodgson Cup:	Major 'Vic' Sheppard (net 68)
Heals Trophy:	Lt.Col. Tony Hannaford (36 pts)
Veterans Halo:	Lt.Col. Tony Hannaford (40 pts)

The Sweep was won by Major 'Vic' Sheppard with Peter Mason second and Major Hugh Greatwood third.

At the Annual General Meeting following play, Major F.V. Sheppard MC was elected Captain for 1985/86 and 1986/87.

The Annual match versus The Royal Marines Golfing Society was held at North Hants Golf Club on 9th July 1985 resulting in a close finish with the Marines just winning by 7 matches to 5.

BAC

## 5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment - Old Members Association

The annual Reunion Dinner was held on the 18th May with 170 members attending this memorable evening, held as usual at Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford, where many remember the start of their Army Service in 1939.

The evening commenced with The Band of The Surrey Army Cadet Force giving a 15 minute display. Dinner was served and the association Chairman Lt Col F Herd welcomed everyone including our guest of honour Lt Col Les Wilson, Secretary of the Regimental Association. After dinner speeches were short to allow as much time as possible for drinks and swapping yarns. Colonel Herd in a short speech thanked Major Wooles for permission to use The Drill Hall, Major Oldfield of

The Army Cadet Force who gave us so much assistance before and after the dinner, to Geoff Register, Jack Homersham, Jimmy Paterson and Ron May, Treasurer, but most of all to the hard pushed Secretary Doug Mitchell who shoulders the arrangements, backed by the committee and a hearty vote of thanks to the caterers Pearts of Guildford who always serve us with a first class meal.

To commemorate VE Day ten of the original members of the 5th Battalion MT met, with their wives, at The Percy Arms, Chilworth, for a celebration dinner. Many memories were recalled of the long journey to Berlin via Dunkirk, Alamein, Mareth Line, Tripoli, Tunis, Salerno and then the D-Day landings and on to Berlin to join in the Victory Parade. Those present had a very enjoyable evening.

Hopefully our dinner next year will be on 17th May. This is a provisional date for your diaries.

A large contingent of the association attended The Regimental Cathedral Service on the 2nd June, followed by the Reunion in the Refectory. This is a very popular annual event in the Regimental calendar.

All particulars of the 5th Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Doug Mitchell, 3 Little Field Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3JE. Tel. Worpleston 232043.

RM

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

The Visit of our Belgian Friends 'La Sarcelle A' was a great success as was the 40th Anniversary of VE Day organised by The Royal British Legion of Deptford. Later in the year they organised a similar function for VJ Day. Arrangements are already in hand for Remembrance Day and the get together afterwards at the Old Drill Hall, Old Jamaica Road. At the beginning of September we visited Ghent and enjoyed the programme arranged for us. A visit to the Canadian Cemetery at Adegem on the Saturday saw a wreath being laid but not on the Cross. The Canadians had arranged for a service of Remembrance on the Sunday and we did not wish to disturb their arrangements. As usual we finished up with a Dinner/Dance at the Air Force Barracks in the City.

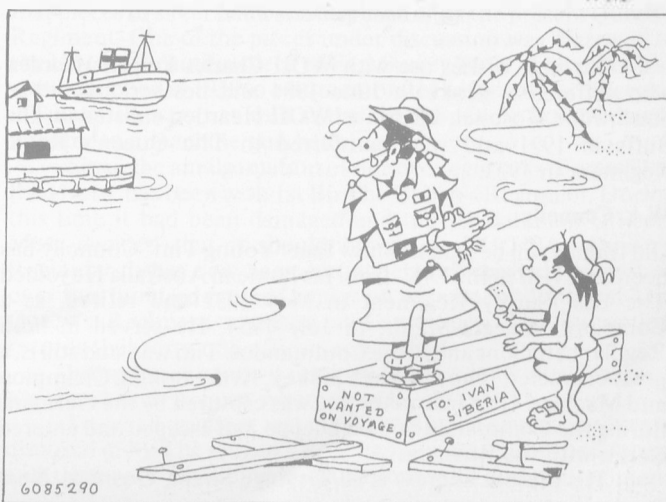
In October a Ladies' Night has been arranged at the Union Jack Club. Plans are being made for a further Ladies' Night in February 1986, but nothing definite has been arranged yet. As always we would welcome some fresh faces. Lastly we will be running a Christmas Social in December but plans are still in the talking stage. Further details will be available from any Committee member.

It may be of interest to readers to know that Mr. Fred Walker made a video recording of Bassingbourn and of The Beating Retreat on Horse Guards in June.

Recently on reading the DVA Journal I noticed a familiar name amongst the Roll of Honour. On making enquiries I discovered that the man had been a member of the 1/6th, in fact he was in my Company. So unless people are a member of some ex-service Association they tend to be overlooked. The name was G Payne taken Prisoner in May 1940.

For the benefit of any readers who had the misfortune to serve in Poland as a POW, a pilgrimage is being arranged for 1986 by Mr A.W. Weston, 39 St Georges Road, Feltham, Middlesex. Tel. 898 0551.

WM



There's a troopship leaving Bombay, also message for Sergeant Major Sahib from sojer's wishings luck.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

**A.W.E. HITCHCOCK** on being awarded The Gold Medal at the Cookery and Food Association. The only Gold Medal awarded in their Centenary Year. Mr Hitchcock served with 1/6 Surreys but not, he assures me, as a cook.

**Captain & Mrs J.P. RILEY** on the birth of their son, James Michael Edward. Captain Riley, who is currently serving as an Instructor at the R.M.A. Sandhurst has also been selected for Staff College training in 1986.

**Major R.M. McGHIE** who has been selected for promotion to Lt. Col. and will command the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment on their return to UK.

**Major G.H. WRIGHT, TD** on his promotion to Lt. Col.

Our belated, but very sincere congratulations to **Major DAVID PATTERSON** on the award of the **AIR FORCE CROSS** in the New Years Honours

David Patterson joined as a Junior Leader in 1958 and was badged Queen's Royal Regiment. He entered adult service at The Depot, Canterbury in April 1961 and was employed as a L/Cpl on the weapon training staff. He joined 1 Queen's Surreys A Company in Hong Kong in February 1962, was promoted Corporal and commanded the last N.S. section in the Company.

He was promoted Sergeant in 1966, and was a Platoon Sgt in B Coy. During the Bahrain tour he served in the Oman for four months. He commenced his flying career in 1969 after the Londonderry tour, and finally transferred to the A.A.C. in 1973.

In 1976 he was promoted WO1, and commanded a Scout Conversion Flight at The Army Air Corps Centre, the first non officer to do so. He is also a Qualified Helicopter Flying Instructor. Commissioned in 1978, he has served as Adjutant at 9 Regiment A.A.C. at Detmold and has commanded a Squadron in Belize and is currently commanding 657 (Independent) Squadron A.A.C. at Oakington near Cambridge.



Major David Patterson, A.F.C.

Our best wishes are with WO1 **Charles Francis Hearden** who suffered a stroke in June 1984 and lies seriously ill in Southwood Hospital, Highgate. WO1 Hearden enlisted in The Buffs in 1921 and was transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1923.

### W.A. Connolly

Old friends will be glad to know that "Young Tim" Connolly has been on a visit to the U.K. from his home in Australia. He joined The East Surrey Regiment in May 1932 and retired, as a Company Sergeant-Major, in July 1954. He served in both Regular battalions and in the Commandos. Tim was, and still is, a great character, renowned as a jockey, Army Boxing Champion and Machine-Gun Instructor. He was captured by the Germans during the Commando raid on Dieppe, but escaped and entered Berlin with the Russians.

His present address is 20, Ospinge Street, Gosnells, Near Perth, Western Australia.

## Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The A.G.M. and Buffet was held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames on Saturday 18th May 1985. Twenty six members attended the meeting. Our slightly lower numbers at this meeting was no doubt due to us having to change the date of our meeting. Unfortunately the R.A.M.C. (Sergeants Mess) our hosts were on exercise in Catterick, and no bar facilities were available.

The Chairman thanked Tom Shaw for his loyal and conscientious service as your Secretary, a job he took on a temporary basis and has lasted 10 years. Tom has always given 100% support to the Association, and will we know continue to do so.

'Dutchy' Holland has retired from the Committee for health reasons. He has been a stalwart member of our committee for more years than we can remember. The Chairman thanked Dutchy for his valuable contribution to the Association.

Three members have volunteered to serve and have been voted onto the Committee. They are Ron Stebbings (Secretary) Len Jelley and John Izant. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

There were 90 members, ladies and friends present at the social and the buffet which followed the A.G.M., and a very pleasant evening was had by all. Our ladies once again excelled and produced a buffet fit for a banquet. "Well done girls, what would we do without them".

We were delighted to have members of the 6th Bn. East Surrey Regiment (Veterans Company) at our social gathering. It was so nice to see some old faces once again. Although Anno Domini creeps on, everyone looks just the same as they did 40 years ago, or is that wishful thinking?

Dave Clemens at the ripe old age of 70 is still running. Apart from training runs he has competed in:

Bury St. Edmunds	20 mile race
Puckeridge	Half marathon
Reading	Half marathon
Wolverhampton	Marathon
London	Marathon
Germany	Half marathon
Lytham St. Annes	18th World Veteran's Championships 25km.

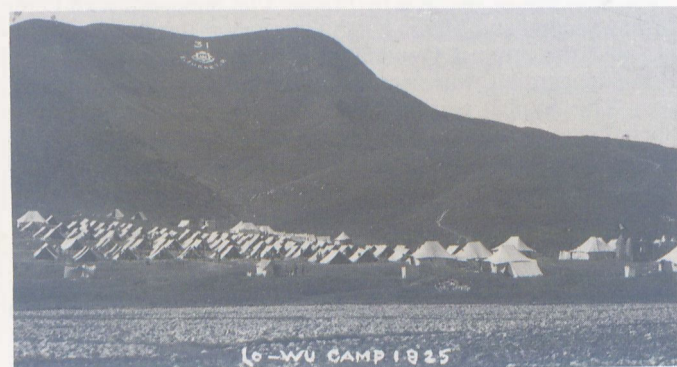
Well done Dave keep it up.

Jimmy James has moved once again, he is now stationed with the British Embassy in Bonn, having just completed a tour of duty in Islamabad. Well done Jim. (Have bags will travel).

Den Harding has now been promoted to "Yeoman Clerk" at H.M. Tower of London. congratulations Den.

Terry Swift having now retired from the Oil Fields of the Far East and Near East is now residing near Southend.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?



Lo-Wu Camp 1925



**H.M.S. EXCELLENT.** On the 30th September 1985, HMS Excellent was formally decommissioned at Sunset. This is particularly sad news to us in the Association and we must hope that in the future, there may be a new HMS Excellent to continue her glorious history.





# THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

## The Battalions

The 1st Battalion, under the command of Lt Col Mike Ball, is now nearly half way through its tour in Gibraltar. It received glowing reports following its performances at The Queen's Birthday Parade and the Gibraltar Tattoo and is enjoying a diverse and interesting time on The Rock. The 2nd Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Mike Constantine, provided the detachment for five marches through 'Freedom' boroughs in May and trained in Canada all July. Lt Col Peter Cook took over command in September and the battalion has just started a short tour in the Falkland Islands from November to March 1986. The 3rd Battalion, under Lt Col David Beveridge, has been involved in the heavy BAOR training programme and invited Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk as the principal guest for the Quebec Celebrations in October. They return to Canterbury in January. Our TA battalions have also maintained a heavy training schedule but nevertheless achieved commendable results at Bisley, particularly the win of the Machine Gun Trophy by the 6th/7th (V) Battalion. This battalion is still under command of Lt Col Peter Hubert. Lt Col David Shephard handed over the 5th (V) Battalion to Lt Col Charles Joint in September.

## Beating Retreat on Horse Guards

One of the major events in this years Regimental Calendar was the Beating Retreat on Horse Guards on 11th June by the massed Bands of The Queen's Division, when the Prime Minister took the salute. The steady rain throughout the performance did not affect at all the high standard of music and marching of the Massed Bands and it proved a spectacular and memorable occasion.

Before the Beating Retreat, the Prime Minister met the Regimental hierarchy, including the Presidents of our four affiliated Associations and Commanding Officers, in Headquarters London District. Unfortunately, because of a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace, she was unable to attend, after the parade, the all ranks reception for members of the Regiment and their guests in the Banqueting House, Whitehall. This splendid building provided a magnificent setting in which to conclude an unforgettable evening.

## Grand Reunion

Many members of our affiliated Regimental Associations attended the annual Grand Reunion at Basingbourn on Sunday 14th July. Numbers have been steadily increasing each year and this Reunion was voted the best ever by many of those present. The Drumhead Service at the start of the proceedings was taken by the Reverend Walter Evans, a former Padre of 1st Bn The Buffs and later Chaplain of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Following the service there was a full programme of Arena Events culminating with the Beating Retreat by the TA Band and Junior Bandsmen of The Queen's Division. Perhaps of even greater importance, there was ample opportunity for many old friends to meet again and exchange reminiscences.

# THE INFANTRY REGIMENT

of

SURREY,

KENT,

SUSSEX &

MIDDLESEX



## OFFICERS' CLUB LUNCHEON - 20th September, 1985.

Blessed by warm Autumn sunshine and in the gracious surrounds of Clandon Park, 136 members and their ladies attended this year's Officers' Club luncheon. Having obtained the members' views, the Committee varied the format for this occasion in order that those attending might enjoy their buffet lunch in Clandon Park's magnificent marble hall and ante-room.

With the passage of time it is always heartening to be reunited once again with so many members of the old Regiments; a true fellowship of Regulars, Territorials, their ladies and guests. As Clandon Park is now regarded increasingly as our Regimental "home", it is all the more enhanced by the establishment there of our excellent Museum. Surely one of the best Regimental Museums in the country, where one is always welcomed with friendship, and particularly so if the visitor has Regimental "connections"!

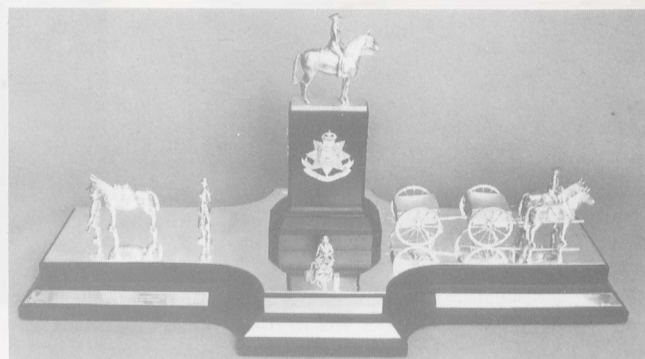
During the luncheon Mrs. Leon presented her late husband's Military Cross and other medals to the Regimental Museum. A gift which is appreciated greatly and a gesture which highlights the close Regimental family feelings which still flourish.

It was particularly pleasing to welcome as our guests Lady Hilaria Gibbs, Mrs. Rachel Roupell, widow of Brigadier Roupell, VC, and a staunch supporter of the Museum, Mrs. Betty Sykes-Wright, Mrs. Willis and Mrs. W.C.E. Nash. Also present were Mr. J. Woodroff, our Museum Curator, and his wife and Mrs. J.A. Stock, the Museum Attendant, who surely deserve our thanks for their dedicated work and the excellence of the Museum displays.

At a Regimental gathering such as this a list of friends and members one is pleased to recall could become almost endless! However, it was an especial pleasure to meet Major Keith Yonwin, now fully recovered after serious illness, and to see Major John Reed, who for so many years masterminded these Regimental functions, really able to relax and enjoy every moment.

Finally our thanks are due to Lt. Col. Les Wilson, for his customary calm efficiency and planning, which make these Regimental family occasions so pleasant and memorable.

JWJ



## SILVER

### 'Farewell to the Horse'

At a reunion recently the subject of silver was being discussed and a member of the regiment said that he "knew for certain" that pieces of silver had been disposed of by the present Queen's Regiment. One of the pieces under discussion was 'Farewell to the Horse' a beautiful piece of East Surrey silver. This piece was commissioned in 1938 to commemorate the loss of the horse as a means of transport as well as the change of role from ordinary infantry to a machine gun battalion.

Since the amalgamation of our two regiments 'Farewell to the Horse' has been with 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment. During this time it had been damaged and the 1st Battalion Officers Mess decided that it should remain at RHQ The Queen's Regiment. It has now been completely refurbished at a cost of over five hundred pounds, and is on permanent display in The Queen's Regiment museum at Canterbury. The inscription records that forty one officers subscribed.

From time to time it is hoped to show individual pieces of silver and their present whereabouts.

To set all minds at rest on the subject of silver, no silver is disposed of by The Queen's Regiment unless it is beyond repair and then only after long consultations with forerunner regiment associations.



## ASSISTANCE

Since the last Newsletter the Association have been able to assist three of our old soldiers with electric wheel chairs. In each case representatives of SSAFA submitted a report to the Association Secretary. The Charitable Funds made a grant in each case and the Army Benevolent Fund in all three cases gave a very large grant towards the cost of the electric chairs.

The pictures show ex CSM C. GODFREE, who was a CSM in 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment with his faithful dog, and Major Ken Jessup, who has visited Mr. Godfree on several occasions at his home in Sussex.

In the second picture the Regimental Secretary is pictured with Mr. ALBERT BEESLEY and Mr GEORGE SMITH. Both were members of the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and were captured near the Thailand border. Private Beesley and Sgt Smith were destined to spend the rest of the war as P.O.W.s During captivity they worked on the construction of the Burma/Siam railway. The war over, Mr Beesley became a bus driver and later a porter. Tragically in the 1970's he became seriously ill. His illness eventually caused both legs to be amputated. The wheelchair was delivered to Mr Beesley on St George's Day, the Old East Surrey Regimental Day.

Mr Smith and Mr Beesley were reunited for the first time in forty years. Sadly our third member died shortly after he had received his electric wheelchair.

The Regimental Association is very grateful for the assistance of SSAFA for their help and the Army Benevolent Fund for their outstanding generosity.

## Mystery Grave at Jinja

When Colonel John Holman was in Uganda recently he saw the grave of an officer of the 22nd London Regiment (The Queens). The grave was that of 2/Lt Wilfred Holroyd Ratton. For many years the grave has been tended by ex Cpl Puttick of the RAOC, who teaches 30 under privileged children woodwork at a nearby Ugandan Roman Catholic Church school. It would appear that 2/Lt Ratton was a barrister-at-law and died of Blackwater Fever.

A photograph of 2/Lt Ratton's grave appeared in 'Soldier' with a short article.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed that 2/Lt Ratton had died on the 9th July 1915 at Jinja and was a member of the 22nd London Regiment (The Queens) but was seconded to another unit at the time of his death. Sadly, 2/Lt Ratton was not included in The Regiment's Roll of Honour, this has now been rectified.

The Imperial War Graves Commission have confirmed that the grave is registered with them and is regarded as a war grave. They have promised to refurbish the grave in due course and one of their members is being tasked to visit Jinja.

In the meantime, Ted Puttick, or Brother Ted as he is known, makes sure that 2/Lt Ratton is remembered. He places a wreath on the grave on the occasion of the young officer's birthday.



Mr Godfree & Major Jessup



Mr Smith, Lt Col Wilson, Mr Beesley



2/Lt W H Ratton's grave.

SOLDIER photo

## Gallipoli Landings, 70 Years On.

Recently a Royal British Legion tour visited the battlefields at Gallipoli. Major and Mrs Holt, who are the organisers of the battlefield tours for the British Legion arranged to have a wreath laid on behalf of the 2/4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment. Extracts from their letter to Harry Mann MBE are reproduced below:-

We are delighted to report that the 70th anniversary commemorations of the Gallipoli Landings on 25 April 1985 were most successful.

The British Ambassador Sir Mark Russell, and the British Military Attaché Brigadier C W Bullocke were present, as were the Australian and New Zealand Ambassadors and Turkish Ministers. A new memorial was unveiled at Anzac Cove, officially granting it the name of "Anzac Cove". Wreaths were laid, and the Last Post was sounded by Drummer Craven of The Kings Own Border Regiment, and the Royal British Legion Standard was lowered at Lone Pine (Australian Memorial) Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) and Helles (British) Memorials. At Helles, the only British veteran present was Capt Clarence Bennett (89) of 1st East Anglian Field Ambulance, who

movingly recited Rudyard Kipling's "The Children". He was a most worthy representative of the Gallipoli Association and was welcomed in Istanbul (at Scutari Barracks, where Florence Nightingale had her Crimean War Hospital) and in Gallipoli by the Turks and by our diplomatic representatives, with warmth and respect. Indeed, everywhere we went, he was treated as the V.I.P. he truly is. On the 25 April, Capt Bennett met and shook hands with a Turkish veteran, an event that was recorded in the Turkish press.

The party numbered 117, and many wreaths and sprays were laid by members of the group. It made a fine sight and was ample proof that the men of Gallipoli have certainly not been forgotten. The beautiful sunny weather added to what was a most memorable occasion.

We had with the group an officer who had served with 1 Queen's in Werl and is still a serving Territorial Officer - Major Piers Storie-Pugh. We felt it would be appropriate for someone from The Queen's Regiment to lay your wreath.

May we say once more what a privilege and pleasure it was for us to be able to perform the function for honouring your comrades.

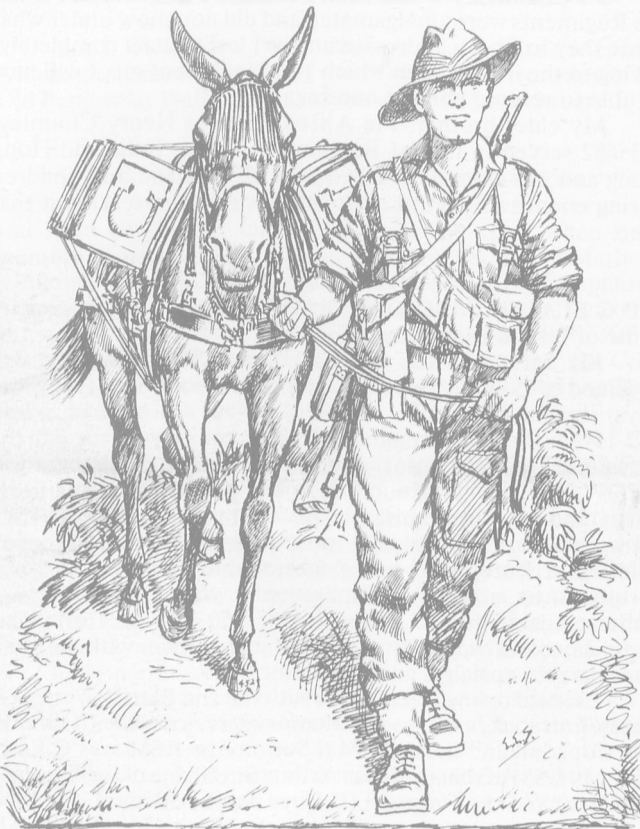


## SUSIE the MULE

Mule Number 432, with her mule leader, has arrived at Clandon. She is 4 foot high and painted in oils by the artist, Charles Stadden, who was himself a muleteer at Cassino. This mule has been given the name of Susie in memory of Pte A.J. King's mule of that name. The mules and their leaders developed a mutual affection and respect for each other, and their service was of inestimable value to the Chindit Columns of 2 Queens.

An officer of the Battalion has written, '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'.

We like to think that she is representative of all the mules that worked so hard for the British Army, and in particular our own Regiments, not only during the Second World War but in all the campaigns where mules have been employed.



## A Fine RSM Remembered

The death of Mrs. Ethel Adams is reported elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Adams has left to the Regimental Museum the medals of her late husband, RSM A H Adams, DCM of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. 'Buck' Adams, as he was popularly known, was a warrant officer of the old school: in peace time smart, dependable and a kindly but firm disciplinarian; in war brave, cheerful and imperturbable in the worst conditions. He set a good example at all times.

The following extract is taken from 'Eye Witness Accounts of the Operations of the 1st Surreys in the 1939-45 War'. Colonel Boxshall recalls RSM Adams in the middle of a bad bout of shelling on the Escaut in May 1940: 'Everything going up in the air and the ground fairly bumping with shells. We were sitting in a very shallow trench behind Bn HQ, but old Adams was standing up calmly shaving in mid afternoon. Very good for everybody's morale!'

RSM Adams won the DCM for his gallant conduct at Tebourba in November 1942. On his retirement at the end of the Tunisian campaign, the officers of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment presented him with an inscribed silver salver. It was a unique and fitting tribute to a fine soldier. The salver, also left to the Regiment by Mrs Adams, is on display with his medals in the Regimental Museum.

PGEH

## Bubbles in Bangkok

This year the Regimental Museum has been collecting reminiscences of the campaign in Burma, and the period in Thailand after the surrender of the Japanese forces. Contributions have come from many members of The Queen's Royal Regiment and form part of the booklet 'The Queen's in Burma, 1944-45', now obtainable from RHQ The Queen's Regiment or from the Regimental Museum.

Among the many correspondents was Private K. Hall, A Company, 1st Queen's, who sent a photograph of a mobile canteen van, manned (if that is the word) by members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, familiarly known as 'Fany's'. Mr Hall wanted to know about the ladies dispensing char and wads. A certain amount of research was required, but the identity of one of the ladies has been established.

Mrs. Bone, formerly Margaret Westman, but invariably known as 'Bubbles', has written a most cheerful letter recalling those days, of which the following excerpts may revive memories of those days in Bangkok.

'We drove our canteens down to Pak Nam where the LCTs and LSTs came and went to Klong Toi docks, the port, I suppose, of Bangkok, and there I remember The Queen's. A very smart bunch of chaps with their white blanched belts and gaiters. A very friendly company of men - never a cross, angry or rough word. I think there was an evening canteen where we seemed to dole out an endless supply of ice creams. Tea, of course, was the great thing. We could brew it up in the mobile vans.

'Did you put any tea in this tea, Miss?'

'Of course I did'

'Well, who took it out?'

I remember the Fanny Waggon (Canteen) visiting the Gaol. That was the day the waggon caught fire - quickly out, no problem, buns unscorched.

Although I don't seem to have had much to do with The Queen's, I was always immensely impressed with their smartness and politeness, and terribly proud that they were 'our chaps' out there, especially as I'm Surrey born and bred.

I've been to Clandon, of course, and also know the Regimental Chapel in the Cathedral at Guildford. I'd love to come to the Open Day at the Regimental Museum on 28th September.'

## Tangier's March

During some recent private research Captain J.P. Riley came across a reference to a piece of military music called Tangier's March.

It appears that this was the march used by The Queen's (Then referred to as The Old Tangier Regiment or The Governor's Regiment) in Tangier between 1662 and 1684 but its use lapsed when the Regiment returned to England after the evacuation and demolition of the Colony.

The piece was originally written for fife and drum, quoted in **A choice collection of 180 Loyal songs** by Nathaniel Thompson, London 1685. The March was also used as a song, the words being called **Tangier's Lamentation** quoted in **Tangier 1661 - 1684** by EMR Routh, London 1911.

WOI P.Hills, until recently Bandmaster of the Albuhera Band is resetting the music to a march and further details will be published in this Newsletter.



**The Secretary** has been in communication with Major E A Woods, Scots Guards, who is the Secretary of The 2nd DIVISION Dinner Club. Membership is open to any officer who served in 2nd INFANTRY DIVISION between September 1939 and December 1945. 2nd INFANTRY DIVISION will also be holding their KOHIMA weekend at York on the 10/11 May 1986.

Further details can be obtained from The Secretary at RHQ The Queen's Regiment or by writing direct to Major E A Woods, S.G. Headquarters, 2nd INFANTRY DIVISION, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York, YO1 4AU.



## FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

**Brigadier M J DOYLE** who is the Defence & Military Attache, Islamabad writes:- I hope to photograph one day a lovely brass plate in the church at Peshawar (now of course very derelict although still – just – used) of the names of some 32 Queensmen and their families who died in 1902. I am also told of a "Queens Garden" in 'Pindi – now a weed covered plot but where the Paschal Lamb is still visible. I do not know the date but will try to get there soon.

It is amazing to think of the way our Regiment must have lived when stationed here, how uncomfortably dressed, what amazing distances to march in really hard country and bad weather with so few communications of any sort.

**A.E. HILL** who lives in Canada writes:- Thank you for the last edition of the Newsletter which was very interesting, and brought back some very fond memories of my service with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

I was very pleased with the writeup with regard to Major R. Wynn. I have enclosed a photograph of my squad, most of the men were in the first carrier platoon of the 1/5th Queens. In the beginning of 1939 I went to Aldershot for a months course on the Bren carrier. On my return to Guildford I brought the first carrier from the railway station, and started to train a number of the men to form a carrier platoon.

I am going to contact the 5th Bn Association at Guildford, also my wife and I are intending to visit England next year so will be pleased to come to Canterbury and Guildford, which is my home town.



*E.F. Young C. Iddenden R. Pusey H. Rowley R. Bryant S. Corps A. Roberts  
A. Stickler A. Baker M. Walsh A. Frogley H. Nundy S.T. Maule N. Halsey  
R. Wynn L. Turner H. Mainwaring A. Webster J. Barr Lt/Cpl M. Kittoe  
Sgt. Hill Capt. H.N. Merriman 2/Lt. J. Dewsnap Sgt. Furlonger-Bramble  
J. Turing N.D. Wood C. Whitehead W. Stemp*

**Young Soldier H E HANNAN** writes: I read with interest page 1 of the Newsletter, and of the death of Pte William McKay age 98 years, and who might now have been the Regiment's oldest old soldier. I was born on 26th May 1900 making me a mere 85 years old, but could qualify as the Regiment's youngest old soldier.

I went to France in 1915 aged 15 years and 3 months and served with the 9th Bn East Surrey Regt. (The Gallants) from Loos to Ypres and the Somme (wounded). My date of enlistment is given as June 2nd 1915 but actually spent my 15th birthday in Kingston Barracks. June 2nd was the date 20 of us moved to Colchester. The Provost Sergeant at the Depot was Sgt Sadler, who had charge of us. Col. Lawrence took the 9th Bn to France in 1915 but after Loos Col. Delafontaine was the CO.

Sorry to have missed last year's Reunion at Union Jack Club, but hope to attend again this year.

**Major JACK SCHOFIELD**, back from his travels in Australia and New Zealand is already planning his next trip. He writes: 'I am thinking of making a trip to Hong Kong by train, via Moscow, Outer Mongolia, Peking, etc. Could be fun'.

**FRANK BEVILLE** writes from Reading:- Canterbury holds a soft spot for me for I did two courses at Cavalry Barracks in 1940 and for a time 'A' Company, 2/6th Bn was billeted in a large house at Boughton, between Canterbury and Faversham. Behind us, at the top of the hill, stood a number of radar masts which periodically received the attention of enemy planes. The top of the hill, strangely enough, was called Dunkirk!

I was also confirmed at Canterbury Cathedral by the then Bishop of Dover and well recall meeting the 'Red Dean' (Dr. Hewlett Johnson).

**A.M. CAREY** writes:- The Newsletter was certainly of interest (No. 37) and in particular page 14 which showed the 1984 All Ranks Reunion, and included Maj John Rogerson. Could this be Lance Corporal Rogerson of HQ Coy MT under Capt Francis and Sgt James? It certainly looks like him, and he hasn't changed in 23 years. In Aden I remember, he was involved in tests in fighting vehicles wired up from head to foot. I have a picture of him, with myself and three other soldiers.

**J J CHUMLEY** writes from Penarth:- I was overseas when the Regiments were amalgamated and did not know under what name they had been addressed and so I lost contact completely. Owing to the information which you kindly sent me, I will now be able to resume contact once again.

My elder brother, Pte Alfred Thomas Henry Chumley, 6135682 served in the 1st Battalion in Egypt, India and Hong Kong and was eventually killed with his wife and four children during enemy action in London. He was not in service at that time.

**T P G BLATCH, MBE, DFM, RAF (Retd.)** is trying to contact some of his old friends from his Boys Service days. He writes:

My Service in the Old East Surrey Regt (2nd Bn) was confined to Boys Service only, and of comparatively (for those days) short duration.

Nevertheless, throughout my later military career with the Royal Air Force (1939-46) – both as aircrew and subsequently as a POW, I found my grounding in real soldiering during those harsh and uncompromising days at Ypres Lines, Catterick Camp, amongst arguably the most disciplined and well trained soldiers in Europe, to be of inestimable value in all I was fortunate to achieve in subsequent years. It is perhaps understandable that at this point in life (50 odd years on) I view those days, and especially those that shared them with me, with considerable nostalgia and some emotion.

I served one year 3 months with the 2nd Battalion in Ypres Lines, Catterick, as far as my memory serves me the CO was Lt Col Congdon and the Adjt Maj Sutton, the RSM was C Estall MC. My BSM at that time was Arthur Birch (one of two brothers I believe) and the Corporal IC Boys was Les Bishop.

The names of boys (1931) that come to mind and were contemporaries were; Russel, Craggs, Priest, Shipton, Tillet, Foster, Goole, Leniham, Bryanton, Colley (and a brother, who went up to mans service) and last but not least Boy Curtis (a cornet player) with whom I absconded on one occasion and was a particular friend. The Provost Sergeant whose duty it was to show us the error of our ways after returning to Barracks was Sgt Slippard. I must say that that escapade and the experience gleaned even at that tender age (15) stood me in excellent stead in 1942 when I was particular in ensuring that once away I remained that way.

**ASSISTANCE PLEASE.** The Revd. George Gerrard enlisted in the 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in August 1939. He served in the Orderly Room and when the Battalion were at Margate in 1941 he left the battalion and moved to 44 Home Counties Division, at Chaucer Barracks, Canterbury. He later served with 11th Queen's before being commissioned into the R.A.P.C. The Rev. Gerrard is anxious to re-establish contact with an old friend, M A F Edwards who he has not seen since he left 1/5th Queen's. He recalls that Edwards was a journalist on the local paper before the war. Post war he became a reporter for one of the national dailies. Can anybody assist?

If you can help, please write to Revd. G. Gerrard, 9 Holland Court, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1NW.

**S. RAYNOR** writes enclosing a photograph of the grave of Private C.W.S. Pearson, The East Surrey Regt. Pte Pearson is buried near Marienburg, Poland, and is the only Surrey grave in the cemetery. Mr. Raynor reports that all the graves are well kept and tended by the local school children.

**Captain BOB GOODHEW** would like to make contact with any of his old friends. He can be contacted at 51 Copthorne Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. Captain Goodhew served with 1/6 Queens, posted missing and taken prisoner he escaped with a French Canadian officer. Having made contact with the French Maquis, he subsequently commanded one of their units before being seriously wounded. Fortunately for Capt Goodhew he was found by American troops and was flown home to England.

**K BATTEY** Hon Sec. of The Chindits Old Comrades' Association would like to hear from any old comrades. Details can be obtained by writing to K. Battey, Hon Secretary, T.A. & V. R. Centre, Wolseley House, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton.

**F.A.J. TURNER** of 144 Cadnam Close, Tices Meadow, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 3RH would like to hear from any of the Old Peninsular Platoon that are still around (6th February 1931)

**A E C MERRET** writes from Clacton-on-Sea: "The Regimental Association Newsletter improves with every issue and I am continually taken back over the years when I see mention of names that I knew, especially that of Col Mathew-Lannowe who in Lucknow in 1922 in the presence of Captain & Adjutant J B Coates and RSM (Chokey) Sullivan confirmed me in that exalted rank of Lance Corporal. This masterly stroke instigated by Lieutenant Grimston and supported by CSM Boxall set me on course to becoming Battalion Drill Instructor and in later years a Depot Instructor 1928.

Reference in the Newsletter of the sad passing of Col Gibbs reminds me of the hours he and I spent on the banks of the river at Allahabad exercising our vocal chords. As a newly arrived subaltern his voice needed strengthening. I recall that he joined the Battalion rugby team, but rugby was not really his game, as it was of Col East, whose name I have seen mentioned several times recently which reminds me that a number of us including Hackett and Picton were regular guest players for the Lucknow Gymkhana Rugby Club and later Allahabad Club.

I was particularly interested in the article on the battle of Sedgemoor and its reference to Kirke's Lambs because I was born in the town of Bridgewater on the edge of Sedgemoor and although I am getting somewhat ancient myself I was not at that battle! However, I did bring with me when I transferred from the Somerset Light Infantry to The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1921, my Somerset LI regimental number 5664416 and it stayed with me throughout my seven years sojourn with "The Queen's", first at Stoughton and for a short spell with the 1st Battalion at Fermoy Camp, County Cork, thence to the 2nd Battalion at that time in India and then in 1926 to Khartoum and finally to the Depot Staff in 1928. My stay with the 2nd Battalion was brief because I had to return to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, for a tetanus injection and that red caped Matron, relic of the first World War (or was it the Boer War) used something similar to a darning needle for the injection. I can feel it now!

**Major T P LLOYD**, has moved from Liverpool to Malta and is now living at Rose House, Triq-Id-Dwieli, Burmarrad, Malta GC and writes:- I have been along and had a good look at our old barracks, St Georges, and it is pitiful to see the place overrun with weeds and looking utterly dejected. It is possible, if one closes their eyes, to imagine that the Band and Drums are playing - the place is spotless and you hear the sound of marching feet.

One of the Officers' Messes has been turned into a Holiday Complex and I shudder when I think of this, but I suppose it was inevitable when Malta became a Republic. I would like to add that although there have been many changes the Maltese people remain the same and are always keen to talk about old times and some of them remember The Queen's.

**BILL ROADNIGHT** writes:- Some friends of mine recently visited Somerset, and knowing of my connection with 'Kirke's Lambs' visited the field where the Battle of Sedgemoor was fought. They saw the memorial stone as shown in the recent Newsletter, they also visited Chard, where after a few enquiries, found a cottage which had been used as a courtroom by the infamous Judge Jeffreys. The cottage is now occupied by printers, but the actual courtroom is at the rear and an inscription can be found to this effect. On their tour of the West Country they also visited Taunton, where there are strong connections and went to The White Hart where they discovered many interesting facts about the Regiment.

I would also like to know, whether any old members of the Regiment remember any of the following, when the 1st Bn The Queen's won the Army Football Cup in 1925 at Aldershot. Of the team I remember Sgt Hill (Darkie), who could head the ball as far as the average player could kick it; Sgt Hooper (George) right back; Bdsman Woodards centre forward; L/C Barclay (Bill) inside forward; Sgt Caldicott (Skelly) left wing. These all played as honorary players for Aldershot Town. I remember facially, the remainder of the team, but cannot recall their names.

The following year the Battalion won the Eastern Command Hockey Championship at Dover Castle. Cpl Jeans (Beery) was goalkeeper; George Hooper was right back, Bell Burton was centre forward and Skelly Caldicott was left wing. Again I know the faces but not the names of the rest of the team. At the final the Battalion was paraded by companies on the square at Grand Shaft Barracks and marched to Dover Castle. I remember going up Dover Castle Hill, which had a gradient of one in seven and what a relief when we finally arrived! The Battalion teams were always well supported and a good match. I believe Bell Burton (nickname derived from his initials B E L) scored a goal.

The majority of the football team went abroad when the Battalion joined the Shanghai Defence Force in 1927. We had reservists from the Royal Sussex Regiment to make up battalion strength. Three of these finally played in the battalion team.

**L S DUNCAN** of Porirua writes: I recently attended a Burma Star reunion in Wellington. Most were Airforce or Navy, as New Zealanders were not in Burma. I met some very interesting people, all with very interesting tales to relate. The Governor General was also there. I told him that I had been on the North West Frontier in India and told him about the dawn patrol of the latrines at Razmak. The story goes, sometime in history the camp was caught with its 'pants down' by the Pathans hiding in the latrines, which were on the perimeter. As a result of this the perimeter had to be patrolled at dawn, even though we now had machine guns and it was unlikely it ever happening again. No-one took it seriously but this ritual had to be done. Nobody knows who started it, but the latrines had to be attacked at the end of the patrol, so we fixed bayonets and went in. They were made of corrugated iron and had so many bayonet holes in them, it took a brave man to sit there on a cold and windy day! In all my service I think the NWF was a wonderful adventure and I would not have missed it for the world.

**L A S HARBOURNE** writes: The following appeals were extracted from the May-June issues of the Far East Prisoners of War Association magazine and the London FEPOW news sheet are published below:-

Calling all East Surreys who joined up in 1936 - December - particularly Hansley or Ainsley who joined up with Mr H Mellows, 2 Wemyss House, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JJ. His army number 6141832 and you were in the 2nd Bn - Sgt Wards squad.

A C Lawrence, 95 Guildfords, Harlow, Essex CM17 0HY would very much like to find out what happened to his friend Mickey Street who was with him in Hakodate. Mr Street was a 2nd Bn East Surrey man. The pair of them appeared in a concert at Kneller Hall Twickenham, after their return home.





## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT MUSEUM AT CLANDON PARK, GUILDFORD, SURREY.



The Museum is situated at Clandon Park, Guildford, once the ancestral home of the Earls of Onslow, a Palladian-styled house, dating from 1730. The museum is housed in the lower part of the house and consists of three large well-lit rooms and an archives office. When it was agreed, in 1979, that the relics and artefacts of the two founder regiments should be moved from their former home at Portsmouth Road, Kingston-on-Thames to Clandon Park, it was seen to be necessary that the museum should be laid out in a style befitting its surroundings. This has been achieved by the positioning of the display cases, pictures and Colours in such a way that the visitor is not suddenly conscious of having left the stately living rooms of the house above.



**CLANDON PARK GUILDFORD**  
*Built in 1730 once the home of the Earl of Onslow,  
now owned by the National Trust.*

The exhibits are of an exceedingly interesting and varied character, well displayed and arranged in chronological order. To attract the visitor's attention to the whereabouts of the museum, standing in the corridor near the entrance to the first room are the two large cut-out replicas of the Carlisle figures which depict Grenadiers of the 2nd or Queen's Regiment of Foot in 1715. The figures date from this period and were found at Carlisle and subsequently presented to the regiment in 1939. The originals are now with the National Army Museum in Chelsea, who had replicas made for Clandon Park.

Room I covers the period 1661, when The Queen's Royal Regiment was raised as The Tangier Regiment, to 1880, and illustrates the regiment's service in many parts of the world, in particular, in India, South Africa and China. This room contains the three sets of old Colours, showing the original facing Colours of the three regiments – sea green for The Queen's, buff for the 31st and black for the 70th. The maritime connection of The Queen's is noticeable in the form of Admiral Lord Howe's desk from the great cabin of the "Queen Charlotte", a suitable reminder of The Queen's participation as Marines on the "Glorious First of June", for which their badge of the Naval Crown carried on their Colours was awarded. This period also covers the raising of The East Surrey Regiment on 1st June, 1702, as Colonel Villiers' Marines, serving in this role until 1714, when they became Infantry soldiers, as the 31st Foot. The 70th Foot, later to become the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, was also formed during the period depicted in the first room. The regiment was originally raised in 1756 as the 2nd/31st, but became independent in 1758 as the 70th Foot. Among the most interesting smaller exhibits are three beautifully executed miniatures of officers of the three regiments in uniform of the early 19th Century, shown in the same case, with three well-preserved gorgets, c. 1800 of The Queen's (2nd) Royal Regiment and one of the 31st Foot. These items, together with a silver snuff box, belonging to the 31st Foot, which was saved from the troopship "Kent", wrecked whilst transporting the regiment to India in 1825, are the earliest relics of the regiments the museum possesses.

The part played by the 31st in the First Sikh Wars is depicted by an official engraving of the Battle of Sobraon in 1846, against the strong and well-trained Sikh Army, when, after the

first assault had failed, Sergeant Bernard McCabe seized the Regimental Colour, both his officers carrying the Colours having been shot down, and, on his own, carried the Colour to the top of the Sikh ramparts. Inspired by this, the regiment swarmed forward and over-ran the Sikh positions, putting the enemy to rout. Sobraon Day is celebrated annually on 10th February by the present 1st Battalion Queen's Regiment, when the Sergeants' Mess becomes the custodian of the Colours for twenty-four hours. A small portion of the Colours carried by Sergeant McCabe hangs beneath the engraving of the action.

The involvement of The Queen's 2nd Royal Regiment in Afghanistan in 1839 is shown in Case No. 3, which contains the picturesque Coat of the Khan of Khelat, who was killed by Private Maxwell of the regiment. The Khan's sword is also shown, as are the medals of Lt Col R. Carruthers, CB., who commanded the regiment at Ghuznee in July 1839.

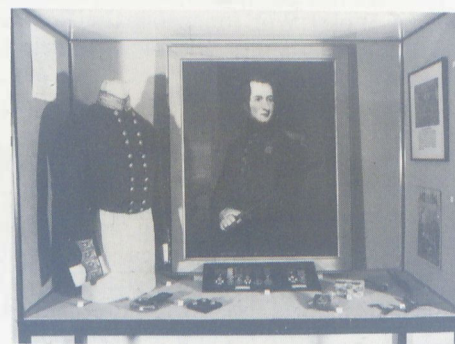


*Room I Case No. 3  
The Coat and Sword of the Khan of Khelat  
Officer's Coatee of The Queen's 2nd Royal Regiment  
circa 1840.*

The room also contains two well-preserved examples of officers' coatees worn during the early Victorian period.

One of the 70th Foot, 1840 and the other from the 3rd Surrey Local Militia 1809-1816. The museum is also fortunate in possessing three very fine Officers' Shoulder Belt Plates for each of the regiments, worn during 1833-1843.

The paths taken by the regiments during the mid-Victorian years is to some extent covered in Case No. 4 which covers both the Sutlej (1845/6) and Crimean (1854/6) Campaign. A well-preserved Officer's Coatee c. 1850, worn by Lt Jeffries, 31st Foot, and an oil painting of Capt E A Noel, 31st Foot, both of whom served in the Sutlej. The medals displayed are those of two Commanding Officers of the 31st, Maj General F Spence, KCB., and Lt Col J Spence, CB. The interesting photograph on the right-hand side shows the surviving Crimean veterans of the 31st Foot in Malta, 1867.



*Room I Case No. 4  
CAPTION Portrait of Captain E.A. Noel 31st Foot  
Officer's Coatee c. 1850 worn by Lt Jeffries 31st Foot.  
Decorations and Medals awarded to two Commanding  
Officers of the 31st, Maj Gen F. Spence, KCB and  
Lt Col J. Spence, CB.*





*Case No. 8  
Headdress insignia worn by Militia and Volunteers  
1859 et seq. The portrait is of Sgt Maj M. Lynch  
3rd Vol Bn Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regt c. 1885.*

Among the headdress is a rare Shako of the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia, worn 1862-1869. The striking oil painting is of Sgt Major M Lynch, 3rd Vol Bn Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Formerly a Regular soldier with The Queen's Regiment, he was awarded the medal for the Second China War 1860, with the bars, Peking 1860 and Taku Forts 1860, the Long Service and Good Conduct and Meritorious Service Medals.

Further examples of uniform and insignia worn by the affiliated Volunteer Units are found in Room II in Case No. 10. The full dress tunic of Lord Wandsworth, Hon Colonel of the 4th Vol Bn East Surrey Regiment, is a fine example of an officer's uniform at the turn of the century.

In addition to the pictures, uniforms, shoulder-belt plates and badges in Room I, in one corner stands the old Guard Room clock, which also served as a letter-box, from The Queen's Royal Regimental Depot at Stoughton Barracks. It still keeps remarkably good time and arouses quiet comment from former members of the regiment.



*Case No. 10  
The full Dress Tunic of Lord Wandsworth, Hon Col  
4th Vol Bn East Surrey Regt.  
Officer's 1878 pattern Helmet and Insignia worn at the  
turn of the century.*

Room II covers the period 1881 to 1919. 1881 was the year when the regiments under the reforms of the then Minister of War, Edward Cardwell, adopted the titles of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and The East Surrey Regiment. Both regiments, in keeping with nearly all units of the British Army in the Victorian era, played their part in the tribal wars on the north-west frontier of India and The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Burmese Wars of 1886/7. This period is covered by a display of smaller relics and photographs, together with medals awarded for these small but hard campaigns. The outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899 drew the 2nd Battalions of both regiments to South Africa and, during this war, they were involved in nearly all the major actions. A much prized item of this time is a scarf, crocheted by Queen Victoria and presented to a selected soldier for distinguished conduct. This scarf was awarded to Colour Sergeant H.G. Clay of the 2nd Bn East Surrey Regiment.

One case contains an interesting original sketch that depicts the 2nd East Surreys capturing Hart's Hill, Natal, on 27th February, 1900. It was drawn by an officer of The Devonshire Regiment, and is a very good portrayal of a typical action of the Boer War. In a corner of the room, some excellent enlarged photographs of both the regiments are shown, which clearly show the dress, equipment and atmosphere of this war. During the last two years of the war, attempts were made to contain the Boer Commandos in certain areas by erecting a chain of blockhouses, linked by barbed wire. These were garrisoned by an NCO and half a dozen men – a very well made brass model of a blockhouse, made, it is thought, by one of the occupants, is positioned over the photographic display and is a good example of what, in a later war, became known as "Trench Art".

The East Surrey Regiment won its first Victoria Cross during these operations. It was awarded to Private A E Curtis, who, after several attempts to assist his wounded Colonel under heavy fire, finally managed, with the later help of another man, to bring Colonel Harris to safety. The pre-1914 War years also saw the award of the first Victoria Cross to The Queen's Royal Regiment. The Cross was awarded to Lieutenant Wallace Wright, at the time attached to The Northern Nigeria Regiment. The award was for the successful action in Nigeria, during which he commanded a force of one other officer and forty-four men



*Case No. 12  
One of the footballs kicked across No Man's Land  
by the 8th (S) Bn East Surreys on the Somme,  
1st July 1916 together with relics of the Great War  
1914/18*

and repelled attacks by 1,000 Horse and 2,000 men for two hours, turning their withdrawal into a full retreat. His group of medals, including a replica Victoria Cross, is hung, with his photograph, on a wall, as you enter the room. Lieutenant Wright later became a Brigadier-General, and, during his career, was made a Companion of the Bath and also of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He gained the DSO during the 1914-18 War. The museum is indeed fortunate to possess such a rare VC award and its accompanying Orders and Medals.

Lack of space restricts the museum's display of relics of the Great War, 1914-1918, but case No. 12, which covers this period, is noticeable by the inclusion of one of the two footballs that were kicked across No Man's Land by B Coy of The 8th Bn East Surreys at Montauban on 1st July 1916 (the first day of the Battle of the Somme). The defence of Hill 60, during which The East Surreys won three Victoria Crosses, is depicted by a painting and some smaller artefacts. A very comprehensive display of photographs of the recipients of the fourteen VC's won by the two regiments during 1914-18 is opposite the Great War case. It conveys with some success the no small part played by the two regiments in that great conflict. A life-sized figure of an officer wearing the uniform and equipment of the period completes the Great War display.





*Case No. 13  
Band Case showing a unique collection of Drum  
Major's Sashes, instruments and a Drummer's full  
dress tunic.*

Music has always been a part of military life, and case No. 13, displaying musical instruments, uniforms and drum majors' sashes makes a colourful and interesting addition to a room containing many relics of a period of full dress and striking headdress, culminating in the rather sombre khaki Service dress.

The third room covers the years from 1920 to the amalgamation of the two regiments as The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1959. Various aspects of the inter-war years are shown in photographs and uniforms.



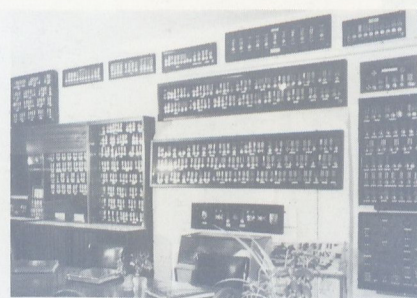
*Part of the "War in the Far East" display  
and Case No. 14 containing relics of the regiment's  
service in World War II*

Three cases are devoted to the uniforms of former Colonels of the regiments. These are displayed against a background of mess items and silver, which, with the Colonel's Orders and Decorations, make a colourful and informative display.

Both The Queen's and The East Surrey Regiments fought in nearly every theatre of the Second World War and a current exhibition of their roles in the "War in the Far East" is shown in Room III. The display is comprised mainly of maps and photographs, both official and personal. Lack of space precludes the showing of large items. The long, hard fight of the Surreys down the length of the Malayan Peninsula and The Queen's battle for Jail Hill and their role in the Chindit Columns are graphically displayed. Case No. 14 contains relics of the regiment's service in North Africa and Italy.

The subsequent service of The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya in 1954/57 against Communist Terrorists is depicted in a case showing a figure clothed in jungle warfare kit, set against a background of the Malayan jungle, with items of equipment used at that time.

The last cases display recent acquisitions and also illustrate the short history of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, followed by its transition into The Queen's Regiment of today.



*The Archives Office.  
Part of the Medal Collection which covers the years  
1800 to 1965.*

For obvious security reasons, the majority of the regiment's magnificent collection of medals are held in the Archives Office. These may be inspected on application to the museum staff. Nearly every campaign the British Army has been involved in is represented. The medals are very well presented and trace the historical background of the regiments from the Napoleonic Wars of the 1800's to the present day. The exhibits in this museum are beautifully arranged and the lighting is excellent in all the rooms. The great advantage the museum enjoys is being housed in a public place to which large numbers of people come who would not otherwise see the exhibits, which are staged in a manner worthy of the regiments from which they came.

JW

#### **First Reunion**

The first Reunion of The 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment TA was held on 12th June 1985, on the Anniversary of the end of the Battle for St Valery en Caux, in 1940. The venue was The Spur Pub, South Worple Way, Mortlake. About forty of us were present, some wives came along too, for a very happy evening.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond were presented to a Guard of Honour comprising veterans and the Standards from Barnes and Mortlake British Legion.

Most of us met old mates for the first time in 45 years. 'The war was re-fought' and stories of happenings were heard from sorties all over the world. One man who worked in the coal mines in Poland found a mate who worked in the pits with him. So it went on with one account of the two years it took after escaping, to find his way through Spain, before he finally arrived at Gibraltar.

An old piano was kindly loaned to us for the occasion, and all the old favourites were lustily sung - we raised the roof. A wonderful nostalgic time was had by all due to mine hosts Kathy & Peter Wright, who not only gave the facilities gratis but helped to organise this Reunion with Mr W J Howard, Secretary (Not an East Surrey) and one of our lads who did not want any more publicity.

We are hoping to arrange to reunite at St Valery en Caux on 12th June 1986.

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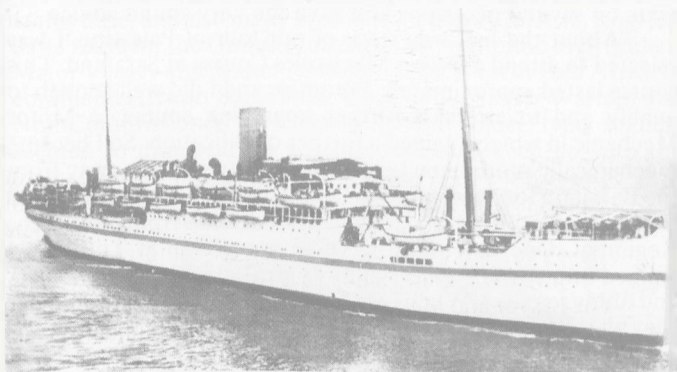






\* Palestine - January 1939 - September 1940

The routine of embarkation at Southampton went with the military precision that one would expect from our Battalion. Of course, it, like the 1st Battalion had considerable experience at trooping by sea, but there were a number of us who had never been abroad or on a troop ship before. This was all new to us and we were excited at what may lie before us. H T Nevasa was a well known troop ship to all the old hands; as we went aboard we were allocated to a Mess Deck, I think mine was about four decks down. There were no cabins or berths as was to become the fashion later, except of course for the officers. All our kit bags and heavy equipment was stowed in the baggage hold, and we were left with just small items for the voyage. The Mess Deck consisted of a number of tables and benches uniformly arranged. Sleeping was in hammocks which were kept down below decks in a hammock room. These could not be collected before about 2000 hours each evening, and would have to be neatly rolled and returned immediately after revellie each morning. The more experienced old hands would reserve all the good places for slinging their hammocks while we the in-experienced, had to learn all the tricks of living and sleeping on a troop ship, but by and large everyone mucked in and we all very soon settled in.



The second NEVASA 1913-1948

The sight of troop ships leaving Southampton as of old is now a thing of the past, but was I suppose revived to some extent during the recent Falklands War in 1982. It was a common sight pre war. As the troop ship left Southampton Waters and edged into the Solent, a military band could be heard playing 'Auld Lang Syne', whilst a fleet of small ships carrying well wishers of those aboard or senior officers with regimental connections paying their respects to the departing Regiment would follow the ship until it reached more open waters, then they would return from whence they had come.

By the time the first night at sea had passed, most of us were well and truly sea sick, but by the third day we had begun to find our sea legs and the remainder of the voyage passed pleasantly. On about the 11th January 1939 we docked at Haifa. Dis-embarkation began immediately with the same military precision as for embarking, and in a very short time we were embussed and were on our way to our final destination which was a place called Tulkarm.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company were based in Tulkarm, C Company were billeted in the Kadoorie Agricultural School nearby; B Company were billeted in a Girls School on a hill about a mile away; D Company were ten miles away at a place called Qalqilya, whilst A Company went on to their main base called Baqa-al-Gharbiya with a platoon detached at an out-post called Dier-al-Ghusun.

The Battalion was relieving The Royal Scots and we were to take over their transport. The first thing the MT Section did on arrival was to allocate a vehicle to each driver. When my name was called out and the registration number of the vehicle, off I went to find my charge; imagine my surprise when having located it, I found a monster 30cwt 6 wheeled lorry facing me. I thought the MT Sgt, Sgt Galloper Ottaway had made a mistake, for up to then I had driven nothing bigger than a 15cwt truck! "No Atkins, I haven't made a mistake, what's the matter, can't you handle it?" was Sgt Ottaway's comment, and so with pride hurt off I went to sort out this monster. Some twenty minutes



The Battalion marching on to the pier at Cowes on the way to embark for Palestine.

later spent looking for the self-starter, I eventually found a button that looked somewhat dangerous. I crossed my fingers, and pressed, the old bus roared into life. The next difficulty was to climb into the driving seat, this was situated high up over the front wheels, the engine cab receding back into the drivers cab. There was no fixed covered driving cab. It was wide open to the elements. There was a canvas screen and a folded canvas hood available. When it rained this had to be laced up across the front of the vehicle to keep out the rain. Of course, it didn't do anything of the kind and so when it did rain, and it did, and often, one drove the vehicle through squinted eyes to keep the rain out of them, and indeed got very wet in the bargain; but I was very young, and it was all good fun. Boldness now overtook me, and setting the vehicle in motion I drove out of the Tulkarm Perimeter for the first time.

A trip to the P O L Point was called for and this was down near C Company in the Kadoorie School. Just outside the Tulkarm Gate and before entering the Kadoorie School Gate was a left hand blind corner. No-one had told me that in Palestine one drove on the right of the road or at least I can't remember anyone telling me. Of course Atkins was on the left hand side of the road approaching this blind corner, when from the opposite direction hurtling around the corner on it's correct side of the road came a Rolls Royce Armoured Car, I think driven by R A F personnel. Disaster was only averted by the skill of the Rolls Royce driver who having stopped, gave my ears a verbal pounding with some very forceful and very rude comments, and then went on his way. I promised myself to do better in the future and to stick literally and physically to the right side of the road.

The Battalion was soon involved on search and check operations of Arab and Jewish Settlements; that was the reason for us being there. Of course even today, some fifty years later the reader will be aware of the troubles and strifes that continue to be-devil this Promised Land, and one wonders if they ever will know any peace or tranquility. One can always trust the british soldier to pick a nickname for something or other that he is involved in and so it was for this search and check type operation that the name 'Oozleing' was introduced; I don't know where it originated from or by whom, but it certainly seemed an appropriate name. Dress was the problem for these operations; in those days our working suits were two piece canvas jacket and trousers; these as such were not suitable, neither was the khaki drill shorts or trousers practicable. I do not know where the idea originated, but very shortly after our arrival we handed in our canvas jackets and trousers, and these were made into one piece overalls by sewing the jackets onto the trousers. The different shades of tops and bottoms after they had been sewn together had to be seen to be believed. These one piece suits were however certainly much more practicable, and they were very soon dubbed 'Oozleing Suits'. I can't help wondering why we went to all this trouble. Fitters and tank corp crews were issued with purpose designed one piece overalls even in those days of 1939, and there must have been thousands of these overalls in Ordnance Stores. I suppose the answer to that one is 'Well old boy, there are such things as Dress Regulations, Clothing Regulations and of course red tape', enough said!



The MT drivers contribution on these exercises were obviously to convey the troops to their destination or as near as possible. Often it was a case of moving throughout the hours of darkness, switching off lights well before nearing the dropping off point for the troops taking part, so that they could arrive, and surround the area before dawn broke. This was easier said than done; for in many cases it meant a very steep climb over very bare and rock strewn hills before the cordon party could be in position well before dawn broke. Surprise was of the utmost importance, for if the Arab and Jewish rebels got wind of our coming they were off before one had time to say 'Whoa'!

Whilst the operations in and around the village were being conducted by the marching troops, the MT would be echeloned along a main road, with check-points at each end of the convoy, manned by MT drivers. Their job, to stop all transport no matter of what variety, cars, lorries, donkeys, check the contents of the transport, and the identity of the drivers and passengers. Most of the lorries would be carrying large sacks of citrus fruits such as oranges and grapefruits. I must confess it was strange how so many of these sacks of fruit fell off the back of the lorry just as it had started off again after being checked, of course, we shouted after the driver, not too loudly, but he wouldn't hear above the noise of his motor and so we were always well provided for with fresh fruit.



"B" Company (Roycol) on their first operation at Bala.

Of course, whilst on these operations, the MT drivers, being a resourceful group of chaps, would have the facilities for making a continuous supply of hot tea, and it was on one of these that we got to know that the then Captain H.G. Duncombe loved his cuppa. On one occasion however, we almost succeeded in putting him off our style of brewing; for he had seen us stirring the tea with a dirty old stick. He gave us a good verbal wiggling for this, so we thereafter mended our erring ways, and he continued to enjoy a cuppa without fear of finishing up with a gippy tummy.

The MT drivers lot in Palestine was a very busy one. As well as the operational side, there were many other duties requiring transport. One of the favourite details was for the Quartermaster, then Captain Buzz Waspé. This always meant a trip into Haifa, Sarafund, Tel-Aviv or Jerusalem, and most of the day away from Battalion Headquarters. Being the driver of one of the larger vehicles, I often clicked for this duty, although I have a suspicion there was collusion between the MTO, then Captain J.U. Stobbs, the MT Sgt, SGT Ottaway, and the



A convoy about to leave Tulkarm.



The road to Deir-al-Ghusun.

Quartermaster as to who the driver was to be; for I seemed to get this detail more often than most; but then if Buzz Waspé said he wanted someone or something he usually had his way. I got to know him fairly well; for on all these trips he would be high up in the passenger seat of my monster, and our trips usually turned out to be memorable for the conversation between the two of us. It is appropriate at this stage of the story to say that Buzz Waspé was a very much loved and respected officer by the rank and file. He could be rascally, witty, sharp, and not beyond leading one up the garden path with a rumour or two, but always he retained that distance which is right and proper between an Officer and an other rank. Buzz Waspé was an inspiration to me later when I was a very young and inexperienced MT Sergeant, he took me aside on several occasions and gave me very sound advice.

About the half-way stage of our tour of Palestine, I was selected to attend a Driver Mechanics Course at Sarafand. This course lasted approximately 3 months, and I did well enough to qualify and to attend a further upgrading course to Motor Mechanic in which I gained a further qualification. So I became mechanically more knowledgeable. Of course being away from the Battalion for a few months I missed a lot of nights out of bed through operations, and also gained new friends from outside the Regiment. One day, not long after our arrival at Tulkarm, I walked into the MT billet, and was greeted with much ribaldry and funny remarks. When I asked the chaps what it was all about, they all stood up to attention and said "Congratulations L/Cpl".



The post at Baqa.

that was the first that I had heard of it. Off I went to see the MTO to ask if there was any truth in it. Captain Stobbs said that he would like me to take a L/Cpl stripe. I promptly turned it down; "How on earth" I said "could I possibly give orders and control soldiers who had so much more service and experience than I, a strip of a lad with just about two years service". The MTO asked me to go away and think about it, and so I went back to the billet and told the chaps that I was not going to take the stripe, and I gave them the same reasons that I had given the MTO. It speaks volumes for those older and more experienced soldiers; to a man they told me not to be a bloody fool and to take the promotion. I will never forget the words they said "Tommy Atkins, we could have had promotion a long time ago if we had wanted, but we didn't so therefore we cannot grumble if a younger lad like yourself comes along with the chance; rest assured, we will not let you down if you take the stripes". The names of some of these chaps were, George Deacon, Micky Price, Bomber Smith, Snowy Hersy, Stuttsie Thorogood, Binnie Barnes and a Pte King, and what is more important, they never did let me down. I said somewhere back in the Isle of Wight story that I counted it a privilege to be with such chaps and have them as my mates; I could not have asked for a better or more loyal bunch with which



to start on the lowest but most difficult rung of the promotion ladder, that of an Unpaid Acting, L/Cpl. Believe me when I say it was difficult; for the slightest misdemeanor one would very soon be deprived of his stripe, perhaps that was what frightened me.

With the declaration of War in September 1939 the security duties were somewhat scaled down as Arab and Jew became temporarily reconciled and they were mostly pro-British. The Battalion moved down to the Dead Sea Area to train for modern war, what a shock was in store for us. One of the training exercises was "Relief in the Trenches". We completed this stage of training at Jericho Camp in the Dead Sea area. The Battalion Lines were a sight for sore eyes and it was a good thing there was no hostile aircraft in the vicinity. It would have had a field day; our lines were of peace time standard, everything lined up dead straight, every stone in the vicinity white washed. It was an enemy aircraft pilots dream, but fortunately the war hadn't reached that stage and I suppose the powers that be realised this. One cannot think that our Senior General would have let this be if there had been the slightest danger of this happening.

The Battalion moved from Jericho Camp to Latrun for further training, and from there to Gadera, another tented camp; but this time with a difference, in that we had square type tents known as E P I P instead of the usual old fashioned bell tents. They were staggered and we had to dig down so that only the roof of the tent was above ground.

There was much coming and going of Officers and NCO's at this time, and also many promotions, Lieut-Col R.K. Ross left us en route for the United Kingdom and promotion to Brigadier; Major Veasey and Major Combe left for West or East Africa to command African Battalions. Many of our senior Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers and some older type soldiers seemed to disappear. It was impossible to keep up with the



WAZIRISTAN 1921 - PALESTINE 1939

The photo shows twelve members of the 2nd Battalion who saw service in Waziristan

L/Cpl Dudley, Cpl Poulter, C/Sgt McCoy, Bds. Carpenter, RQMS Buckenham MM, P.S.M. Smith, Sgt Wells DCM, MM, Pte Peters, Major Combe, Lt Col Ross, DSO, MC, Major Haggard, Capt (QM) Waspe.

postings. In less than no time I found myself promoted to full Corporal on the MT Section and sent to A Company to look after that company's motor transport. A very young Company Commander by the name of D. Lloyd Owen was in Command with a 2/Lt T.V. Close as his Second In Command. However, there were still a hard core of the old 2nd Battalion Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers still with us, amongst them were, RSM Sharpe, CSM Fred Harcup, CSM Len Wells, DCM, MM, D/M Henderson, I think Sgt Mountjoy (Signals), Sgt Fred Jode, Sgt Bomber Brown (MT Sgt), Sgt Hacker, Sgt Hargreaves, Sgt Chirpy Watson, Sgt Spike Gage and in most cases these were the ones who formed the back-bone of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. There were others but their names escape me. I think it would be fair to say that up to the time of all these changes, made necessary by the declaration of War, the morale and standing of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was never finer; it was a very happy and well run Battalion. This is not to say that they did not maintain these standards, they certainly did, but it was with changed personnel at the top in the Officers and Sgts Messes, but this made a little difference, at least I thought so, but then I was only an insignificant and unknown Cpl in the MT Section. Whether my opinion holds any sway is another matter, but I was and always will be biased towards the 2nd Battalion. On the 7th September 1940 we went on active service in the Western Desert. TA

To be continued.

## DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

During this year, in our Museum, there have been many additions. Some have been of especial importance, some of simple significance, but all so very welcome. In his Newsletter Notes of May 1985, our President recorded his gratitude to those who supported his appeal, which made possible the purchase of three sets of medals. The details were:-

Brigadier-General Mathew-Lannowe, CMG., DSO., late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

He had the India General Service Medals of 1895 and of 1908, with a total of five bars, the First World War Medals, and the Delhi Durbar Medal of 1911. He was born in 1875, retired in 1931.

Lance-Sergeant W.H.M. Osborn, DCM., MM and Bar, late The East Surrey Regiment.

He took part in the famous 8 Surreys "Football" attack at Montauban, 1916.

Major R. Wynn, DCM., late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

He had 2nd World War Medals. His DCM was the first awarded (May 1940) in that war in the Regiment; at the time he was a Sergeant.

Other sets bequeathed, or presented, have been:-

R.S.M. A.H. Adams, DCM., late The East Surrey Regiment.

"Buck" Adams had 2nd World War Medals and was R.S.M. of 1 Surreys from 1939-43. Presented by his widow on her death last May.

Colonel A.P. Drayson, OBE., late The East Surrey Regiment and Honorary Colonel 6th Battalion. In addition to First World War Medals, he had T.D. from King George V and T.D. with two Bars from Queen Elizabeth II., also Croix de Guerre 1914-18 (French). He was in the Regiment from 1897 to 1947. His son presented the set to the Regiment in 1965. As Colonel Drayson had been so long in the 6th Battalion, it was loaned to 4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Their successors have recently returned the set to the Museum.

Captain C.R.T. Hopkinson, late The East Surrey Regiment. Presented by his son, Major-General G.C. Hopkinson, CB., DSO., OBE., MC.

Captain Hopkinson had the medals for the South African and First World Wars. He was killed in action in September 1914, in the Cameroons, attached to 1st Nigerian Regiment, West Africa Frontier Force.

Private E.F. Tidy, late The Queen's Royal Regiment. First World War Medals and India General Service Medal 1908.

Private E.L. Maidman, late The Queen's Royal Regiment. First World War Medals.

Private E.P. Clark, late The East Surrey Regiment. First World War Medals. He was killed in action at Loos in October, 1915.

Col. A.M. Tringham DSO., OBE., late The Queen's Royal Regiment. He had the India Medal 1895 with two bars, the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902 with four bars, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal with Mention in Despatches. His DSO was won as a Lieutenant attached to 1st Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment. His decorations and medals were presented by his daughter, Mrs. P. Critchley.

Major H.C. Leon, late The Queen's Royal Regiment. He had the MC, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with Bar '8th Army', Defence Medal and War Medal. Major Leon served most of the War with 5 Queen's. Later he became a Judge and was author of comic law books such as "Brothers in Law" under the pen name of Henry Cecil. He died in May 1976. His medals were presented by his widow.

The Medal Man

## Donations

The Trustees wish to record their thanks to the following ladies and gentlemen for their donations:-

Major General G A White, MBE, F Alcock.

In memory of Mrs Lillian Cowie: A W Blackstone, R Thompson, E M Hurley, M C Fisher, T M J Riordan, A L Dawney, J Smith, C B E Cowie, E M Gwynn, Lt Col Field, Major P G E Hill, D I Renwick, M Fisher.

Mrs Bigg in memory of her husband Sgt Bigg.

# The Colours of the Second or Queen's Royal Regiment 1661 - 1959 (Continued)

1772-1806

New Colours were presented to the Regiment in Gibraltar in 1772. These Colours followed the same pattern as those of 1768; their presentation is recorded in the **Army Inspection Returns** for 1772. These Colours remained in service until 1806.

In 1795 The Queen's raised a Second Battalion. This remained in being for one year only and no Colours were authorised for it. The 1st Battalion Colours remained in England at this time as the Battalion was split between Marine Service and the provision of a large detachment for duty in the West Indies.

In 1801, The Regiment, reunited, took part in the Egyptian campaign for which the distinction "EGYPT" was awarded. This takes the form of the Sphinx superscribed "Egypt" with a wreath below and it is borne on the Regimental Colour. The distinction is shown as Figure 1.

The significance of the Sphinx with Egypt is that it is the first Battle Honour to have been awarded. Those Honours which pre-date it have all been awarded retrospectively.

## The Peninsular War Colours and the Period to 1847

The Colours of 1772 being much worn, new Colours were again presented to the Regiment in 1806. The same pattern as before is followed but there were some important changes in detail.

The first or King's Colour is based on the Union. The major change here from 1772 was that following the Act of Union with Ireland, the red saltire of St Patrick was added to the Union, which assumed its present form. In the centre was Queen Catherine's Cypher within the Garter surmounted by a Crown. Below this was a scroll bearing the words "Queen's Royal" and below this the Sphinx.

The Second or Regimental Colour was blue with the Union in the first canton. In the centre was the Cypher, Garter, scroll and Sphinx as on the King's Colour. In each corner of this colour was a Paschal Lamb bearing a flag and below each Lamb, the motto "Pristinae Virtutis Memor". There is a difference of opinion as to whether or not there was a Lamb on the Union in the top sinister canton: The College of Arms MS shews none, but Canon's description of the Colour gives it - the reasons for this will be discussed below.

The real significance of these Colours is that for the first time since 1661, the Lamb is described as Paschal, and bears a flag which is held in the front near foot over the front near shoulder; the flag is swallow-tailed.

The motto "Pristinae Virtutis Memor", which also appears here although it will be recalled from the Colours of 1751 can be approximately translated as "Mindful of the valour of former days" - in other words, those who have inherited noble traditions from the past are more likely to live up to them in war than those who have none.

These Colours were carried throughout the Peninsular War for which a number of Battle Honours were awarded and carried on both Colours. There is again a discrepancy about these. The College of Arms MS gives the following:

- "SALAMANCA" - Above the Crown
- "VITTORIA" -
- "PYRENEES" - Left side of the Cypher
- "NIVELLE" -
- "TOULOUSE" - Right side of the Cypher
- "PENINSULA" - Below the Sphinx.

Canon, however, in his **Historical Record of The Queen's** describes the Colours and gives the Battle Honours as:

- "VIMIERA" - Above the Crown
- "CORUNNA" -
- "VITTORIA" -
- "PYRENNES" - Left side of the Cypher. Note spelling differences.
- "SALAMANCA" -
- "NIVELLE" -
- "TOULOUSE" - Right side of the Cypher
- "PENINSULAR" - Below the Sphinx.



FIGURE 1

*The Sphinx superscribed "Egypt"*

Much leeway was allowed to makers of Colours in those days and it is possible that this is the reason for the difference between the authorised pattern and that actually seen in use. It is also quite likely that further Honours were added as they were awarded.

These Colours were replaced in 1820. The general scheme is again basically the same but there are again differences in detail. The first of these is the addition of a wreath of Roses, Thistles and Shamrock around the outside of the Garter on both Colours. There is also a further modification of the Lamb which now has the nimbus or halo, and the flag is square; this is shown as Figure 2.

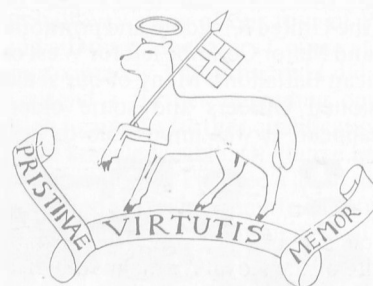


FIGURE 2

*The Paschal Lamb 1820*

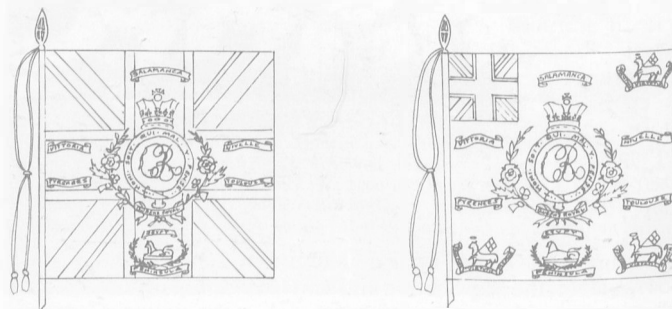


FIGURE 3

*First or King's Colour*

*Second or Regimental Colour*

Here, for the first time, the Colours have assumed approximately their modern form although they were still six feet square - designed to be carried and seen in battle. The 1820 Colours were a particularly beautiful set; an excellent painting of them is held by the College of Arms but the line drawing of them at Figure 3 does them no real justice.

These Colours were carried during the campaign in Afghanistan 1839-40, and remained in service until 1847.

OID

(To be continued)



## A TRUE RELATION OF OURE MOSTE EXCELLANT VICTORIE OVER THE FORCES OF REBELLION AT SEDGEMOOR IN THE COUNTIE OF SOMERSET.

(Being a despatch from **Jonathon Smitewell**, Pikeman, and **Nicholas Scratchquill**, Drummer, of Kirke's Regiment, who didde attend the 300th Anniversary celebrations of ye said battel on 4th July, MCMLXXXV).

"Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him". (Psalm 26).

To oure President and all Loyall Lambs, Greeting.

Being encamped close by, a message came to myselfe and my noble companion that divers persons didde purpose to rebell-dogges at SEDGEMOOR by oure brave Regiment. By consent, therefore, wee purpos'd ourselfes to attende this rout, bein fill'd with a loathing of treasoun and wishing to see the Vermin exterminated once and for alle time.

Therefore wee didde descent in grate glee upon the toun of BRIDGE-WATER. After refreshing ourselfes right speedily at a pot-house (the day being mightily hot) we engaged a carriage to the place where the battel was to be fowt.

Alle there was found in perfect order by the grace of the local Militia and the hand of Doctor CHANDLER, chiefest arraigner of the fight. Before the battle we did regale ourselfes upon such sundry entertainment as was to be found within the Royall Camp - to whit ale, provender and divers entertainments such as bear baytinge, witch-burning, Oxe-rosteyng and moreover Whippyng and stocking of certain captur'd rebell ne'er-do-well churls whom the loyall populace didde pelt with ordure and rotting fishe, at which we didde laff muchly at their discomfiture.

It hath been noticed that the good Nicolas and I have run up a score both for ale and for sundry favours which we bee not like to meet untill oure Armie shall have the pillage of the Citie of London itself.

Butt these are small matters and wee did place ourselfes to watch the spectacle. Oure harts dide fill with grate good cheer to see the noble site of the Royal Armie marchynge onto the field moste correct in theyr dresse and alle details of weaponry and accoutrements. Most prominent was oore owne fearless Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Bantock. Theyr warlike appearance was like to strike terror into the stoutest rebbell.

This day being Sunday, many of oure godly troops didde take the blessed Sacrament from the courageous Priests who mov'd among them, following the exhortation of His moste gracious and Catholick Majestie King James. Wee didde expect thatt the rebbell curs would not venture onto the battelfield but keep the day with that protestant gloom and melancholie which doth pervade alle that they doe (thus shewing forth the lowering of spirits consequent on such horrid tresoun as they doe perpetrate). However they didde not feer profanacioun of the daye, and didde issue out, unable to form themselfes into bodies, and star'd amazed and cow'd at the sighte of the Royall Armie. Theyr bowst wee hav hear'd before, that they are the sword of GIDEON and the LORD, but these bee but the empty words of blaggards.

Oure harts, already rejoicing at the thowt of hard blows being dealt upon them, didde laffe the more as battel was joyned - the Rebells knew not the strength of oure forces and were thus subjected all the while to a decimayting fire of cannon and musquetry, and ridden over at intervals by oure brave horsemenn.

Hot deedes were done that day, for they did see theyr perilous case, and fowt the more urgentlie, like a rat doeth in a trapp when he sees his death coming upon him. But atte laste our forces had destroy'd all the rebells save a sorry handfull, taking much prisoners and grate store of spoil and booty. This remnaunt were pursued with vigour as they made shift to crawl back to theyr nest (led by theyr king MONMOUTH himself who did flee the fastest) and wee did rowt them out with much ease.

Oure Menn's attention now turn'd to theyr prisoners. Manie of these were dealt with at once by Colonel Kirke's brave soldiery, precipitating any need for Judge or Jury. The Colonel and his Officers did later hold Court at TAUNTON where manie noted rogues and fowl rebells were arraigned. A liste of theyr crimes and offences was display'd, at which Master Nicolas and I didde blench at the thowt of such infamy, used tho' wee bee to the horrid deedes of rebells.

Kirke's Regiment did make shift to hang many as they so richly deserv'd but some didde stink so vilely as would not permit our daintie fellowes nigh, soe they mayde shift to shoot some, and pike others before marching off rejoycing, leaving the bloudie corse to the crows: mourn'd by none save certain strumpets out of TAUNTON.

Master Nicolas and I did once more refresh ourselfes and return'd with uncertin steppes to oure carraige. Thence to oure camp, jubilant at oure grate Victorie and confident that wee and oure Regiment should deal likewise and speedily with alle thowse curs'd and vile menn whoe doe take up armes agaynst oure Annoited King.

Have-a-Care!

Yr obedient servaunts,  
J.S. and N.S.

## REGIMENTAL FIRESCREEN

The museum has recently acquired an embroidered fire screen, which was presented by The Reverend Douglas HOWELL-EVERSON who gives the following history of himself and Larry:-

Many years ago I was Adjutant of the 598 LAA Regiment (The Queen's) and during that period my wife started to embroider a fire-screen for the Officers' Mess.

I joined the 4th Bn The Queen's at Munichtime when it was converted to Searchlights and we wore "Larry" again for a short time. I later became a gunner officer dealing with the esoteric and interesting matter of survey, flashfinding and sound-ranging. However when 10th Survey Regiment packed up, I was posted in 1946 to 127 LAA Regiment, which turned out to have been the old 4th Queen's, and which still wore "Larry" (against regulations).



When I left the Regular Army after the war I lived again in Croydon and joined the local TA - 598 LAA - which turned out to be the old 4th Queens Royal Regiment, retaining the Battalion Colours and wore "Larry". I was asked by the CO if I would take on the Adjutants job to which I readily agreed. With the folding up of Anti Aircraft Command my connection with the Regiment ended. As one can see my relationship with The Regiment has been rather like lover and mistress than a solid marriage, and the main link between us has been "Larry", in various forms.

The Fire Screen was made by my wife, and was started with the intention of placing it in the Officers Mess, but before it was complete the Regiment was disbanded and she did not have the heart to complete it. It then spent many years incomplete. In the meantime I had a call and resigned my commission. When I took up my first living, Pat, my wife, decided to finish Larry, where he found a home at the foot of a stained glass window. For many years he honoured Birchover Parsonage and when I came up to Bamford St John The Baptist, there he was again for he also has the emblem of St John.

598 was a wonderful Regiment and retained The Queen's spirit fiercely, I was broken hearted to fold it up and the last Part One Order, closing it down, bears my signature. It was the saddest thing I ever wrote. I still get the feeling however, that Larry and I have not said Adieu and that somehow and somewhere we shall meet again.

DHE

### Visit to Salerno War Cemetery

My two sons and I went to see my brother's grave, from Naples, on Tuesday 16th April 1985. The grave site is in the Plain of Salerno, half a mile or so inland from the beach, and surrounded by hills a few miles away, which rise sharply from the plain, forming an amphitheatre.

The Cemetery is kept as near perfect as is humanly possible. There is a large white marble block, with the words "Their name liveth for evermore" just inside the entrance, and behind it 100 yards away at the back of the large beautifully grassed area of the site, is a tall white marble cross, plain except for a long black inverted sword, the hilt coinciding with the cross at its slender top.

To right and left, in rows of 48, 6 lines from front to back, are white marble headstones in perfect rows, carved with names, age (many in their 20's), Regimental or unit badge and Regimental number, and often a few words in memory, below 111 are dedicated to 'A Soldier of the Second World War' : "Known unto God".

To right and left, again, of these two plots, are four more with extra rows behind. 1849 graves in total. Each row of headstones stands in a continuous weed-free flower bed, with small plants, in flower. In four locations in the cemetery stand large, square, marble pergolas, covered with flowering wisteria.

Extremely sad though our visit was, we cannot but be thankful that all lie in such a beautiful, peaceful place.

GAO

*Mr Geoffrey Oswald recently visited Salerno War Cemetery accompanied by his two sons. Mr. Oswald is the son of Lt Col K.A. Oswald DSO, who commanded 3/4 Queens during the First World War and whose death aged 96 occurred in July 1983.*

*His brother Major N A Oswald MC was killed on the beach at Salerno and another relative W J N Oswald served during the Second World War with the 1/5th.*

*Mr Oswald and his sons took a large number of photographs of Queen's graves at Salerno and he has very kindly forwarded them for retention in the archives. Should any reader who knows of a relative who may like a picture please advise them to contact the Secretary at RHQ Canterbury.*



### Regimental Deaths

**Bacchus** - In June 1985, Captain Robert Arthur Bacchus, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Boyes** - On 19th October 1985, Captain Ivor Jardine Johnstone Boyes aged 75, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the 2/6 Bn.

**Brooks** - On 3rd August 1985 Bandmaster C H Brookes, MBE, ARCM, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Bandmaster Brooks was Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion Band from 1933 to 1947.

**Clark-Kennedy** - Archibald Edmund Clark-Kennedy aged 92 years. Distinguished physician and medical educationist, author and sportsman. In 1914 he was commissioned in the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment and served as a combatant officer in India and Mesopotamia until 1917 when he returned to England to qualify in medicine. Later in the war he returned to the front as a medical officer with the Royal Field Artillery.

**Combe** - On 7th October 1985, Colonel Harold Percy (Babe) Combe aged 86 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment (see obituary).

**Denny** - On August 5th, Sir Lionel Denny, CBE, MC, aged 88 on his birthday, The East Surrey Regiment. Served throughout the First World War, was wounded three times and was awarded the MC. He was Lord Mayor of London from 1965 to 1966.

**Fullbrook** - On 13th June 1985, Cpl Eric (Tubby) Fullbrook, 2/6th Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Corporal Fullbrook was called up in April 1940 in The Royal Berkshire Regiment but was posted to 2/6 Queen's in June 1940. He was seriously wounded at Salerno.

**Kimmerling** - On 16th September 1985 Lt Col Peter Charles Kimmerling aged 75, The East Surrey Regiment. (See obituary).

**Lewis** - On 28th July 1985 In Pensioner Edward Lewis aged 90 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

**Troy** - In February 1985 Lance Corporal W J Troy of the Signal Platoon. L/Cpl Troy was badly wounded at Anzio and returned to the Battalion at the cessation of hostilities.

**White** - In October 1985 WOII Charles Frederick White aged 78, The East Surrey Regiment. He was with the 2nd Battalion in Shanghai and was seconded to Malaysian Forces. He was a P.O.W. throughout the war.

### Regimental Families

**Adams** - On 7th May 1985, Mrs. Ethel Lucy Adams aged 90 years, widow of the late RSM A M Adams, DCM, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Alderman** - In October 1985, Mrs. Lilian Kate Alderman aged 79, widow of RSM Ted Alderman, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Barsotti** - On 18th October 1985, Mrs. Gladys Mary Barsotti wife of Bandmaster R. Barsotti, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Cowie** - On August 7th 1985, Mrs. Lillian Cowie, wife of Major C. Cowie, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Tripp** - On 20th October 1985, Mrs. Alice Emily Tripp, widow of B.H. Tripp, The East Surrey Regiment.



## Lt. Colonel P.C. Kimmerling TD.

I first met PK about 70 years ago and we have been firm friends ever since. We went to the same Kindergarten and Public School together.

Born of French parents in this country he was obliged to do two years military service in France in a Tank regiment.

On completion of this service he returned to England and joined my Father's firm of London Stockjobbers. He later moved to a firm of Stockbrokers.

In 1938 he was commissioned into the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment TA. When the Territorial Army was doubled the Battalion was split in 1939 and he and I served in the 2/6th Battalion where he became Transport Officer.

When the Battalion was ambushed on the 10/11th June 1940 and told to split up he was able to lead a small contingent of the survivors down the cliffs at Veules-les-Roses – a place where the Kimmerling family, as children, used to play when holidaying in France – to waiting naval transport and returned to England. At that time our paths separated again as I was made a PoW.

PK went on to become a Lt.Colonel and saw action in Italy where he was severely wounded. He married Joan (the novelist, Patricia Ormsby) in 1943.

At the end of the war he returned to his firm on the London Stock Exchange and eventually became senior partner until his retirement.

He worked tirelessly for the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park of which he was a Trustee.

He was always extremely popular. He was a good games player and scholar. He frequently got into mischief as a small boy. We frequently got into trouble together.

He attracted the greatest affection and respect from his brother officers and from those under his command. Since he was bi-lingual his value in France in 1940 was enormous and he had a good way of getting things done. He had a host of friends – especially on the London Stock Exchange.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Joan, and the whole Kimmerling family.

He will be greatly missed by a large spectrum of friends.  
P.S.

## Colonel H.P. Combe, O.B.E.

"Babe" Combe was commissioned from the R.M.C. into The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1918 and in May, aged 19, joined the 8th Bn. in France. He was gassed and wounded in October.

In 1919 he joined the 2nd Bn. at Aldershot, sailed for India with them in September, and served with the battalion in India and Khartoum till 1929, and again in Palestine in 1938.

Babe spent many years in Nigeria. At various times between 1929 and 1949 he spent 12 years with the Nigeria Regiment, 6 commanding Battalions, and was an administrative officer for 3 years after he retired in 1949.

In 1950 he was made an O.B.E.

He much enjoyed his polo with The Queen's in India and in West Africa where he played for Nigeria against the Gold Coast.

Babe married Barbara Harris in 1941 and they had one son. To Bar and Michael we send much sympathy.

LSS

## Colonel J.B. Coates writes:-

Babe Combe and I sailed to India with 2nd Queen's under Colonel Crofts in the City of Marseilles in September 1919. Of those who went we were the only officers still living in September 1985. The Battalion went to Bareilly. Then, after a tour on the North West Frontier in Waziristan, to Lucknow and then to Allahabad.

In appearance Babe looked very young. Hence, presumably, his nick-name, but he was a capable and efficient officer who took a keen and discerning interest in all that went on in the Battalion.

Apart from his contemporaries he had a good friendship with those considerably senior to him, Guy Olliver, Bobbie Ross and others. He went out of his way to help several officers who, for a variety of reasons, had got themselves into difficulties.

When the battalion left India in 1926 our ways parted. He spent a long time in West Africa. About thirty years ago we came together in a big way and since then have exchanged long letters about every two months. His letters were full of anecdotes and comments on events and personalities. His memory for detail of far gone days was quite exceptional. He had an engaging sense of quiet and kindly humour. Our Commanding Officer on the Frontier and in Lucknow was Matthew-Lannowe who, on retirement, went to live not far from Babe. They were to meet on occasions in the local or at the hairdresser. Babe wrote "M-L has mellowed, he seems glad to talk to anyone, even me!"

He was essentially a Queen's man and regarded the modern Christmas cards with some horror as they so often depict other Regiments and he could not understand why regimental dinners are no longer held in Service Clubs and so support those clubs.

His last letter to me was written on the 30th September, only a week before his death. It was a long, clearly written letter, just as usual, with no indication of what was coming.

Babe was a great character in the most charming sense of the word and a fine officer.

In all his letters his wife, Bar, was first in his thoughts. Our sincere sympathy goes to her and to their son Michael.

JBC

## Book Reviews

### 'From Mons to Messines – and beyond'

The writer of this narrative is the grandson of Sergeant Charles Arnold of The East Surrey Regiment. After working as an errand boy for Ides, the ironmonger of Fife Road, Kingston, which many old Surreys will remember, Charles Arnold enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1910. He was posted to the 1st Battalion in Ireland, and among the familiar names he mentions are RSM Twohey, Captain Hewitt, Lieut Bowring with whom he took part in the Irish Command Athletics of 1911, and his Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel J R Longley.

Professor Royle has painstakingly compared Arnold's account of the early operations in France with the Regimental History, and has also consulted the Battalion War Diary. The result is a most interesting report of those early days of the 1914-18 War. Cpl Arnold was wounded twice, once severely, on the same day at Le Cateau, and was eventually sent home. After a spell in hospital, he was transferred to The Border Regiment as a sergeant and sent overseas again.

Arnold's character shines through his writing. He was staunchly patriotic, proud of his Regiment and maintained a violent dislike of the Germans. He also had some caustic comments on the French. Sgt Arnold completed his 12 years with the Colours, but suffered periodically from his war wounds. He was awarded a 60% disability pension in 1928. He was able to

live a fairly normal life after the War, although suffering pain and disability, before finally succumbing at the early age of 48 in December 1941. An interesting story of the life and times of a good Regimental soldier.

### The Drummer Boy'

Leonard Phillips, the author of this book, was briefly mentioned in the November 1984 News Letter, when he and his father, both Regular Surreys, visited the Regimental Museum. Leonard enlisted in the Regiment in 1938 at the age of 16, and was posted to the Drums in the 2nd Battalion at Colchester. He gives a lively description of his training, the voyage to Shanghai and the eventual move of the Battalion to Malaya. He mentions many names, mostly of the Band and Drums, and the book would bring back memories to those serving in 2 Surreys at that time. Descriptions of life in the Battalion and escapades when off duty make interesting reading, but the real impact comes with the story of the Battalion's disastrous campaign in Malaya, the surrender at Singapore and the appalling years as prisoners of war of the Japanese.

After the War, Leonard Phillips transferred to the RASC and took part in the Korean War. He left the Army as a sergeant major in October 1961. The book is published by the Carlton Press, Inc., New York, USA.

PGEH



## 204 BRITISH MISSION TO CHINA

One of the lesser-known units in which East Surreys served in the 1939-45 War was 204 British Mission to China. In 1940, it was considered politically expedient that some sort of gesture of support towards China should be made as part of the Allied strategy. Accordingly, 204 Mission, organised on Commando lines, was formed. The unit was composed of volunteers and Lt English, Cpl Evans, Ptes Phillips and Wheeler of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, then in Northern Malaya, volunteered for service.

After rigorous training in jungle warfare, guerilla tactics and general toughening up at the Bush Warfare School, Maymo, the unit of 250 officers and men crossed into China by the Burma Road in January 1942. Cut off from the outside world, the Road provided China with its only life line. It was an incredible achievement of engineering, being literally cut out of the mountain side. The journey by road to rail head took three weeks and was extremely arduous on account of the bitter winter weather and the difficulty of living off the land. Eventually the Mission arrived at the base where they joined the Chinese battalions to which they were to be attached.

204 Mission instructed the Chinese in demolitions and carried out field exercises. After the Allied setbacks in Hong Kong, Malaya and Burma, our stock at this stage of the war was none too high. The military situation deteriorated rapidly and it was decided that all contingents, including 204 Mission, should return to the Yunnan Province on the China-Burma Road. However, as a result of the Japanese successes on the eastern seaboard, the force directed to the north east for operations on the Nanchang front.

After an incredible journey by rail, barge, sampan and MT, the Mission found themselves a few hundred miles to the south west of Shanghai where the 2nd Surreys had been stationed at the outbreak of war. With no lines of communication and the Japanese threat to Burma, it was impossible to maintain the Force, and eventually 204 Mission was withdrawn by air, over The Hump, back to India at the end of 1942. Thus ended a most unusual, arduous and it must be admitted, ineffectual military operation.



### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## Greetings from an Infantry Wren

It was from the railway junctions and ports that our Armies were despatched, in both wars, although it surprises people that we Wrens were there. Having seen in Margaret Bellars column of your connections with the E.Surrey's, I wonder if you knew that on the N.E. Railway Memorial, which they are currently trying to save from wittering away, there appear the names of some men of the Regiment:

L/Cpl. J.W. Dimmock, of Hull  
L/Sgt. J.H. Smith, of Newcastle  
L/Cpl. F. Talkington, of Selby

Since the appeal has been made to me, to help raise funds to improve the monument at York, may I please ask you either to pass this request on, or to reply to me, to save extra writing, giving the name of anyone connected with the old Regiment, to whom I might apply, if only to have the men's names re-engraved, so that they can be seen, or a sum to the whole memorial?

I am honoured, if not amused, to tell you that my Uncle, the late Stanley H. Read, of Oklahoma City, was "thrown out" of the E. Surrey's, when they were lined up for France, WW1., when it was discovered that he was below the proper age. He later went into the RFC., became a pioneer of aviation, and in WW2 was greatly respected for bravery, in USAAF.

A second Uncle, his brother Sidney, an Old Contemptible, later played in the Regimental Band. I discovered a picture of some ceremony at Kingston, and of Sidney, in band uniform (he may have done some teaching, as he played several instruments).

I must add that a very dear friend of mine, like the Read's, good clean, Christian people, is a Wren who nursed The Queen's Royal Regiment from a field near Guildford, and the Guildford hospital, before joining at Dunkirk time.

Mrs (WRNS)

## DO YOU REMEMBER?



May Newsletter brought Captain Fred Wilson to Canterbury with a very battered snap, taken at Sun Wai Camp, showing L/Cpl Mason and Boy Fred Winter.

## AND FINALLY

### Extract from The Queen's Royal Regiment Journal 1939.

The taunt that the British soldier – especially the professional Regular soldier – is a "mercenary" because he receives a far higher rate of pay than the continental conscript is a very old one. There is a story told of a pompous and ill-mannered officer of a certain European Army who was expounding on this theme at a dinner party where a British officer was present. "We fight for honour and glory – the British Army fights for money!" said the foreigner, with an air of conscious superiority. "Quite right, old boy!" replied the British officer, with that smile of amused tolerance which so often puzzles other nations, "Each of us fights for what we haven't got!"

No Comment.

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