

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

Regimental Association
Newsletter

Number 40
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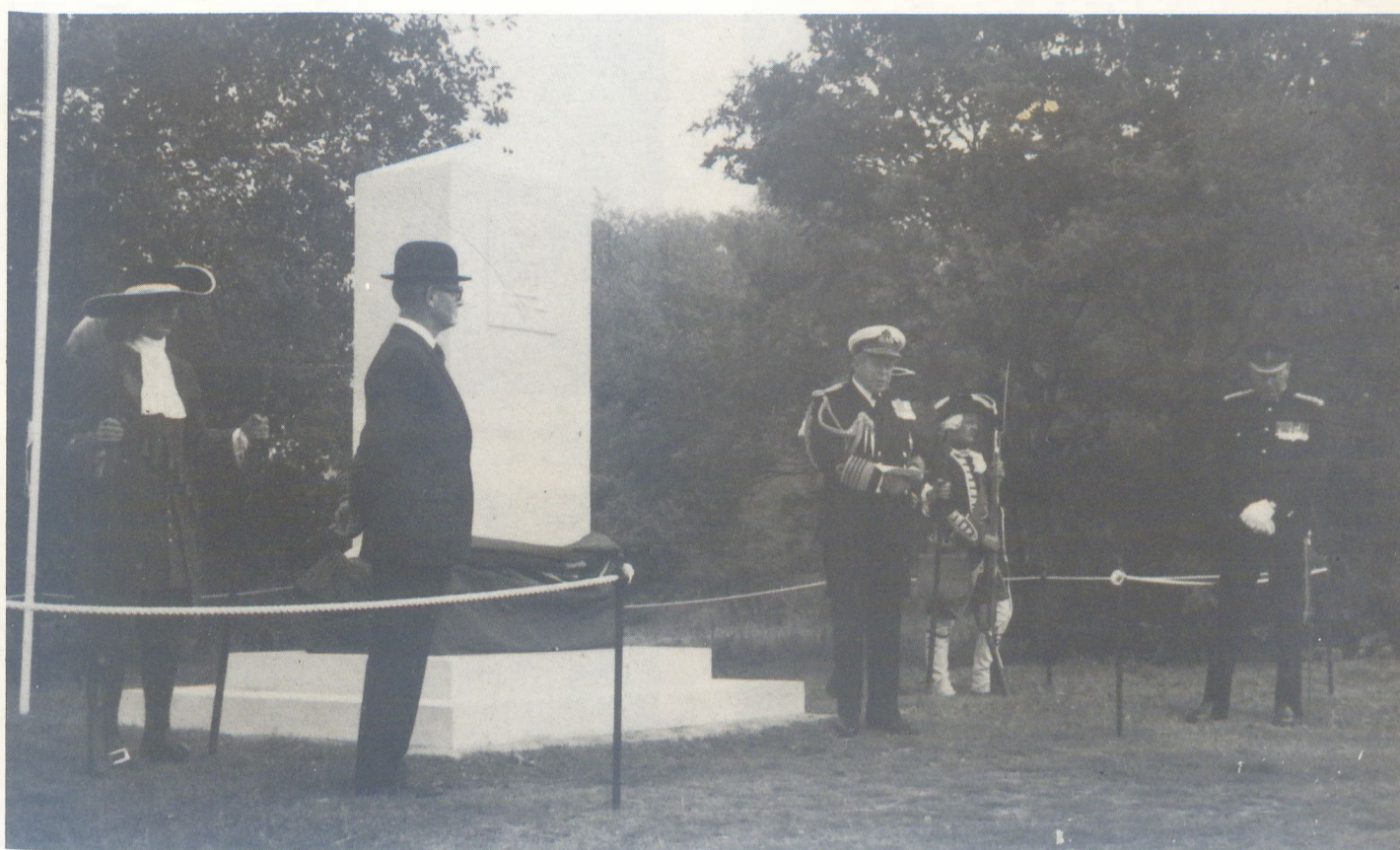
President
Colonel J.W. Sewell
Secretary & Editor
Lieutenant Colonel L.M. Wilson, MBE

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



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1986



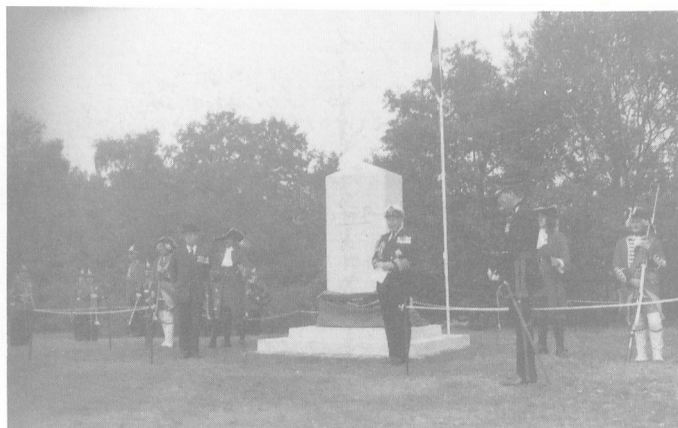
325th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TANGIER REGIMENT OF FOOT

The Association paraded more than 200 strong on Putney Heath on 14th October 1986, the 325th Anniversary of the first parade of the Regiment, to have the new inscriptions on the Tercentenary Monument unveiled. The unveiling was carried out by the Chief of The Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse GCB GBE who was met on arrival by the Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Brigadier Charles Millman OBE. The CDS was received by the parade, under command of the President with a General Salute. Following this the CDS inspected the Association talking to many of those who were drawn up in two ranks. After the Inspection Colonel Sewell spoke to recall the reasons for the new inscriptions, to welcome the CDS and the other chief guests and to invite the Admiral of the Fleet to carry out the unveiling. After this Admiral Fieldhouse replied to us touching on problems of defence, commending The Queen's Regiment's involvement with its three Regular Battalions overseas, and praising our history over 325 years mentioning our special connections with the Royal Marines from 1702 and with the Royal Navy from 1st of June 1794.

Finally after "Three Cheers for HM The Queen", the National Anthem and "Soldiers of The Queen" the parade was dismissed, after which Admiral and Lady Fieldhouse and the other guests stayed talking with people in a friendly crowd for a quarter of an hour.

After the ceremony a Luncheon was held at The Telegraph Hotel, Putney Hill for the CDS, the chief guests, and those officers and their ladies of the Regiment who could be fitted into the restricted surroundings. The lunch was jointly hosted by The Queen's Regiment and the Association. At the conclusion the Colonel of The Regiment proposed The Loyal Toast, and made a presentation to Admiral Fieldhouse as a memento for him of the occasion.

The day had been blessed throughout by warm sunny weather, and the Monument cleaned and white looked splendid in the sunshine, guarded by four soldiers of the Regimental Information Team, two dressed in 1661 style uniform and two in 1702 style. The Quebec Band of The Queen's Regiment played for the parade and played background music before and after, adding much colour to the occasion.





FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1986



Date	Details of Event
20 December	The British Battalion Day

1987

10 February	Sobraon Day.
14 March	Queen's Surreys Regimental Trustees and Association Committee Meeting, Clandon Park. Details to members from Hon. Sec.
28 March	Reunion 2/7th Queen's Royal Regiment.
23 April	East Surrey Officers Dinner, details from Colonel G.G. Strong.
7 May	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting, Richmond.
16 May	Albuhera Day - Opening of the Queen's Regiment Museum, Dover Castle
7 June 31 May	Regimental Association annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral, 1100 hours.
12 June	Freedom of Kingston March.
8 July	Queen's Surreys Golf Society - versus - Royal Marines, North Hants.
12 July	The Queen's Regiment, Grand Reunion, Bassingbourn.
26th September	Museum 'Open Day', Clandon Park.
8 October	Queen's Surreys Golf Society - Autumn Meeting, Richmond.
16 October	The Queen's Regiment Officers Club Cocktail Party, Banqueting House, London.
17 October	WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Bassingbourn.
23 October	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Dinner, Simpson's in the Strand.

Editorial

This editorial will be very brief as we have many articles and pictures all of which are more interesting than my writing. I should like, however, to thank on your behalf, the member who paid for colour to be used in the Newsletter for the first time. He wishes to remain anonymous and we will respect this wish, but we are all grateful for his very generous donation.

Another first for this edition is that we now have over one thousand readers. This is excellent and I hope we will be able to maintain this level, or higher.

Three and a quarter centuries of very distinguished service was recorded on October 14th at Putney Heath, when the Chief of the Defence Staff unveiled the inscription on the reverse side of the monument. All who attended, I am sure, were proud to be present on this memorable and historic day.

I wish all readers a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Les Wilson

President's Notes

We are completing a year notable for some major events, in particular the unveiling of the additional inscription on the Monument, on Putney Heath, marking the 325th Anniversary and also, the publication of Captain Jonathan Riley's splendid record of our Queens Surrey's History. With our Museum now very well established at Clandon I think we can feel that the historical traditions of our Regiment(s) are well recorded and established for the future, both for The Queen's Regiment and within the history of the Army as a whole. The time may therefore have come when we should let things take their course and, for the future, allow our history and traditions to be carried forward in the overall past and future history of the Queen's Regiment.

We have too, largely through the interest and work of our Secretaries, increased Association membership considerably over the last few years - reunions and events have flourished, the Newsletter has expanded, and there has been a significant increase in benevolence. However, as with the history and traditions, a time may have come, or be coming, when too much is going on and too much is required of those who do the work and the organizing. If this is so, then we should be seeing how far our activities can be continued within the Queen's Regiment and its events. Branches have already considered how they may begin to welcome members of the Queen's Regiment, and so proceed smoothly into the future and we must all move forward as we can. In this context I draw everyone's attention to the

Annual Meeting of the Association each year in March. These are attended by Branch secretaries, but if any member wishes to come he is entitled to do so and the Association Committee will welcome his presence and his views. All that is necessary is for a member to get in touch with the Secretary, Colonel Les Wilson, who will provide all details of time and place. Alternatively individual members, if they have views, suggestions or questions should ensure that these are passed to Branch or Club secretaries so that these may be aired. The Association can only be as strong as the support given by members, and can only provide what members require if they make their concerns and ideas known.

Dean Tony Bridge, as those who attended the Annual Service know, is retiring from being Dean of Guildford on 1 November this year. In his 18 years as Dean he has been a great friend to the Regiment - we have been provoked and inspired by what he has had to say. We are most grateful to him, and wish an old Buff well in what will be an active retirement based in Deal.

I wish all members a very Happy Christmas and, hopefully, fitness and good health in 1987.

Toby Sewell

CONGRATULATIONS

To Colonel R.W. Acworth, C.B.E., on being selected for promotion to Brigadier.

Wedding

To Captain Brian Ramsey and Mrs. Mary Edwards (widow of Major W. (Bill) Edwards, TD, 6th Surreys) on their wedding on the 9th November, 1984

To Colonel E.G. Woodman and Mrs. J.A. Hayes who were married in Perth on October 4th 1986. Colonel Woodman commanded 1 Queen's Surreys in Münster.

Golden Wedding

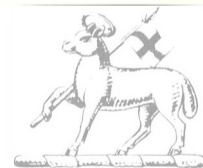
To Mr. & Mrs. A. Carter who celebrated their golden wedding on the 17th March 1986.

To Mr. & Mrs. A. Certer who celebrated their golden wedding recently.



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TOMMY ATKINS, 1937 - 1959



Crete 22 - 27 May 1941

During the third week in May 1941, 2 Queen's was concentrated at the large staging camp at Amariya which is on the outskirts of Alexandria.

Part of 16 Infantry Brigade, The Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, and The Leicesters had already been despatched to Crete where a full scale battle was in progress with German para troops and ground forces. The situation on the 22 May 1941 was critical, and The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment together with Brigade Headquarters embarked on HMS Glenroy (an early type Infantry Landing Ship) and escorted by HMS Coventry, and the destroyers HMS Stuart and Jaguar sailed from Alexandria on the evening of the 22 May 1941 for Crete.

Very little wheeled transport was taken, a few motor cycles including mine as M.T. Sgt and some carriers. Any unloading would have to be done by either dock side cranes or the ships own facilities. Our intended port of arrival was in the southern part of Crete, called Tymbaki, I doubt very much if there were any dock side facilities there anyway. More important, it would have been absolutely suicidal to have docked the Ship for any length of time as the German Air Force had absolute control of the air space in and around the coast of Crete and as far out as two to three hundred miles.



HMS Coventry

HMS Coventry was the only ship of the escorts or ourselves that carried any early warning system of the approach of enemy aircraft. HMS Coventry would be well ahead of ourselves and the destroyers but in visual contact.

HMS Coventry would pick up the approach of enemy aircraft at about 20-30 miles distance. There was never any doubt about it being enemy aircraft for the Royal Air Force was completely incapable of supplying air cover because of lack of suitable long range duration aircraft (this was to cause bitter inter service resentment by the Royal Navy and the Army on the one hand and the Royal Air Force on the other).

When HMS Coventry picked up the approach of enemy aircraft, she would hoist a yellow flag to her mast. HMS Glenroy would then broadcast over the ships tannoy system the following message. "Air raid warning yellow, action gun crews stand by". Very shortly afterwards, as the aircraft approached nearer HMS Coventry would hoist a red flag. The tannoy on HMS Glenroy would announce "Air raid warning red, action gun crews close up, all personnel not required on the upper deck move down below". That message literally meant what it said. The only people allowed on the upper deck were those manning the guns and fire fighting and damage control parties.

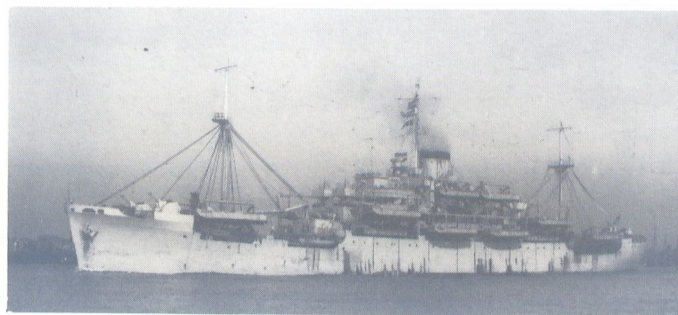
Besides the Glenroy's own anti-aircraft weapons, the Battalion had all its quota of Bren Guns mounted around the upper structures of the ship, some 36 Bren Guns in all. This was to help in warding off low flying or dive bombing aircraft.

When it appeared that the ship was going to be directly attacked everyone below decks was instructed to lay face down on the deck, cover one's head with their arms and face inboard.

By the night of the 24 May 1941, the situation in Crete was very critical. The air raid alerts on the ships had caused them to divert from their original course for Crete. The Naval Command realising the ships could never reach Crete in the dark, off load, and get away again before daylight, ordered the return to Alexandria, where we arrived in the early morning of 25 May 1941 suffering nothing more than a few near misses but

nevertheless extremely unpleasant. The Battalion disembarked at about 0800 hrs that morning and I think we all said "thank God that's over", but there was an unpleasant surprise in store for us.

On 25 May the British Forces on Crete were still putting up stiff resistance to the German invasion and although we had been recalled to Alexandria, political decisions were made whereby another attempt to reinforce Crete was to be made, and we re-embarked at 1100 hrs and sailed again that day.



HMS Glenroy, launched on the 15.8.38 she was a mercantile vessel named Glenroy. She was requisitioned on 21.10.39 and commissioned as a transport/store carrier. In 1941 she was converted to a Large Infantry Landing Ship. In addition to the evacuation of Crete in May 1941 she saw service at the Normandy invasion in June 1944 and the assault on Rangoon in May 1945. She was returned to her owners in August 1946.

The 26 and 27 May will probably remain in the memories of those aboard HMS Glenroy for the rest of their lives. In the evening of 26 May we were attacked by a force of German bombers. The attack lasted for about an hour, but in that time considerable damage had been done to the ship.

The usual routine already described when an air attack was imminent was put into operation.

HMS Glenroy was the main attraction for the German bombers and although there were no direct hits, there were a number of very near misses. For all of us down below between decks it was very uncomfortable indeed. Every time a bomb exploded near by one felt the ship shudder and it seemed to lift out of the water and bounce back again. Naturally we all thought that we were having direct hits and at any moment expected the sea to come pouring in. Meanwhile up top, the very near misses had set fire to about 14000 gallons of petrol, stored in 4 gallon flimsy tins, about 7000 gallons fore and another 7000 gallons aft.

The landing craft with the carriers and the motor cycles in were damaged by shell splinters, as were the davits and other parts of the ship. Because of the fire, HMS Glenroy had to alter course away from Crete so that the wind would divert the smoke and flames away from the ship. An incident occurred down below in my mess deck during this attack that very little is known about - I know it to be true because I was there. When the petrol caught fire, someone from up top shouted down through the hatchway for Gas Masks. We had all been lying down as instructed and the noise was deafening but we all heard the word 'GAS' and as one person we rose and began to make a bee line for our respirators. It really did seem at the time a moment of panic, and could be forgiven under the circumstances. The memory is vivid even to this day, forty three years on. However, someone shouted in a very firm voice, stand still, and went on to explain that the respirators were required by those on the upper deck to wear because of the dense smoke from the petrol fires. Calm was instantly restored. The person giving that command was a Sgt and I am almost certain it was a Sgt Richardson who gave it, The sad thing was that a little while later when he was up on the deck helping to fight the fires, he was wounded and eventually lost a leg. In the Isle of Wight, he had been a good athlete and also a member of the Battalion Cross Country team.

Besides the ships Orlikan and Pom Poms and heavier guns firing, the Battalion bren gunners could be heard firing away. Again down below we had a fair idea of the aircrafts movements. First we heard the heavy guns letting go then as the aircraft began their dive, the Orlikan and Pom Poms would start, and we below knew that when the brens opened up we were about to receive what we would not be truly thankful for.

The Naval fire fighting party was assisted by officers and men from the Queen's and rest assured there were a number of us below who would have given anything to be up there doing something instead of cowering down below. But when the Captain of a Royal Navy ship gives a command, it has to be obeyed.

Once again because the ship had to be diverted from its course, there was no possibility of it reaching Crete before daylight on the 27 May. It would have been suicide to have attempted to do so and Admiral Cunningham ordered the ship and its escorts back to Alexandria. On the way back we were attacked several times, but not with the severity of the main attack and with no further damage or casualties we docked at Alexandria on the evening of the 27 May 1941.

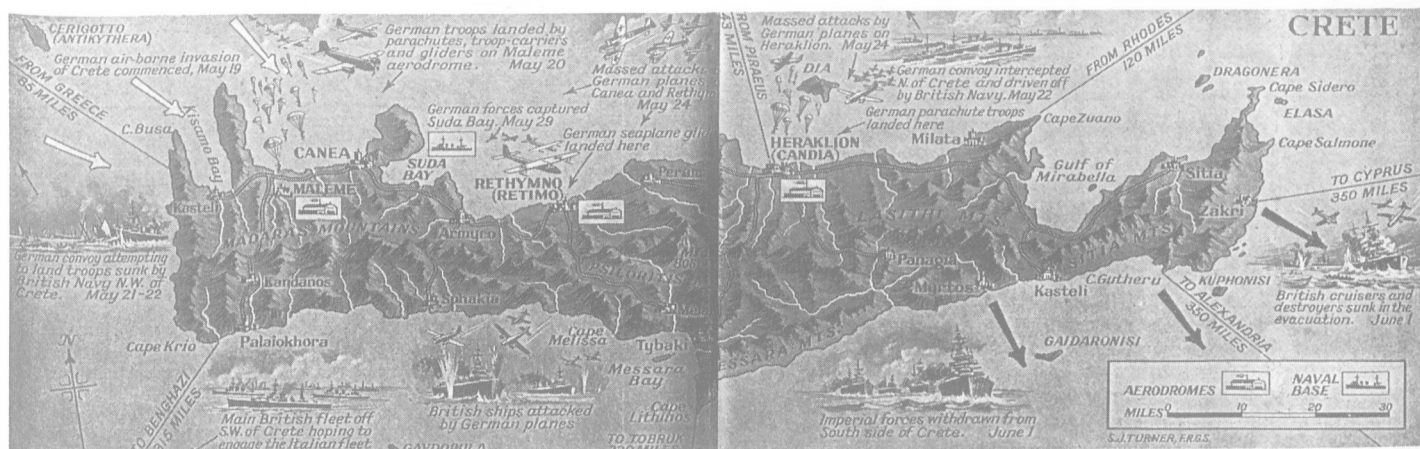
One final incident of interest... when we docked, walking along the dockside was a Royal Air Force Cpl, neatly dressed and looking very smart. I said earlier that because of the lack of Royal Air Force cover, there was a bitter feeling between the sailors and the soldiers on the one hand and the airmen on the other. When the sailors saw this Cpl walking along the dockside, they gave verbal abuse heartily endorsed by the soldiers. It wasn't the airman's fault of course, but I'm afraid he took the brunt of our frustrations - he would have been wiser to avoid the water front on that particular day. To be fair to the airmen they certainly made amends when the aeroplanes were available, but that was long after we had left the Middle East for good. The final word on the Crete episode I think must be about the sailors.

were being regrouped in the Canal Zone. The strain and the tiredness from their ordeal was clearly seen on their faces the same as was on the faces of the sailors on HMS Glenroy.

Greece, Crete and Syria may in the eyes of the historians and those intellectuals who were not even born at the time but have taken to writing history, to have been only side shows. Ltd them tell that to the men who were there and did the fighting. I think perhaps there might be a bloody nose or two. Some of the character assassinations by these same people of some of our leading Admirals, Generals and Air Marshals of that time has been really sickening. These historians and intellectuals have the benefit of hindsight when writing. It is a very different situation when instant decisions are required and which have to be made under the stress of being bombed, shelled or shot at.

We had not been back at Qassassin for more than a week, when the Battalion was alerted for a move to Syria. The Germans were showing some interest in the country and there were pro German sympathisers within the Syrian Government. It was decided that a British force should go into Syria before the German or pro German forces did so. The French army were still in-situ in Syria and were mostly supporters of the Vichy French.

It should also be remembered that we had seen the 1st of our Palestine transport before we sailed for Crete. The urgency of the move to Syria resulted in our being issued with a new fleet of trucks and lorries from a near by depot. The Battalion had already left by train for Palestine and the M.T. as usual made our



We in The Queen's Royal Regiment have had long associations with the Royal Navy dating back to "the Glorious First of June 1794", but a word about the sailors in the Mediterranean at the time of Crete 1941 deserves a mention.

I will always remember seeing those cruisers and destroyers and in one case an aircraft carrier returning to Alexandria so severely damaged that one couldn't believe that they could still remain afloat. I also remember seeing the sailors' faces as they closed up to their action stations on HMS Glenroy. The tiredness, the strain of facing yet another of those constant onslaughts from the air registered on their faces - yet they never faltered. We in the Army owe the sailors of The Royal Navy a great deal for their service to us. They were to convoy us on two more short voyages in The Middle East before we finally departed for The Far East. One from Beirut in Syria to Alexandria aboard the cruisers HMS Neptune, Ajax & Hobart and later still aboard destroyers to convey us to the fortress of Tobruk. Neither occasion was as serious as the Crete episode thank goodness.

WELL DONE THE ROYAL NAVY AND A BIG THANK YOU FROM A PONGO OF DAYS GONE BY.

Syria June - September 1941

After we had disembarked from HMS Glenroy on the morning of 28 May 1941 we returned to Amariya Staging Camp outside Alexandria. I believe we soldiers decided that we would not swap places with the sailors of The Royal Navy at any price. Our stay at Amariya lasted about a week and we were then on the move back to that other large training camp, Qassassin, in the Canal Zone, where it was hoped we might stay for a time.

During our stay at Qassassin, I recall seeing some of the troops who had been evacuated from Greece and Crete. They

way by road returning to Palestine via the same route we had taken in September 1940.

The new vehicles were I think mostly Bedfords and Fordsons. The Bedford 3 ton lorries had a particularly high pitched sound when running.

I made the return journey to Palestine on a motor cycle. I was responsible for convoy control. The whole journey went without any trouble and we rejoined the Battalion at Beit-Lid near Nathanya, Palestine.

No further move was anticipated for a day or so and a number of the Battalion were allowed to go on a few hours leave into nearby Nathanya and Tel-a-Viv, to enjoy a few beers and to meet some old acquaintances (female of course) from their 1939 stay in Palestine.

The beers and the female acquaintances were suddenly cut short for the Battalion had been instructed to move immediately towards Derea on the Syrian/Palestine border. Everyone was gathered in and we set off late that evening on what was to be a long and very tiring journey.

The troops were ferried in Palestine Police lorries driven by policemen. We crossed the border at Derea, the town itself had been liberated by the Free French, we passed on and then there seemed to be some confusion as to where we should be sent.

There were two Warrant Officers riding motor cycles at that time, they were P.S.M. Fred Jode and Wally Hacker. I think Fred Jode and myself were the only two to complete the course. Wally Hacker gave up on one of the rough roads or at least he tried to.

A decision had been taken for the Battalion to attack and recapture the town of Quneitra. After the capture, I remember passing through with the MT seeing several French armoured cars and vehicles on fire.

I also recall that it was outside the town of Quneitra where a

detachment of our 3" mortars were giving support and a Cpl Middleton suffered a severe injury to his elbow. The next move was towards a village called Qatana. Having occupied this village the Battalion debussed and from this point on it became very much an infantryman's battle.

I mentioned earlier that the Palestine police lorries driven by policemen were used to ferry the troops. After the troops had debussed at Qatana, the police stayed at 'B' Echelon for a while and it was here that they learned the lesson of dispersal of vehicles against air attack. I tried by persuasion and more brutal methods to get them to disperse their vehicles but they didn't want to know. Well the inevitable happened. Two Vichy French light bombers appeared without warning from over the hills, made two lightning runs over the area dropping bombs. There were some casualties in the Brigade HQ B Echelon park. We ourselves escaped any injuries and damage to the vehicles, but from that moment on the Palestine Police learned their lesson and there were no further difficulties in getting them to adhere to dispersal instructions.

Soon after this incident, Major Buzz Wasp left us to return to the United Kingdom and a Lieut H.O. Jones took over as Quartermaster. One other event of major importance happened at about this time, Germany without warning invaded Russia.

The infantryman's battle has been very well described by Cyril Mountjoy. From the MT point of view, most of it was kept back in B Echelon, and I think I am right in saying that only the water cart was kept at Bn HQ.

The weather at the time was very hot, and we were having an unpleasant time, from both extreme heat and heavy shelling from the Vichy French artillery. The only immediate water available was from the water cart - I believe the driver of this water truck was a Pte Friend and that he did sterling work keeping the water truck filled from a nearby water point which was also under enemy observation.

The Battalion were having a pretty tough time. They had been given the task of taking a prominent height called 1634. Cyril Mountjoy (at that time a Platoon Sgt later he was commissioned) has written an account of the Battalion's task on Point 1634. I can only tell it from a MT Sgts point of view with B Echelon who are normally somewhere in the rear of the hot spots.

The MTO, Captain Cecil Ottaway also stayed up with Battalion Headquarters, so I did not see a lot of him. My main task at B Echelon was to ensure that the vehicles required to take hot food, water, and other necessities were available for the nightly run up to the Battalion. Even this was unpleasant, for the route was under artillery fire spasmodically throughout the night. It was nothing to what the battalion had to endure throughout daylight hours.

George Deacon was one of our best drivers on these nightly runs, and on several occasions showed the way by taking the lead, putting his foot down as the expression was used to speed the vehicles along the valley which was under shell fire. I used to travel with him on most of these journeys.

It was established at the end of the Syrian Campaign that Point 1634, the highest point of the mountain range running astride the route Damascus-Beirut Road, had been an artillery observation point for the French army and the valley below through which the battalion had no choice but to go, was under constant observation from this advantage point. Also many points of the valley had been registered for shelling. It was small wonder then that the battalion had a tough nut to crack and had such a bad time.

The Commanding Officer, Lieut. Col. B.C. Haggard, suffered a heart attack. He had been a first world war officer and badly wounded in that war.

Major R.F.C. Oxley-Boyle assumed command of the Battalion. Captain Hull, who if I remember correctly was O.C. B Company was killed. I cannot remember the names of the NCOs and men killed, I think there were about twenty. The wounded numbered around forty. We had also lost (temporarily as it turned out) some 150 who had become prisoners of war, but on the conclusion of the armistice they returned to the Battalion.

At the conclusion of the Syrian campaign the Battalion were sent to Homs and occupied a French army barracks called the Ecole Militaire. If as I think, the name means something like Military College, then I would have thought the standard of cleanliness and hygiene would have been better than we found

there. However, being The Queen's Royal Regiment, that was soon put to rights, and for the next few weeks we were able to rest, recuperate, but above all to re-train. This period covered the 2nd week in July to the first week in September 1941.

A week after our arrival, the MTO sent for me to tell me that because of some re-organisation within the Battalion a number of drivers were to be returned to duty, I think it was mostly due to the number of vehicles allotted to the Battalion being reduced. Having told me that news, he then told me he thought it time I went back to duty to gain further experience.

So it was that I was posted to C Company to begin to learn the job of a platoon sgt. Before I was posted to a platoon within the Company I was sent on an internal course for NCOs on section and platoon tactics, weapon training, map reading etc. The course was under the direction of Lt. E.B.G. Clowes.

The course lasted about three weeks. I put my mind to the task ahead and at the end of the course I had apparently done well enough to come out somewhere near the top. Captain Ottaway, on hearing this and seeing me shortly afterwards, stopped me and passed on his congratulations. I thought this most kind of him.

I was posted to 14 Platoon, C. Company, and began to learn the names of the men in my platoon, get to know the other senior ranks in the company and most important to get to know and gauge the moods and temperament of my CSM. His name was Fred Jode.

Some of the senior ranks names that come into the picture now are; CSM Fred Jode, C/Sgt Spike Gage, Sgt. Tom Best, George Munns, Gordon Chessel, Wosley (forget his christian name) all of C Company. The Company Commander I think was Captain P.R.H. Kealy. There was also Lt. R.M. Merrett, who I think was second in command, and 2/Lts. Fox, Biddle and Martindale.

We had moved from Homs to a place called Jedeida and another quick move occurred on 18 September 1942. We moved very quickly down to Beirut where we embarked on the cruisers, HMS Neptune, Ajax and Hobart for Alexandria, Egypt, although we in the Battalion didn't know it until we arrived there on the morning of 20 September, disembarked and proceeded to the staging camp at Amariya.

To be continued.

Stoughton Barracks

A major Guildford redevelopment site has been put on ice pending a national survey of all Army land.

The site, Stoughton Barracks, is earmarked in the Guildford Local Borough Plan for 200 houses in the post-1991 policies.

Last October the Ministry of Defence put disposal of the barracks site into the hands of the Property Services Agency. It has been revealed that the M.o.D. has cancelled sale of land.

Press officer M.o.D. Aldershot, Major John Quinn, confirmed withdrawal of the sale pending the national survey. He said it could be temporary and the land could still go for sale at a later date.

The chief executive of Guildford Borough Council, Mr. David Watts said the site was identified for housing if it became redundant. It would not affect the post-1991 housing in the borough now that the Surrey Structure Plan has reduced the amount of housing required in that period from 2,600 to 2,300.

The barracks were built in the late 1800s for The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Far East Prisoners of War Association Far East Tour 1987

We have pleasure in announcing the details of our forthcoming Far East Tour which will leave Heathrow Airport, London, on the morning of March 6th, 1987, and will return to Heathrow 15 days later.

This will be the seventh Far East Tour and, as usual, we will spend the first week in Thailand where we have strong FEPOW connections and where there is so much to see and do. The second week can be spent either in Singapore or at Pattaya Beach in Thailand. For further details contact: Neil Whitaker Travel (Member of ABTA), 36 Woodford Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 1PA. Telephone: 061 439 8911 (Business) 061 439 8688 (Home) OR Jack Butterworth, 2 Longfield Road, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL2 7HD. Telephone: 0706 844266.

Explorer, Adventurer and Soldier

An unusual group of medals in The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum reveals a little of the adventurous life of Major Frederick George Jackson of The East Surrey Regiment. Two medals are unique and were awarded before he had even joined the Army.

Jackson was born in 1860 in the quiet country town of Alcester, where his grandfather was rector. On leaving school, he went out to Australia and worked on a Queensland cattle station for three years where he also learned to handle and break horses. Here he started his life of travelling by a trip in the Australian Desert. On returning home, he read medicine at Edinburgh University, but did not qualify. It was while he was a medical student that Frederick Jackson plunged into the icy waters of a loch at Linlithgow on 1 January 1885 to rescue a 17-year old girl from drowning. For this he was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal.

Two years later, he sailed across the Atlantic in a whaling ship for a voyage to Greenland. He then made a preliminary expedition across the Great Russian Tundra to Archangel and then on to Lapland in mid-winter. This experience in the Arctic inspired Jackson to make an attempt on the North Pole from Franz Josef Land to the north of Russia. After some further expeditions to gain experience and to test equipment, he found a patron for his Polar project in Alfred Harmsworth, later Lord Northcliffe.



Major F.G. Jackson

Jackson organised and led the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition which sailed for Franz Josef Land in 1894. A base was established at Cape Flora in the south and the next two years were spent in exploring Franz Josef Land, and in surveying and mapping. On 17 June 1896, the Norwegian explorers, Nansen and Johansen, arrived at the Cape Flora base from their own attempt on the Pole. After incredible danger and hardships, they had hoped to reach Spitzbergen by kayak en route for Norway, but it was then too late in the year. They were hospitably received by Jackson's expedition with whom they stayed for seven weeks. Rather than spend a fourth winter in the Arctic, the two Norwegians were glad to avail themselves of a passage home in the Expedition's supply ship, the *Windward*.

During their third season exploring the innumerable small islands of Franz Josef Land, the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition completed the survey of the western part of the archipelago, but a further journey north was made too late in the season and they had to turn back on account of the ice. In September 1897, the Expedition returned to London, having covered about 1,140 miles and added about 500 miles to the chart of Franz Josef Land. During the next year the affairs of the enterprise were wound up. No sponsors for further Polar exploration were forthcoming; and Jackson found himself nearing forty and with no occupation. For his services to the



Norwegian explorers, Jackson was awarded the Norwegian Order of Knight (First Class) of the Royal Order of St Olav in 1898. It was in this year that he first married.

The South African War broke out in October 1899, and Jackson saw his opportunity to be of service. He applied to join the Army, and in March 1900 was granted a direct captain's commission in the 5th (Militia) Bn The Manchester Regiment. He was appointed to train a Mounted Infantry Company, and here his experience with horses in Australia came into its own. He served with them in South Africa, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the Queen's South Africa Medal with five bars. In 1905, Captain Jackson was transferred to the 4th (Special Reserve) Bn The East Surrey Regiment, and in January 1910 was promoted major.

In October 1914, Major Jackson, who was then 54, was sent with a draft of two officers and 65 Other Ranks to the 1st Battalion in action near La Bassée in France. All the company commanders had been wounded, and Major Jackson temporarily took command of the two forward companies in the advance towards La Bassée. It is indeed remarkable that an officer of his age (in fact, seven years older than his commanding officer!) should be sent to a battalion in the line, but a man of Major Jackson's adventurous spirit would not have missed such an opportunity for active service. He was later invalided home and commanded the Southwark Recruiting District for more than two years. After his wife died in 1918, Major Jackson went abroad again to command prisoner of war camps in Germany. He was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal for his services in the Great War.

Jackson now transferred his interests from the Arctic to Africa. In the 1920s he crossed the Continent from east to west, travelled across Mashonaland, Matabeleland and Northern Rhodesia and trekked across Urundi and Ruanda. From Lake Kivu he crossed the Congo Forest to the Lualaba River, visited the sources of the three great rivers of Africa, the Zambesi, the Nile and the Congo, and followed the whole length of the last named river to the sea. He was a member of a League of Nations Commission to inquire into slavery, said to be practised in Liberia. There was no end to his interest in exploration and travel.

At the age of 69 he married for the second time and settled down to writing. He was the author of three books, 'The Great Frozen Land', 'A Thousand Days in the Arctic' and 'The Lure of Unknown Lands' and wrote numerous papers and articles. He was a man of phenomenal energy and wide interests. He listed as his recreations big game shooting, fishing, hunting and polo. Unorthodox to the end, he spent his last years with his wife in a houseboat, called 'Afterglow', on the Thames.

Major Jackson died in 1938 at the age of 78, having led a full, active and useful life. After the Second World War a memorial to him was unveiled in St Paul's Cathedral.

P G E H

Battle of Kohima, Video Tape

A video tape of the battle compiled recently, is still available and a copy of the tape can be purchased for £5. Anyone who wishes to purchase the video can order one from Maj. E.A. Woods, Headquarters North East District and Headquarters 2nd Infantry Division, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU. Telephone: York 59811 Ext. 2140.

THE COLOURS OF THE QUEEN'S (Contd.)

The 1st Battalion 1947-1959

The 100 year Colours of the 1st Battalion were trooped for the last time on 10th July 1947 at Singapore, after which the Battalion received New Colours from the Hon P.A.B. McKerron CMG. These Colours, which conformed with regulations dating from 1881, were quite different from what had been seen in the Battalion before. Their size was now the size of 3'9" wide and 3' deep, this having been the second reduction in size during the last century.

The King's Colour was, as ever, the Great Union. In the centre was a red roundel bearing the Regimental title (see figure 1) surmounted by a King's Crown. Something quite new was the Roman figure I in the first canton to denote the 1st Battalion: until now the Regiment had always borne a Roman II to denote its number in the Line. On the horizontal arms of St George's cross were placed the same ten Great War Battle Honours as had been carried on the Old Colours. To these were added, by authority of Army Order 47 of 1957, a further ten Battle Honours for the Second World War:

VILLERS BOCAGE	SALERNO
TOBRUK 1941	MONTE CAMINO
EL ALAMEIN	ANZIO
GEMMANO RIDGE	NORTH ARAKAN
MEDENINE	KOHIMA

The Regimental Colour was once again a blue sheet. The Union disappeared from the first canton although the four Pascal Lamb corner badges remained. The Lamb here assumed its present form with the flag being borne in the off leg (see figure 2), and under each Lamb was placed the motto "Pristinae Virtutis Memor". Under the Lamb in the first canton appeared, as on the King's Colour, a Roman I. In the centre of the Colour was once again the interwoven Cs of Queen Catherine's cypher within the Garter. This was enclosed by the red roundel bearing the Regimental title and surrounding this a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks with, across the base of the wreath, a scroll bearing the motto "Vel Exuviae Triumphant". Finally on a golden laurel wreath were placed the 21 Battle Honours won outside the two World Wars, ten each side with "Afghanistan 1919" across the base. Surmounting the whole was a King's Crown. The two Distinctions remained as before.

A further new departure was the pikes. These were topped by a Royal Crest replacing the old spear point, a design which had been introduced in 1858.

Shortly after the presentation of this stand of Colours, the 1st Battalion was reduced to cadre and the cadre combined with the disbanded 2nd Battalion to form a new 1st Battalion. These Colours then replaced the old 2nd Battalion Colours, and remained in service until the 1st Battalion was amalgamated with the 1st East Surreys in 1959. After the amalgamation the Colours were laid up in the Regimental Chapel in Guildford Cathedral, where they may be seen today.

The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment 1959-1974.

After the Amalgamation of 1st Queen's and 1st Surreys, New Colours were presented to the amalgamated 1st Battalion by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at Bury St Edmunds on 22nd April 1960. These Colours, although similar in size and form to the last stand of The Queen's, differed in detail so that both Regiments might be equally represented.

The Queen's Colour was once again the Great Union. In the centre was the red roundel bearing the title surmounted by a Queen's Crown but now the Roman I for the 1st Battalion was moved to the centre (see figure 3). On the horizontal arms of St George's cross were placed 40 Battle Honours won during the two World Wars, a full list of which may be found in the History of the Regiment by Captain J.P. Riley.

The Regimental Colour is again a blue sheet with the Battalion numeral in the first canton; the four corner badges now became the cypher of Queen Catherine within the Garter, the badge of the East Surrey Regiment, the Naval Crown superscribed "1 June 1794", the sphinx superscribed "Egypt". In the centre was placed the new Regimental badge, the Lamb and Star, within a red roundel, bearing the Regimental title, surmounted by a Queen's Crown. Once again around this was the wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks with the motto

"Pristinae Virtutis Memor" across its base. Around this was placed the golden laurel wreath bearing the Battle Honours won outside the two World Wars which again are listed in the Regimental History.

Although the 1st Battalion became 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in 1967, these Colours continued in service until 1974 after which (in 1975) they were laid up in the Regimental Chapel in Guildford Cathedral.

The Queen's Regiment 1974 to date.

After the reorganisation of the Home Counties Brigade on a Regimental basis in 1967, the old Colours continued in service until New Colours were presented to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and the 5th (Volunteer) Battalions of the new Regiment by HM Queen Margarethe II of Denmark at Armoury House, London, on 4th May 1974. The 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion had to wait until 1981, when they were presented with New Colours by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk at Ardingly on 16th July. All these Colours are still in service.

For the first time I have mentioned all Battalions, Regular and Territorial, at the same time. This is because these Colours marked the first time that the Colours of all Battalions were to be identical except for distinguishing Battalion numerals.

The new Queen's Colour of the 1st Battalion is the same in form to the old Queen's Surrey one except that the title roundel now reads "The Queen's Regiment", and the 40 Battle Honours contain many not previously seen. A list of these may be found in Blaxland's "Guide to The Queen's Regiment".

The new Regimental Colour is again blue, with the Battalion numeral in the first canton. The four corner badges are now the badges of the four Home Counties Regiments in order of seniority, while the Naval Crown and the Sphinx return to their accustomed places at lower left and right of the Colour. In the centre is again the Garter within a red roundel bearing the Regimental title, however, the cypher is replaced by a Dragon and Prince of Wales's feathers. The cypher moves to a position at bottom centre of the Colour between the two Distinctions. The motto on the wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks is now "Unconquered I Serve", while the laurel wreath bears many new Battle Honours which may be found in Blaxland. Readers may rest assured, however, that the greater part of these Battle Honours will be familiar to them.

An interesting custom has grown up in the 1st Battalion of dressing the Regimental Colour to show the Battle Honour "Tangier 1662-80". As this means dressing the Colour slightly off true, the author presumes that this has been done deliberately, out of pride in the Army's oldest Battle Honour.

(to be continued)
OVID



1



2



3

BASSINGBOURN



Leo Duncan telling one of his tales to a doubting Sue Wallis and Harry Drayton - Vic Aukett is still wondering what happened to his brooms bass!

STAN BLAY from Guildford, writes:- Many thanks for a most interesting Newsletter. I felt I must write to you as there are several names who I had association with.

In the November Newsletter there was a photo of CSM "Tosh" Godfree with his invalid car. He was my first Lance Corporal on joining 2/7th Queen's in 1942. I paid him a visit 2 weeks ago, and found a great change in him to when I knew him some 40 years ago. Of course we re-lived our recruit training over again as well as many other topics. He greatly appreciates what the Regiment has done for him.

Another name which comes to mind is that of Roger Barsotti. I well remember him as Bandmaster when I used to visit my school chum Freddie Osbourne, who was the son of RSM Osbourne.

As you may know, I was employed by the RE's after the war and was working at Stoughton Barracks where I met "Lou" Larcombe. I remember when he received his meritorious service medal. His turnout was meticulous, a great credit to a great Regiment. I know the very high standard he set for the National Service men on his staff. I recall there was a Lieutenant Millman at the Depot, could that be our present Colonel of the Regiment?

Sgt Sandy Pickering, of course, was in the same Battalion as me 2/7th, although I was with 2/6th Queen's some of the time.

I feel I must mention our Padre Captain Radford. How I enjoyed his Sunday evening services in Iraq, and I was delighted to have met him again at a recent 2/7th Battalion Reunion.

It was also with regret that I learned of the passing of "Togo" Hearnden, who was CSM A Coy 2/6th at Salerno. I well remember him in his dug-out just a few yards away from mine during those far off difficult days in 1943.

The serial of Tommy Atkins is most interesting reading. I knew Tom when he was RSM at the Depot during my employment there. I also met Major Buzz Waspe as well. He was then secretary of Queen's O.C.A.

I visited Gary Lockwood (2/7th) earlier this year when he was in hospital. He was RSM 2/7th Battalion. I was accompanied by an old friend Charlie Litton who lives close to me at Guildford.



6769298 H.W. TOMKINS writes from Colchester:- Reading the article in the May issue of The Newsletter "A 23rd London Cap Badge" reminded me that I also wore that cap badge, and I also wore The East Surrey cap badge. I joined the 23rd London The East Surrey Regt. late in 1928. The drill hall being at Clapham Junction. My first camp with the battalion was at Mychett, Aldershot. Then in November 1932 I joined The East Surrey Regt. at Kingston upon Thames. I trained under Sgt. Choules and joined the 2nd Bn at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone. They were still building when we arrived.

The Battalion trooped the colours on the Risborough Bks Sports ground in 1934. R.S.M. Estall "bullied" us into straight lines. He now lives in Colchester.

Incidentally the signature on my attestation form is Major G.R.P. Roupell, VC, and the same signature is on my OCA card, only then he was Lt. Col. 1st Bn at Sobraon Bks, Colchester. I was one of the left overs from 2nd Bn, transferred to the 1st Bn, my O.C. being the late Brigadier 'Nipper' Armstrong. At the outbreak of war, I was transferred to the Intelligence Corps, or as it was first known, F.S.P. C.M.P. But I am proud of my first unit, The East Surrey Regiment.

A.H.F. WILLIAMS writes:- Thank you for my copy of Newsletter referring to the 23rd London Regt Cap Badge I can only say that I used to be in possession of my 23rd London Regt Cap Badge in Shanghai. I took it to be lost, but as you stated that the only member of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regt known to in Austria when he took command of 1st Bn The East Surreys. Having drawn the days rations I was waiting outside the QM Stores waiting for my jeep, when 'Nipper' suddenly appeared. Having acknowledged my salute I was instructed to detail to what use every item I had drawn was to be used for. I believe he was quite interested when I told him that the oats were used for making oakcakes sometimes instead of porridge. After all the tales I had heard about 'Nipper' I came to the conclusion that if you were straight with him you would never be in trouble.

A.E. HOLMES writes:- On reading your article in the May Newsletter referring to the 23 London Regt Cap Badge I can only say that I used to be in possession of my 23rd London Regt Cap Badge in Shanghai. I took it to be lost, but as you stated that the only member of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regt known to have served in the 23rd London Regt was Major R.A. Chidson, he was also my Company Commander of 'B' Coy in Shanghai in 1939-40.

I also enlisted in the 23rd London Regt on the 17.10.32 until enlisting into The East Surrey Regiment on the 13.8.34. My Company Commander of 'B' Company in the 23rd London Regt at the time was Capt Parry, my regimental number in 23rd London Regiment was 6369477. The two Recruiting Sgts were Sgt Pewsey and Sgt Amies of The East Surrey Regt.

Each time I have been to the Reunion at Battersea I have never had the privilege of meeting Major Chidson, but it would be a great pleasure to meet him. I hope to in the near future. This, I think, makes two members of the 23rd London Regt who have served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regt.

I am still in possession of my discharge Army form B 108D showing my discharge from the 23rd London Regt to the East Surrey Regt 1 year 300 days.

T.R. KIENZLE in trouble - again! writes:- What is the punishment these days for being absent off parade? We started out for Basingbourn when my prop shaft went. Naturally it was in the middle of nowhere. The LAD (in the form of the AA) eventually recovered us, and lifted us back to Hounslow. He did stop for refreshments. Char and wads only!

The incident did prove one thing to me, the advantage of belonging to the O.C.A. I had several calls to ask if I was alright and not sick. I wasn't until I got the bill for £ 77! However I do need the car for my welfare work.

Hope everybody had a happy reunion. Until one misses out, the day isn't fully appreciated. People go not knowing who they will meet. When the unforeseen happens it's a sad day.

J.S. HANCOCK writes from 51 Blackwood, Coalville, Leicester LE6 3RG:- I have recently retired and have got the opportunity of a holiday in Normandy hence my request for assistance from your archives.

I'm afraid my time with the Regiments was all too brief, much to my regret, I volunteered and was accepted for the 2/6th East Surreys in May 1943. In April 1944 I was transferred to the 2/6th Queens Royal Regiment, as they were being made up to strength after the desert campaign for the Normandy landing.

I was taken prisoner and wounded in August 1944. After being released and a couple of operations I was downgraded to B7 by 45 Div Medical Board. I was told I would be unfit for Infantry and was given the choice of Ordnance or Signals. I opted for Ordnance but it is a different world from an infantry regiment. I was demobbed in 1947.

My father served as a regular in the 2nd Bn The East Surreys for seven years and was transferred to the reserve in January 1922. I also had three uncles in the Surreys at that time. My father often used to talk of a Captain Sandes who he served with in France during World War I. I believe he helped the Captain when he was wounded.

G.J. THORTON writes from 18 Cranmor Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6EC:- It was with great pleasure and pride in my heart that I came to The Queens Regiment Grand Reunion this year.

However I hardly knew anyone when I got there and felt quite alone, but within twenty minutes I had made friends with dozens of old Surreys I had never met before, the friendship was fantastic, the air electric and the music from the bands wonderful. Then I met Major Hill and his charming wife. The Major was as young now as he was in the 1st Surreys in N. Africa. Then the day was complete, what a marvellous couple they are.

I also spoke to several young Queens men there. When they saw my medals and Regimental tie quite a few were calling me Sir, and standing to attention. The respect was fantastic, I shall never forget it as long as I live, even if I live to be a hundred years old.

141457 C. BURKE-EASTON writes from Teignmouth, Devon:- It was 50 years ago today (7th June) that I walked into the Depot at Kingston to become one of "Ward's June" squad.

With me was Ted Purcell, we served together in the 1st Bn. in Khartoum, then in the 2nd Bn. until Singapore. Having heard nothing of him since then, I would very much like to know if he came through the P.O.W. period - is there any way of finding out?

Major ROSS MANGLES writes:- I was interested in the photo of the old 6 foot Colours.

As Junior Subaltern in Tientsin in 1933 I had the privilege of carrying the Regimental Colour on the Kings Birthday Parade, and there is a picture of this parade in the Museum at Clendon Park.

A.D. MOODY writes from Shepton Mallet, Somerset:-
The Hundred Year Colours

After serving throughout the war with 2/6th Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment, I came home in 1946 and found myself stationed (still in the Queen's) at the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre, Shorncliffe Barracks, Kent and was employed on Garrison Police Duties. In 1947 a small party, including myself, were told off for Colour Escort duties which meant travelling to Devonport to meet the 1st Bn, Colours which were coming home on the aircraft carrier HMS GLORY.

Prior to leaving for Devonport and under the instructions of the redoubtable RSM Percy Tasker, we spent a lot of spare time on foot and arms drill.

Came the great day and departure from Shorncliffe, boots highly polished and practically packed in cotton wool, rifle and bayonet sparkling and uniform with knife edge creases. On the way we collected L/Cpl "Chuck" Sheffield. He will be remembered for his dazzling array of good conduct stripes on his left arm.

On arrival at Devonport we were accommodated in the RN Barracks overnight and were attached for all purposes, including the daily tot of rum!

The next day we were paraded and marched to HMS GLORY and formed up at the bottom of the gangway while the

1st Bn Colours were marched off. Being so old the Colours had to remain cased. Our next journey was to Guildford after leaving the sailors in Devonport busy trying to 'spit and polish' their boots to the Queen's standards.

On arrival at Guildford station, we were met by a Royal Navy detachment, a detachment of Queen's from Guildford and the Regimental Band.

The parade was formed up and marched fixed bayonets, rifles at the slope through Guildford and up to the Barracks. We then formed up outside the officers' mess and presented arms to the Colours as they were marched into the officers' mess, there to be laid up. My one regret is that the Colours had to remain cased. It would have been wonderful to have marched with the Colours flying.

That night we were entertained by the Queen's in Guildford. Most of the guard from Shorncliffe were junior NCO's including myself, and we had all been asked to take down our stripes for the purpose of the guard, so after the parades, the first task was sewing back our stripes.

Just a few days in history but very memorable and something I have never forgotten and so back to Shorncliffe and routine police duties.

I think it was 1970 when I wrote on these lines to Major Hill. I do remember that I closed that account by saying "Was it really 23 years ago! I must be getting old!" Now at the close of this account I can say, "Was it really 39 years ago! Now I know I am getting old!"

By a strange coincidence, my wife and I found ourselves in Devonport Barracks on the 18th May 1986. We travelled there for the Royal British Legion 1986 South Western Area and 50th Anniversary of the Devon County Rally (my first visit since 1947).

Hope this will be of interest, it only started because of the article about the 100 Year Colours.



Peter McNeil, of The Royal British Legion, Caterham writes:

It is with considerable pleasure that I enclose a copy of a photograph taken upon the happy conclusion to the joint efforts of The Royal British Legion, The Queens Royal Surrey Regimental Association, The Army Catering Corps Association with the co-ordinated help of Major Byrne of the Forces Help Society.

To all of the foregoing I hasten to offer my most sincere personal thanks coupled with those of the happy recipient, Mr. Mathews, to all the hard working Gentlemen who run the Benevolent Departments of the Associations involved.

I would be most appreciative if you could arrange for the Photograph of this happy occasion to be published in the various Association's Magazines which may perhaps illustrate that we (The Service Secretaries) don't just write letters and hide behind Titles, but actually do frequently achieve the result that our Members in need would desire.

GOLF SOCIETY

The Spring Meeting of the Golf Society was held at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on 17th April 1986. 21 members played.

Challenge Cup:	Colonel J.G.W. Davidson (70)
Dodgson Cup:	Maj. Gen. G.A. White (66 net)
Heales Trophy:	Colonel S.T.W. Anderson (39 pts)
Veterans Halo:	Maj. Gen. G.A. White (44 pts)

The Sweep was won by Peter Mason.

At the Annual General Meeting held following play, the President, Major General G.A. White made a presentation to Major Basil Crutchfield who was retiring as Hon. Sec. of the Society having held the position since 1971. The memento, which was liquid by nature, had been provided by donations from 29 members.

Major F.V. Sheppard was appointed Hon. Sec./Treasurer and by popular acclaim Captain J.A. Clark was elected Captain for the years 1986/7 and 1987/8.

Annual Match v. Royal Marines G.S.

This was played at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on 9th July. The Marines led 3 to 1 after the morning Foursomes and the issue was in doubt until the final match - the Regiment winning by 7 matches to 5.

A.M. FOURSOMES			
QUEENS SURREYS		ROYAL MARINES	
Col. J.G.W. Davidson	0	Col. A. Harris	1
Major B. Crutchfield		Maj. Gen. P. Kay (1 up)	
Maj. Gen. G.A. White	0	Capt. D. Hunt	1
M. Power		Lt. Col. D. Tweed (5/4)	
Col. S.T.W. Anderson	0	M.A. Trotman	1
Capt. J.A. Clark		Col. S. Smith (5/4)	
P. Mason	1	Capt. A. Gordon	0
Major F.V. Sheppard (2/1)		J. Wood	
	1		3
P.M. SINGLES			
M. Power (4/3)	1	Col. A. Harris	0
Maj. Gen. G.A. White (6/5)	1	Maj. Gen. P. Kay	0
Col. J.G.W. Davidson (4/3)	1	Lt. Col. D. Tweed	0
Col. S.T.W. Anderson	0	N. Carter (6/5)	1
P. Mason	0	M. Trotman (1 up)	1
Maj. B.A. Crutchfield (6/4)	1	Col. S. Smith	0
Capt. J.A. Clark (2/1)	1	J. Wood	0
Maj. F.V. Sheppard (4/2)	1	Capt. A. Gordon	0
Result	7		5

In the morning round Team Captain Major Vic Sheppard had a hole in one at the 139 yard 15th.

Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon

Once again, blessed by glorious autumn sunshine and the beauty of Clandon Park, over one hundred Members and their guests attended this year's Ladies' Luncheon. Gathering in the Salon for pre-luncheon refreshment, before moving to the impressive Marble Hall for the lunch, the reunion of so many friends and members of the Regimental family was indeed heart-warming.

Amongst those present were The Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Brigadier Charles Millman, and Generals Fergus Ling, Rowley Mans and Michael Reynolds. Mention must be

made of one member who was attending for the first time - Major Peter Jeffrey, on holiday from New Zealand, surely travelled the greatest distance of any one present, and one hopes that in meeting many old friends he considered his enterprise fully rewarded!

After the luncheon, our President Colonel 'Toby' Sewell, made a short speech of well chosen words and proposed the Loyal Toast and the toast to The Regiment. Members continued to renew friendships, to talk about shared memories and to visit the excellent Regimental Museum. The Curator and his staff are to be congratulated on the magnificent displays, which are always worthy of a visit whenever one is near Guildford.

Although this was a lunch-time occasion it was well into the late afternoon before many members bade each other farewell - no doubt looking forward to meeting again at next year's Dinner!

Our thanks, as always, must go to Lt. Col. Les Wilson, our Honorary Secretary, who once again ensured the organisation of a very happy and successful reunion. No small detail was forgotten, and the pleasure of seeing the tables, graced by pieces of Regimental silver, provoked many comments of admiration.

JWJ

The Queen's Royal Regiment and Roedean School

During the last war, Roedean School was occupied by various units of the services. The 15th Bn of The Queen's Royal Regiment was the first. In the ante-chapel, a plaque commemorates the presentation, by the Commanding Officer (Brigadier Alan Black D.S.O.), of two silver lambs as stoppers for the Communion vases.

After forty years, the lambs became damaged by constant use. The restoration work was arranged by Lt Colonel Hugh Harris MA JP, who was a member of the garrison at Roedean in 1940. Colonel Harris and Major T D H Ross of the 6/7th (Volunteer) Bn. The Queen's Regiment represented the Regiment on May 6th 1986 at the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the school chapel, when the restored lambs were rededicated.

The Royal Navy occupied the school for most of the War. At the same service, the White Ensign of H.M.S. Vernon, which was presented to the school at its Centenary Service last summer and has now been affixed in the Chapel, was laid up in perpetuity as a memorial to those serving in the Royal Navy who have given their lives in the service of their Country.



Museum Notes

Many gifts of documents, militaria and medals have been made to the museum over the past year and we are very grateful to the donors. What cannot be used at the time is carefully entered into the acquisition book and its location in our storage/filing system noted.

There were two gifts of particular interest. The first, presented by his widow, were the medals of Lieut Colonel E. Tebay TD, The East Surrey Regiment; amongst them was the Order of St Olaf awarded for his work in Norway. Mrs Tebay also presented the Gold Staff and Brassard worn by Lieut Colonel Tebay when he was appointed a Gold Staff Officer at Westminster Abbey during the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.

The other was the presentation by Major J.M. Jourdier of the complete full dress uniform including the helmet of The East Surrey Regiment, all in excellent condition, which belonged to his father, Colonel M. Jourdier DSO; his full set of medals were also presented.

A Museum Guide illustrated with 16 colour prints will shortly be on sale both at the entrance at Clandon Park house and also in the museum shop. It will not only be a great help when visiting the museum but will also provide an attractive souvenir.

Coupled with the production of the Museum Guide, there will also be available for sale a history of our Regiments up to and including a short postscript as The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. The booklet will be similar in style to those produced for Salerno, Cassino and the Far East, and will cover the main events of our long and distinguished histories.

Both of these booklets have involved a lot of work by several members of the Museum Committee while full credit for organising the production goes to Lieut Colonel Les Wilson; many hours were also spent by his daughter, Anne, in beautifully reproducing our drafts on a 'word processor'.

Mrs Daphne Hill is making steady headway in preparing the special display for 1987 and 1988 depicting 'Our Territorials' over the years. Anybody who has photographs, militaria or even accounts of specific happenings over the years and has not already loaned them for the display, and is willing to do so, are asked to contact Mrs Hill.

Finally since 1983, Major Charles F. Cole MBE has expertly rephotographed all the photographs loaned for these special displays quite apart from other photographs he has taken inside the museum itself. Resulting from this, we have built up a substantial record of our Regiments, mounted in albums which can be seen in the museum on request to one of the staff. Major Cole has decided both because of advancing years and now living in Mousehole in remotest Cornwall, he can no longer undertake this arduous photography for us. It is therefore an opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to Charles for all his excellent work which will be of long lasting benefit to all who visit our museum.

H.R.D.H.

A Flame That Still Burns Brightly.

"We're all together again," chorused the Great War veterans of the 2/4th Queen's Battalion.

Not strictly true perhaps, as just seven of the members and guests at their Old Comrades' Association annual luncheon on Saturday were true veterans of the battalion's awesome 1914-18 campaigns. But in spirit no one could doubt the occasion was a reunion for all the brave men who fought together on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, France and Flanders.

Five years ago I was privileged to dine with these old soldiers at their 52nd reunion, then held at Mitcham Road Barracks. I wrote then: "They steadfastly refuse to fade away."

And on Saturday Lieut Reginald Jennings, Sgt Harry Mann, Walter Alce, Horace Bridger, George Gardner, Bert Jackson and Syd Vinter once again showed the flame of comradeship still burns brightly.

Maj-Gen 'Roly' Mans, retired Colonel of the Queen's, paid tribute to the veterans' "unique" achievement in keeping alive the memory of their 1,315 Great War dead and subsequent losses in such style. And Col Douglas McLelland, Deputy-Lieutenant for Croydon, said they held "a record to be proud of." Old Comrades' treasurer, George Gardner, proposed the toast to "all our comrades who have passed away." But of all the losses mourned none was felt more keenly than the death earlier this year of Katherine Mann. Married to OCA honorary secretary Harry Mann for 70 years, she died in January, aged 94.

Sgt Mann, who, as secretary since the OCA was founded in 1925, has ensured its survival for 61 years, said his efforts had been sustained "knowing I had such a wonderful wife to help me through all these years."

Tracing the remarkable history of the 2/4th Queen's OCA he recalled the first annual lunch in 1925 at the old King's Arms in Katharine Street, Croydon, when 120 members attended.

Numbers may have dwindled over the years and of the 23 survivors, now all aged between 87 and 97, fewer can manage the luncheon every year. But Sgt Mann had no hesitation in leading the veterans in a rousing chorus of "We're all together again" in a fresh display of the 70 year old Great War spirit.

It was true 70 years ago, it was true five years ago and it still seems true today ... these gallant old soldiers will not fade away.

Alex Gifford

(with acknowledgements to the Croydon Advertiser.)



5 Queens Old Members Association

A record number of 180 Old Members attended the Annual Dinner on 17th May. Each year this dinner becomes more popular, members travelling from as far away as Wales, Cambridge, Lincoln, Essex and the London area to be with us.

Guests were entertained by the Surrey Army Cadet Force Band before dinner. Members arrived early, and before long the Drill Hall was alive with conversations as groups recognised old friends and renewed acquaintanceships. The board displaying letters from those unable to attend is always popular and a good talking point.

We were honoured this year by the presence of the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor John Ades, thus re-establishing the Regiment's links with the Borough, which have sadly lapsed over the past few years. Our other guests were Col Robert Acworth (Deputy Col Queens Regt), Col Toby Sewell and Lt Col Les Wilson (President and Secretary of the Queen's Surreys Association).

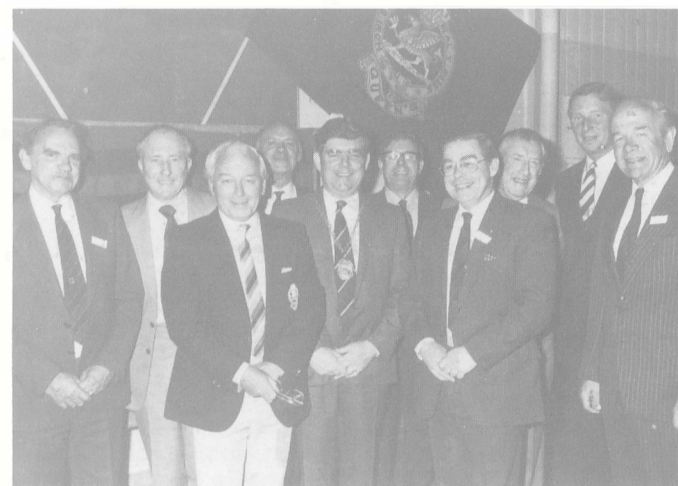
After dinner the Chairman, Lt Col Foster Herd welcomed the guests, in particular the Mayor of Guildford, and spoke of the close links with the Borough the Regiment had always enjoyed; it is hoped that these will be maintained again in the future. The thanks of all members were given to Doug Mitchell (Secretary) and Ron May (Treasurer) and all members of the Committee for their untiring work in ensuring once again that the dinner should be as successful as ever.

Col Robert Acworth gave a resume of the past year's highlights in the Regular and Territorial Bns., which assured us that our successors are every bit as good as we were.

Col John Kealy made a presentation of a pewter statuette of a Queensman to Ron May to mark his 18 years as Treasurer of our Association. The statuette had been donated by Ralph Ellis.

It would be wrong to end this account without mentioning Arthur Hill who now lives in Canada and who made sure his holiday in England coincided with the dinner; and the Rev George Gerrard who came from Norfolk to meet his former comrade Roy Bullen who lives in Guildford - they last saw each other in 1941. I am sure there are many more instances such as these I have just described.

If you require further information about 5 Queens Old Members Association, details are available from Doug Mitchell - Tel. Guildford 232043.



"PRISTINAE VIRTUTIS MEMOR"



A NOSTALGIC CELEBRATION OF 325 YEARS OF HISTORY



The year 1986 marks twenty years since the formation of The Queen's Regiment, and 284 years since the raising of Villiers Marines, but principally it is the 325th Anniversary of the first muster of The Tangier Regiment on Putney Heath on 14th October 1661. Since this beginning the Regiments' involvement in the wars and affairs of our nation has made a record of unbroken service during four centuries which is second to none.

Each century has had its own distinctive character; each has been as different from the others as the characters of those people who have shaped the events of our national history in which the history of our Regiments has been woven like subplots in a larger drama. Because a century has a character of its own, it rarely falls into an exact 100-year span, so that the 17th Century may be thought to end in 1702 with the death of King William III and the beginning of the reign of Queen Anne; the 18th Century ends in 1815 with the downfall of Napoleon; the 19th Century was brought to its close in 1914 when the Great War swept away the last summer of the old world. Now our own century draws on towards its end.

* * *

The first beginnings of the Regiment lie in the turbulent years of the 17th Century Restoration. Its beginning is linked with the beginning of Empire, for the Tangier Regiment was raised to garrison Tangier, part of the dowry brought by Charles II's Portuguese Queen, Catherine of Braganza. From Queen Catherine came the title of "The Queen's" which is still borne by the Regiment.

The short Battle Honour "Tangier 1662 - 1680" does not convey adequately the many years of hard fighting at Tangier. Although a pleasant station, Tangier was in an almost perpetual state of siege by fierce Moorish troops, and here the Regiment was commanded through its 22 years of duty by some of the most eminent military men of the age.

Tangier was to be the start of a great English Empire in Africa but its potential was never realised. The continual state of siege meant that it had to be maintained from the sea; this in turn led to the great labour invested in improving the harbour. But an impoverished exchequer at home could hardly pay the soldiers let alone increase the garrison, or undertake a war of conquest against the Moors, or even develop the trade which would have been its salvation. The great reinforcement of 1680 was nothing but a piece of show. Four years later the town and its defences were demolished, the harbour and its great mole thrown down and the garrison evacuated back to England.

In the year following its return to England, the Tangier Regiment was placed on the Irish Establishment, given precedence as the Second Regiment of Foot and named The Queen's for the first time. King Charles's death meant a change of title to The Queen Dowager's Regiment and as such it fought for King James during Monmouth's Rebellion. The tercentenary of this insurrection has only just occurred and has been fully written up in the Newsletter, so that it would be wrong to launch a blow-by-blow account of the campaign. It is necessary, however, to comment on the charge that the Regiment and Kirke its Colonel, acted with unjust cruelty: only a year before, the Regiment had been fighting the Moors, a savage foe from whom no quarter could be asked. Moreover in the aftermath of the English Civil War the prevailing climate was one of a horror of treason and rebellion. Lastly, Kirke and his men were the product of their time and should not be judged by the standards of the 20th Century.

Having supported James Stuart against Monmouth, Kirke and his Regiment showed no compunction going over to Dutch William in the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688 once it was clear that James had overplayed his hand politically. Kirke had once been asked by James to become a Catholic but had replied that he had made a promise to the Bey of Algiers that if ever he changed his religion, he would become a Moslem! Time

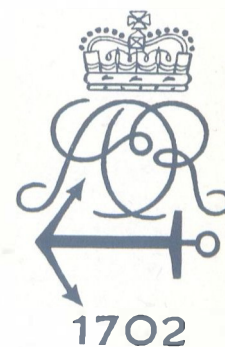
evidently had not altered Kirke's opinion and he supported the Protestant William.

But James was still King in Ireland. In 1689, William began his campaign to subdue that country by sending Kirke and his Regiment to the relief of the besieged city of Derry. Kirke delayed a good deal in relieving the city and one cannot escape the suspicion that he was waiting once again to see which way Fortune's wheel would turn. However the siege was raised there followed the series of bloody battles which ended with James's defeat and expulsion: The Boyne, Athlone, Augrim and Limerick.

An unusual incident occurred during the siege of Charlemount. When Governor Tighe O'Regan was summoned to surrender the message was carried by a drummer of The Queen's. O'Regan regaled the soldier with plenty of food and drink, and talked to him, asking him why he had left King James to take service under William. "Oh, you are wrong" said the drummer, "it was King James that ran away from me, not I from him." "Why," replied the Governor, "that is one of King James's coats that you are wearing." "Wrong again," said the quick-witted drummer, "it is one of the Queen's".

Following this campaign, the rascally Kirke managed to return to England with a large amount of personal loot, to the extent of 70 horses and 5 carts of treasure. How he managed to amass this much in a country as poor as Ireland shows the extent of his ingenuity and ruthlessness. Kirke died at Brussels in 1691 but the Regiment had no time to mourn him as war was prosecuted in the Low Countries against Louis XIV of France who continued to support James. Defeat for William at Landen was wiped out by success at Namur, the Regiment's second oldest battle honour and one of William's few successes against the French.

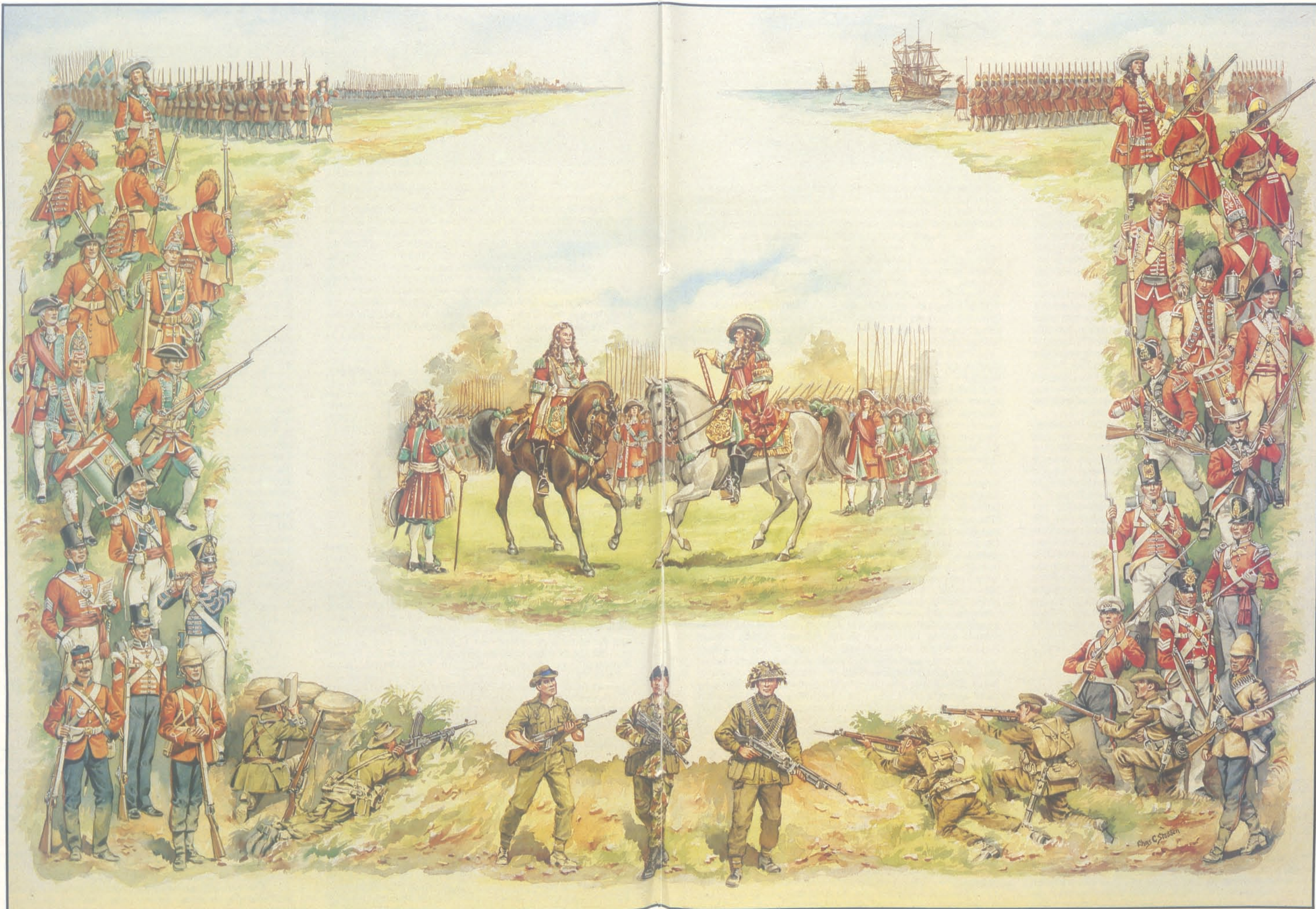
The Accession of Queen Anne heralded a new period of English expansion and with it competition and struggle against France that would last more than a hundred years. This struggle would bring a steady increase in the size and fighting prowess of the English Standing Army, and the rise of some of our greatest Generals: Marlborough, Wolfe, Moore, Wellington.



Among the first fruits of military expansion was the raising of several Marine Regiments of which one, Villiers' Marines, was to become the 31st Huntingdonshire Regiment and in due course The East Surrey Regiment.

The first recorded meeting between Villiers' Marines and The Queen's occurred early in Queen Anne's reign when both took part in the Duke of Ormond's abortive attack on Cadiz - the failure of which was sweetened by the destruction of a French fleet and capture of 11 treasure galleons at Vigo. Villiers' Marines first distinction was to follow soon after only 3 years after their raising, at the capture and the great siege of Gibraltar, although the actual Battle Honour was not awarded until 1909.

The wars of England's great attacking general, the Duke of Marlborough, brought success and honours to both our Regiments; in particular should be remembered the valour of The Queen's at Tongres in 1703. Although no Battle Honour has



been awarded, the Regiment was honoured by being given the distinction of becoming a Royal Regiment.

But disaster was to follow in Spain where during the war of the Spanish Succession, English fortunes prospered at first under the leadership of the young Earl of Peterborough, nephew of the first Colonel of The Queen's. With Peterborough's replacement by the Earl of Galway, however, matters took a turn for the worse and ended in the calamitous battle of Almanza in 1707 in which The Queen's, who led the English attack, were almost wiped out.

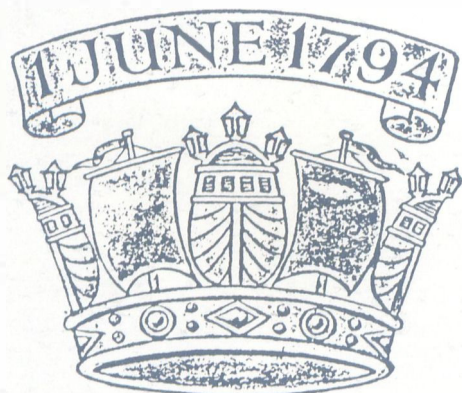
In 1710 a second Piercy Kirke took command of The Queen's. This younger Kirke, son of the old Colonel, had been gazetted Ensign at the age of two (his father drew his pay) and was to achieve the rank of Lieutenant General before his death in 1741. His long spell in command of the Regiment took in the abandoned expedition to Quebec in 1711, the sad tale of the Lost Company in Bermuda, and 18 years of garrison duty in Gibraltar – a short distance over the sea from Tangier where... "his father had ruled the Regiment in its stormiest years".

While The Queen's remained at Gibraltar, the wars in Europe against the French continued. Here the 31st Regiment served, being present at the battle of Dettingen in 1743, the last occasion on which an English King led his Army in person. It was here that the King, George II, bestowed on the 31st their famous nickname "the Young Buffs".

Two years later the 31st was fighting once more in Flanders acquitting themselves with great gallantry in spite of severe casualties at the bloody battle of Fontenoy. Their campaign service was continued in the Seven Years War, and it was this war which saw the raising of a 2nd Battalion of the 31st Regiment. Two years later in 1758, this battalion became the 70th Regiment and was for a time known as the 70th Surrey Regiment. This was temporarily changed to the Glasgow Lowland Regiment but the connection with Surrey was re-established in 1782. In due course it was to be reunited with the 31st, becoming 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

The first centenary of The Queen's was passed in Ireland, presaging many more years of service in that country, but until 1775 neither The Queen's, the 31st nor the 70th saw anything but garrison duty throughout the embryonic Empire. The 31st and 70th both lost many men from fever during spells of duty in the Caribbean, and both fought in the American Revolutionary War which ended with the loss of a large part of the old Empire.

The European peace which had lasted since 1763 was shattered by the French Revolution, itself inspired by the American example; in its wake followed the Great French War which engulfed Europe for a generation. In the early prosecution of war against the French, the chief glory of English Arms fell to the Navy rather than the Army and so it was that The Queen's, serving as marines on board the ships of Lord Howe's fleet, gained a part of the glory by fighting in the great victory of The Glorious First of June, 1794. Although at the time it did not know it, the Regiment added another strand to the marine tradition which would be reinforced by its future amalgamation with Villiers' Marines.



The Queen's was not long deprived of success against the French on land, for it formed part of the force sent to Ireland in 1798 to crush the Rebellion there and to throw out a French Army sent to assist the rebels. In the following year the Regiment fought side-by-side with the 31st in Holland under Abercrombie, then in 1801 added the distinction of the Sphinx to



its Colours for its part in the campaign in Egypt, which put an end to the eastern ambitions of the young Napoleon. At the same time, the 31st and 70th were helping to deprive France of its Caribbean territories by seizing Guadeloupe and Martinique.

The struggle against French domination in Europe was, however, far from over and continued first in Portugal and Spain, and later in France itself. Here The Queen's and the 31st gained some of their proudest Battle Honours: Vimiera; Corunna, where Sir John Moore died in action; then Wellington's victories at Salamanca and Talavera; the bloody field of Albuhera, where the 2/31st under their Commanding Officer L'Estrange bore the full force of the French attack almost alone; Vittoria and the battle of the Pyrenees and on into France itself through Nivelles, Nives and finally Toulouse.

The end of the Great French War in 1815 signalled the close of the 18th Century. The new century would be one in which the English would consolidate the fruits of victory into their new Empire, replacing what had been lost in America. The history of the Regiment is a reflection of that – a long series of Colonial campaigns from which the growth of Empire can be traced on our Colours: campaigns in Afghanistan in 1839 where The Queen's stormed the great fortresses of Ghuznee and Kelat; the Sikh War in India in which the 31st won Battle Honours, notably Sobraon 1843 which is still celebrated by the 1st Battalion, the Sergeants' Mess having custody of the Regimental Colours for a day in memory of the bravery of Sergeant McCabe; fighting by the 70th against mutineers in India, Maoris in New Zealand, Pathans in the Second Afghan War, and Mahdists in Egypt; fighting in Africa against tribesmen and Boers as the Empire expanded in that continent; war in China in support of trade, where the 31st fought once more alongside The Queen's; and of course long spells of garrison duty in India, Ireland, Malta, Aden, Gibraltar and the West Indies.

There was only one major international conflict during this time, the Crimean War. The 31st served in the war and was present at the greatest battles of the campaign – Balaklava, Inkerman and the siege of Sevastopol. At Sevastopol a detachment under Lieutenant Leeson captured the enemy parapet during the assault on the fortress, rushing through Russian rifle pits which had held the French at bay for a day.

This was a century in which enlarged commitments meant an expanded and reorganised military Establishment. A Second Battalion raised by The Queen's, the 31st and 70th joined once more and retitled as The East Surrey Regiment; Volunteers flourishing and even the Militia taking an active part in the South African War. Other changes too: no more purchase of commissions, no Colours carried into battle, and scarlet replaced at last by khaki for active service.

Employment as a Colonial police force had its price. Although the Boer War had taught the Army much in the way of individual skills, musketry, camouflage; although it had a depth of experience in what would now be termed "low intensity operations"; although it had a fine disciplinary system and esprit de corps – it was grievously unprepared for the European War which erupted in August 1914. The Army was small (only 4 Divisions plus cavalry could be sent to France), unprovided with machine guns, gas or artillery in sufficient quantity, and its tactical thinking well behind technical advances. This last was to remain the case until early in 1918 even though the others were put right.

The vast casualties and the huge increase of the citizen Armies were to tax the old system to its limits, and yet although Regular battalions were wiped out time after time, they were

always reformed and maintained themselves in their Regimental tradition. Although the conditions of war were such as had never been seen before, war on a monstrous scale which engulfed and devoured men, animals and machines like chaff in a furnace, few doubted that England would win in the end. And although our Regiments fielded 49 battalions (including not only Regular and Territorial, but also Training, Holding, Garrison, Service, Labour, Young Soldiers, Graduated and New Army battalions) the strength of the British Regimental system was such that the pre-eminence of their own corps could be agreed down any number of battalions.

Our Regiments were present in every theatre of war: France and Flanders, Italy, India, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, Palestine. Over 14,000 men were killed, many more wounded, but 7 VCs were won by members of each Regiment. Perhaps Graves's famous poem "Two Fusiliers" might bring to mind the common bond between our two Regiments as much as between two individuals, for

"... we've been lucky devils both,
And we've no need of bond or oath
To bind our lovely friendship fast.
By firmer stuff
Close bound enough."

Others might put it more simply:

"Star of the East and Lamb of the West,
Put them together and — the rest."

After the Armistice in 1918, the Army contracted rapidly to its previous size and role. The moral climate of the time did little to encourage recruiting but fewer recruits did not mean fewer commitments – it is sometimes forgotten that between the Wars our Regiments were deployed on operations in Ireland, Palestine, the North-West Frontier of India, Afghanistan, China; on disaster relief during the Quetta Earthquake in India in 1935; and on garrison duty at home and throughout the Empire.

Because it is in the memory of many people now living, The Second World War can be an emotive subject on which to write. The Army began the war badly: little notice had been taken of tactical theory developed by men like Fuller and Liddell Hart, and Government economies had cut deeply into the Services' manpower and equipment. There were early reverses in Europe and the Far East, but after what Field Marshall Alanbrooke described as "The Turn of the Tide", eventual victory was sure. Once again our Regiments' Regular and Territorial battalions were active everywhere both with the famous 1st and 8th Armies in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany, and with the 14th Army in the Far East. The Battle Honours on the Colours read like a roll call of the War's great battles. They recall how Battalions of both Regiments in the 4th and 50th Divisions fought doggedly against odds during the retreat to Dunkirk; how the remnants of the 2nd Surreys and the 1st Leicesters combined to form the British Battalion in the fighting in Malaya 1942; how the 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions of The Queen's took part in the great battles of Medenine and El Alamein; how two complete Queen's Brigades

relieved each other in the line during the Salerno landings; how the East Surreys carried on the struggle at Cassino; how the 1/5th Queen's were among the first across the Rhine into Germany; and how the 1st and 2nd Queen's fought with the Chindits in Burma and then how the 1st Queen's took part in the battles in the Arakan and Kohima which began the ejection of the Japanese from Burma and Malaya. In these days it is considered right to decry all war, but if ever there was a war which had to be fought it was this war against what Churchill called "the new dark age of Barbarism" brought on by Nazi terror and Japanese militarism.

The years since 1945 have been years in which the whole idea of The Regiment as it is understood in our Army has been put to the test while the Infantry has contracted in size, and when in 1948 following the loss of India, Line Regiments lost their Second Battalions the 2nd Queen's was disbanded during the Berlin Airlift while the 1st and 2nd Surreys amalgamated. Withdrawal from overseas bases and the end of National Service, both chiefly for economic reasons, brought the amalgamation of the two Regiments of Surrey to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment on 14th October 1959, exactly 298 years after the first muster of The Tangier Regiment. The TA battalions followed into amalgamation two years later, and the Tercentenary was celebrated by the new united Regiment in 1961.

More has followed over the last 25 years. In 1965 the TA was completely reorganised and drastically reduced although now, happily, it is expanding again. Then in 1966 the Home Counties Brigade was reorganised on a Regimental basis and retitled The Queen's Regiment. Two years later the new Regiment was grouped into the Queen's Division.

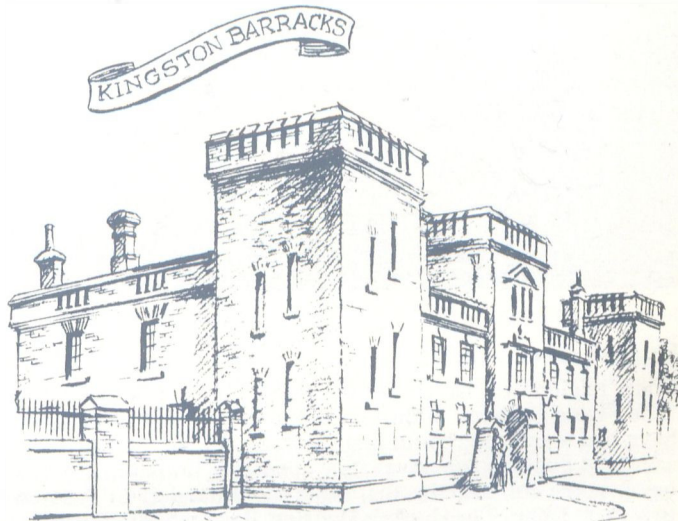
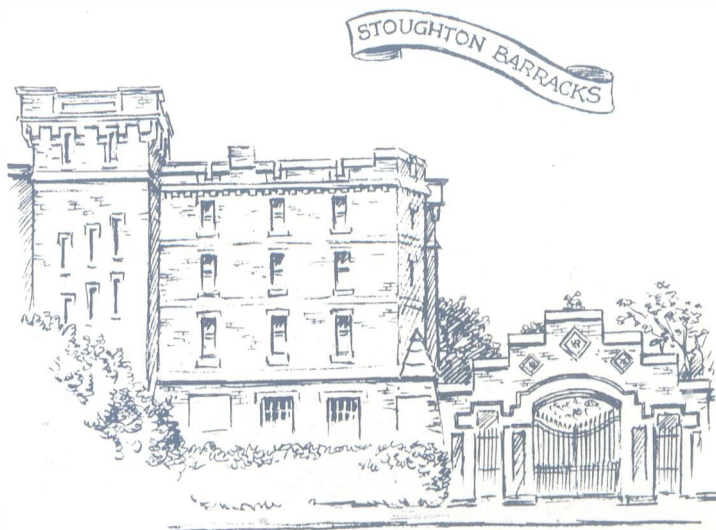
It is somewhat ironical that despite all these reductions, our battalions have been as heavily involved in operations as ever – in Greece, Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Egypt, Cyprus, Aden, Belize and Northern Ireland.

All these changes, allied with the accelerated pace of technical development in the Army over the last 30 years, make many feel that their old Regiment has disappeared. They need not be so fearful. Because a Regiment is a living thing, it is bound to reflect the changing times in which it lives. As General Francis Piggott remarked, when Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys): "Old Regiments never die, but they may have to change their form."

Finally, it is right to recall the words of Major General John Metcalfe in his first message as Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, which ring as true now as they did then:

... "Long faces and gloomy words about things not being what they were merely dampen the spirit ... We know about the past and how to use it as an example for our conduct in the future. Long ago, in the time of Queen Catherine and in the time of Queen Anne, we had our beginnings. And now, in the time of Queen Elizabeth II, we have been forged into a new fighting machine; we have come together in the comradeship of arms, alive, alert, purposeful and ready for anything."

OVID



"VEL EXUVIAE TRIUMPHANT"



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

Regular Battalions

The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Mike Ball, will return to Tidworth in January 1987 after a two year tour in Gibraltar. The 2nd Battalion, under Lt Col Peter Cook, moved from Oakington to Minden in August this year. The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Bob McGhie, were in Belize from April to October 1986 when they returned to Canterbury where they will be based until their move to Aldergrove in January 1988.

TA Battalions

The 5th (Volunteer) and 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalions were joined in the Regiment's order of battle in April by the 8th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London). This battalion has its Battalion Headquarters at St John's Hill, London, and will have both Queen's and Royal Regiment of Fusiliers companies under command.

Anniversaries

In addition to the 325th Anniversary of the raising of the Tangier Regiment, The Queen's Regiment also celebrates this year the 20th Anniversary of its formation on 31 December 1986 from the four previous Infantry Regiments from the South East. It is interesting to note that we now have a Commanding Officer (3rd Battalion) who was commissioned into the present Regiment and an RSM (5th (Volunteer) Battalion) who never served in one of our forbear Regiments.

Exercising the Freedoms

The Queen's Regiment has no less than 19 Civic Honours (3 inherited from the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment) and it is the Colonel of the Regiment's policy that these should be exercised regularly. Thus the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion exercised the Freedom of Folkestone on 16th June and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion the Freedom of Arundel on 30th August. In 1987 the 3rd Battalion will march through Barnet (9th June), Chichester (11th June), Kingston-upon-Thames (12th June) and Ashford (13th June) and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion through Brighton (5th September).



Flying Dragons

Many readers will have seen the Regimental Free Fall Team 'The Flying Dragons' at the Grand Reunion on 13th July. They have had a very successful first season and gave the Regiment excellent publicity wherever they appeared. Bookings are now being taken for 1987 by the Team Commander, Lt Andrew Brown, at Depot The Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Royston DH8 5LX (Tel: 0763-42271 ext 4302). The Team will be in even greater demand next year, so bids should be made as soon as possible.

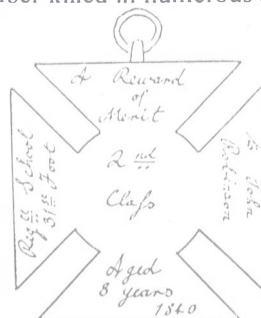
'A Reward of Merit'

A small silver cross upon which is engraved 'A Reward of Merit 2nd class, Regimental School 31st Foot to John Robinson aged 8 years 1840. Presented by Captain C. Shaw, 31st Regt.' has led to a sad, but probably not unusual story of British soldiers in India during the 19th century. It was on 17 January 1832 at Karnal that John Robinson was born to Pte. John Robinson and Mary Aspell. John's father had already served in India for five years, having enlisted at the age of eighteen into H.M. 31st Regiment of Foot. He had previously worked as a labourer at Maghera, Co. Downe.

John Robinson jnr. was one of four children, at least two of whom died in infancy and these tragedies were followed by the death of Mary Aspell in 1839. The motherless boy was admitted into the Regimental School of the 31st Foot while his father continued his soldiering career, seeing action at Jellalabad, Mazeena and Kabul during the First Afghan War. This same campaign also saw the death of Captain Charles Shaw, donor of the 'Reward of Merit' who died on 12 July 1842 and is recorded on the Roll of Honour for the 31st Foot in St. John's Church (The Afghan) at Colaba, Bombay.

The campaign had taken a heavy toll on Pte. Robinson's health and in 1843 he was recommended by a Regimental Board at Ambala for discharge 'in consequence of being worn out' at the age of 41. Returning to Chatham, with his young son John, now aged eleven, he faded back into his native Ireland.

The next episode of the story opens with the enlistment of John Robinson jnr. now aged eighteen into the 1st Madras European Fusiliers who sailed in the 'Gloriana' to India in 1850. On 1 January 1857 the young man was still a Private soldier but that was the year in which India was plunged into the convulsions of the Bengal Mutiny. The 1st Madras European Fusiliers, also known as 'Neill's Bluecaps' were actively employed in the suppression of the Mutiny and were an important component of Havelock's Column which fought its way to the relief of the besieged Residency at Lucknow, only to be besieged there itself until Sir Colin Campbell's relief in November 1857. The Regiment also took part in the final capture of Lucknow by Sir Colin Campbell in March 1858 by which time John Robinson had been promoted to Corporal. On completion of the Mutiny campaign the 1st Madras European Fusiliers returned to South India leaving behind many of its number killed in numerous actions or struck down by disease.



Corporal John Robinson having survived the bloodiest campaign in British India's history succumbed to dysentery at Arcot (Bangalore) on 5 April 1859 aged 28 years and seven months. He died unmarried and intestate leaving an estate of Rs. 243, 11 annas and 8 pie - and a small silver cross, 'A Reward of Merit'.



Sir Harry Secombe interviewing a veteran of The Somme, ex Sgt Leonard Baldwin, MM, 8th Bn The East Surreys for the T.V. programme 'Highway' which was broadcast on Remembrance Sunday.

Operation Blackcock - January 1945

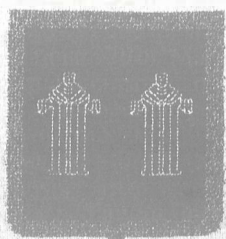
From time to time an incident occurs which brings back the events of the past, seemingly long forgotten, to those involved. Such an incident occurred in 1964 when Major John Evans late of the South Staffordshire Regiment and 1/5th Queen's, paid a visit to the small Dutch town of Susteren, where he had fought as a Company Commander with the 1/5th Queen's during Operation 'Blackcock'. A letter from Major Evans goes on:-

"Making my first visit nearly twenty years after the event, I was amazed to find that everyone was familiar with the details of the battle, knew my name and had, for years, been trying to contact me. This was mainly because . . . the battle had been written up with two full pages of Artists' impressions, in the Illustrated London News."

"The welcome from the people of Susteren was overwhelming, and shortly afterwards, in paying tribute to the Company they were kind enough to give my name to a new School, and later to accord me the freedom of the town."

Then in May 1985 came the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Major Evans was asked back once again to Susteren this time with his wife and two sons, and was entertained for three days of celebrations. There was also an exchange of presents - including a Queen's flag for the town and a framed tapestry for Major Evans which is to go on show in our Regimental Museum.

Obviously there is a great deal of local feelings towards Major Evans and The Queen's, and to explain why, one must turn back to the events of forty years ago.



susteren



PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN'S ROYAL
REGIMENT WITH GRATITUDE FOR
LIBERATING OUR SMALL VILLAGE
SUSTEREN ON JANUARY 19TH 1945

M. Borge

The tapestry presented to Major Evans which he has very generously presented to the Regimental Museum at Clandon.

In late 1944, Major John Evans joined 1/5th Queen's and became Company Commander of B Company. Before joining the Battalion he had been Second-in-Command of a Company in 1/6th South Staffords and with them had won a very fine DSO at the action around the St Benin Ridge on the River Orme, displaying great coolness and gallantry in the face of a determined and well-organised enemy.

He found 1/5th Queen's under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ian Freeland (later GOC Northern Ireland), forming part of the 7th Armoured Division.

On 10th January, the Battalion moved to Geleen to prepare for its part in Operation Blackcock, which was to bring the line of the Allied Expeditionary force up to the River Roer in Holland. The operation was launched on the 13th January when D Company captured the village of Bakenhoven, and then on the 16th the 9th DLI crossed the Vloed Beck (or Beek Stream).

The 1/5th Queens were now to attack the village of Susteren from the west. The leading company (B) and Battalion HQ began to cross the Vloed Beek at 2am on the 17th - the weather conditions could hardly have been worse; snow was falling but a slight thaw had produced thick mud while the pitch darkness of the night was made more impenetrable by fog. It was impossible for tanks to cross the Beek in support of the battalion, nor could the 6 pounder anti-tank guns be moved so that the companies were relying on small-arms, light automatics and PIAT to counter a well entrenched enemy supported by heavy armour.

The Corps Artillery laid on a barrage to the position in case infiltration failed but 'B' Company got to within a 100 yards before the alarm was raised. They charged and after some sharp fighting, established a foothold in the village by about 8am and had taken some 30 prisoners. Here, however, the company was cut off from support and counter-attacked from a German Infantry Battalion supported by at least 3 tanks. These tanks began to knock down the houses on top of the B Company men, who managed to immobilise one with a PIAT fired by Cpl Dolly (who was later decorated with the MM), but soon the platoons were being overrun by the enemy.

At this point, in collaboration with the Acting Battalion Commander Major Jock Nangle, it was decided to call down the Corps artillery onto the position to try to knock out the tanks. This was partially successful but of course B Company suffered too, and then with the withdrawal of the tanks the Germans brought down their artillery and again counter-attacked.

It was not until 3pm that the 1st Royal Tanks managed to cross the Beek and come to the assistance of B Company. At the sight of the tanks, the Germans withdrew although mopping up operations continued into the next day with over 80 prisoners being taken.

The cost of holding on for so long had been great in B Company - Major Evans wrote:-

"Less than 40 men survived the day. My company 2 I/C, Captain John Franklyn and all the platoon commanders were killed so I was the only officer to survive, although with two sets of wounds including eventual amputation of my left arm."

No wonder that after 40 years the people of Susteren still remember Major Evans and The Queen's. One of them wrote a short letter to Major Evans, and it is right that this should be the last word on the action:

"Thank you for what you and your brave men of B Company did for us 40 years ago. You brought back freedom in our beloved village Susteren.

The loss of men in that terrible fight had been enormous. Those men will be on my mind forever because they gave their lives for our liberty."



This photo is reproduced with permission of The Illustrated London News and was drawn originally by their War Artist Captain Bryan de Gaeneau who was attached to the British Second Army in Holland.

The picture was published in 1945 with the title "The Gallant Fight in Susteren". In the picture Corporal Dolly can be seen firing the PIAT from a window of a house, the original caption mentioned "British Infantry established in Susteren holding on desperately against Panzers until supported by advancing British tanks which had been held up at the Vloed Beek crossing".

In March, Field-Marshal Montgomery held a divisional presentation of medal ribbons for distinctions gained in the "Blackcock" fighting. The share of 1/5th Queen's was the largest in the Division, Major H.J. Nangle receiving a bar to his D.S.O.; Major C.V. Lilley, Lieutenant M.L. Baker and Second-Lieutenant R. Maxwell, the M.C.; Lance-Corporal R. Dennis, the D.C.M.; and Corporal Dolly, the M.M. The Battalion found the guard of honour under Captain N.A.H. Marsden, which was accompanied by the Regimental Band, on a visit from England.

An Incident in the Peninsular War

The Regimental Museum has received from Lieut Colonel F d'A Wilson MC, late RA, excerpts from the diary of his ancestor, Captain J A Wilson, who served in the Queen's in the Peninsular War. It is interesting to compare Captain Wilson's account of part of the Battle of the Nivelle in 1813 with that in the Regimental History. The enemy position covering the River Nivelle was protected by the great redoubt of St Barbe. The Regimental History describes the assault as follows.

'The centre of the attack was led by the Battalion of Detachments, consisting of the four companies of the Queen's with the companies of the 53rd Regiment. Deep ditches surrounded the ramparts of the redoubt, but these difficulties were overcome by the men carrying bags of fern to fill up the ditches. The men also carried scaling ladders to enable them to mount the high walls of the redoubt.

While the guns were pouring forth their stream of shot and shell, the gallant fellows of the Queen's and 53rd with a British cheer rushed forward, and surmounting all obstacles soon got into the works, the French not killed in the mêlée leaping over the walls and escaping.

A deep ravine, which was immediately in rear of the redoubt, prevented the further advance of the Battalion in pursuit; they were, however, able to direct a sharp and telling fire on the retreating French, causing them much loss.'

Extracts from the Diary of Captain J A Wilson, The Queen's 1813

- 8 Nov *Joined the Division in camp. Found the Regiment under orders for a storming party.*
- 9 Nov *Busy in making ladders and filling bags with fern to throw in the ditch of the fort.*
- 10 Nov *A general action! We marched from camp three hours before daybreak. At about 5 o'clock at grey daylight, the action commenced by our four companies dashing on in two strong parties, each independent of the other. The leading companies carrying the bags of fern and the others the ladders. Our company led the second party, covered by a party of 12 Volunteers. We were ordered to use our bayonets and were unloaded. Having run down a steep hill we got close to the glacis where we halted to breathe. A few men were wounded in passing along. Whilst we lay down the Artillery played as close over our heads as possible. One of the guns bursting just over us did us full as much harm as the enemy. We had two men killed and ten wounded by our own guns. Having waited about ten minutes, a Staff Officer rode down waving his hat, which was the signal to attack. The word 'Forward' was given, and the whole advanced, rending the air with Huzzas, the whole Division cheering us on, the Duke looking on close by. The French, as soon as we commenced throwing in the bags and erecting the ladders, leaped over the parapet on to the very bayonets of our men. They had to run down a steep ravine and up a narrow road, during all which time we kept up a distant fire upon them. About 30 men were taken in the fort, and of the rest, about 500 in number, very few could have escaped.*

Captain W.J.N. OSWALD has written to the Editor with an unusual story. He was taken prisoner of war whilst serving with the 1/5th Queen's at that time commanded by Colonel L.C. East.

Dear Editor,

When we met at Clandon some time ago, I said I would send you a photograph, and a copy of the covering letter which I received from Sweden in 1944 recording my meeting with Prince Carl during the exchange of Allied wounded POWs with German POWs.

I must explain that this photo came to be taken because I had a hat (uncommon among POWs), and moreover a hat with a badge – a Queen's Badge – albeit one made of silver paper!! It was a very well made badge and would I believe have passed as authentic to many people, but not to a knowing and critical eye of an RSM.

Somehow my wife had succeeded in getting a hat to me when I was a POW in the Lazaret attached to Stalag VIIIb and so, when I was informed that I was to be included in an exchange of

wounded POWs I felt the urge (inherent in all Queensmen) to be as well turned out as circumstances would permit. So I drew a Queen's badge, found a POW craftsman to fashion it, and attached it to my hat.

Prince Carl came to meet the hospital train in Sweden and apparently asked to meet a British Officer. As I was the only one with a hat (and a hat with a badge!) I was bundled on to a stretcher and taken to meet him. There seemed to be no breach of the Name, Rank, Number rule – I was now on neutral soil and the occasion had become ceremonial. Anyway two years had elapsed since my activities in the desert with 1/5th Queen's (these were 'old hat'!) and no longer of any military value.

I felt that Col L.C. East, under whom I had served, would have done no less himself. There is nothing remotely heroic in all this – I had loathed becoming a POW but if one is rendered immobile there is not much one can do about it. The only intriguing thought to me in all this is whether the episode with Prince Carl is unique or whether some other Queensman also had the extremely pleasant and happy experience of saluting and talking with Prince Carl from a stretcher whilst (Proudly) wearing The Regimental Badge made from silver paper.

Photograph taken at Gothenburg on Friday, 8th September 1944, by "Göteborgs Posten" and published in Saturday's issue on the 9th September. The paper says: "The first British officer to be exchanged over Gothenburg was Capt. Walter Oswald of the Queen's Royal Regiment, who here is being congratulated by Prince Carl."



6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Old Comrades Association

Since the last issue there has been a change in the Secretary at 'Bermondsey'. Bill Mathews has had to give up the job due to domestic problems, but remains as Assist. Secretary.

A full programme of events was laid on for the visit of our Belgium friends in May. The return visit by the O.C.R. to Ghent was a success although the numbers were not as high as we had hoped for. Still both events were regarded very highly.

The trip to Basingbourn was well attended by members of the O.C.A. along with our friends from the 1/7th Queen's O.C.R. We were pleased to welcome Leo Duncan to Bermondsey after the longest approach march by any member of this association, having made the journey from his home in New Zealand.

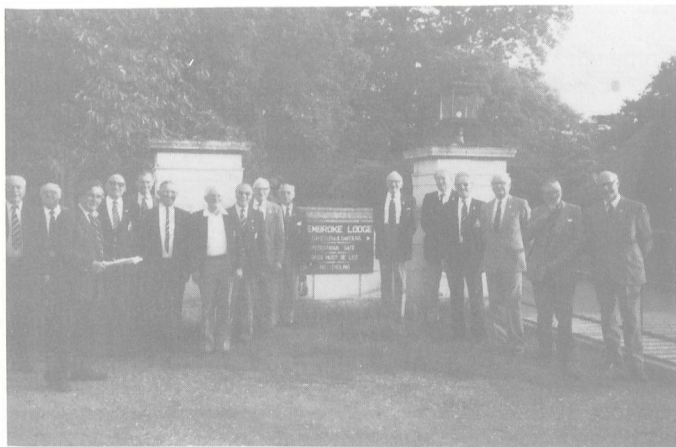
JTB

2/6th Surreys Return to Normandy

Following months of effort, a party of 34 wives, widows, friends and members of the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA), including two from Canada, left Portsmouth in perfect weather, on Friday 6th June 1986, for a weekend tour of part of the 1940 Battlefields in which the Bn had participated. The ferry left half an hour late and in mid Channel, due either to lack of a berth at our destination or to faulty steering gear, proceeded on a course of ever decreasing circles; fortunately a cure was found before final extinction and we headed for Le Havre where we landed at 8.30 p.m. There we were met by a coach and its driver Claude who, on discovering the reason for the tour, announced that he also was a 'Combatant Ancien', but as someone remarked "Not as ancien as we are".

Due to the late arrival we drove immediately to a restaurant for a meal followed by short speeches by Major Thomson, Major Redfern and Cpl Cluer, of a reminiscent and emotional nature reflecting the family connection within the Regiment. The toast to The East Surrey Regiment was made by Capt Tannock.

Owing to a shortage of personnel and time taken to purchase a cassette recorder on the Saturday morning, we left rather later than intended, by the same route as we took to Le Manoir in 1940, and on arrival at Rouen, spent an hour sightseeing in the Old Town, while our Courier went shopping for picnic food for lunch, which we had in the 'B Coy' area between Forges les Eaux and Gaillefontaine on the roadside, where we were greeted by all passing cars with waves and sounding of horns.



In view of the time factor, we limited stops to 'A Coy H.Q.' at Rethois, and at Grattenois where Bn H.Q. were situated. We then went on to Bellemont which in 1940 we had intended passing through, but just before moving off had received orders to avoid it as the Germans were already in possession. We then proceeded on to the last stop at the Chateau of Beaunay where the remains of the Bn had formed a strong point and given battle to German infantry. There we were fortunate to meet the present owner of the Chateau who gave us a cordial invitation to return.

As time was dwindling, we headed for St Valery-en-Caux via Cailleville where we arrived in good time to meet the Mayor and present letters of greeting from the Mayors of Richmond and Kingston-on-Thames. Wreaths were also presented, by Capt Tannock on behalf of the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA), and CQMS (Pinkie) Williams on behalf of the Old Comrades Association The East Surrey Regiment, to the Mayor to lay on the French War Memorial, which could not be done immediately as he had to go to another function, more of which later. Sgt Wylds also presented the Mayor with his East Surrey Cap Badge to add to their collection of Highland Division badges, so we should no longer go unrecognised. The events were recorded on cassette, and also personal war time experiences while we were travelling in the coach.

Before proceeding to Dieppe for overnight accommodation, we moved along the coast to Veules-les-Roses from where many members of the Bn had got home in 1940, and where one of us now returned to a house in which he had lived with the French for ten months before being picked up by the Germans.

On the Sunday morning we had intended to tour the positions taken up by the Bn in 1940 south of Dieppe during the Dunkirk period, but instead inspected the German defensive positions on the cliffs at the time of the Dieppe raid; we then viewed them from the beach where the Canadians landed and the writer can well understand why he met so many of them while a POW in Germany. Before turning the party loose on an unsuspecting Dieppe, we paid our respects to the Canadian War Memorial where Bob Richards who had come from Canada specially for our visit, read the Royal British Legion exhortation.

During the voyage back we were approached by a gentleman, who as Chairman of the Lewes Rotary Club had been on an annual exchange visit with the St Valery Rotary Club, which included the previous evening the function for which the Mayor of St Valery had had to leave us; our visit providing an unexpected topic of conversation for them.

The ferry arrived at Newhaven on time where our coach awaited us for the last stage of our journey via a stop in Richmond Park for photographs, to Richmond Hill Hotel where Major H.E.P. Spearing and the Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond welcomed our return.

Thanks must be given to Nigel Messenger, General Manager of the Richmond Hill Hotel, for his generous hospitality, and also to Peter and Kathie Wright of the Spur, Mortlake, without whose help to Ted Greenfield in the early days, the tour would never have taken place.

NFT

25th Anniversary Luncheon

After the Regimental Association Service at Guildford Cathedral in 1961, Brigadier and Mrs. George Roupell held a luncheon party in their house. To that party were invited some officers, and their wives, who had served with the Brigadier or had known him well in his capacity as the last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment.

Since then a similar party has been held every year and their continuity was not affected by George Roupell's death. In recent years, Rachel Roupell has been joined by Lt. Col Peter Roupell as co-host. The list of those invited has been slightly extended.

The "Glorious First of June" 1986 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first lunch and the happy occasion was marked by a presentation to Rachel Roupell of a teak "all weather" garden table and a wooden tub containing some plants. An accompanying card showed the names of 47 friends and guests who had contributed.

Unfortunately the weather was not glorious. It was cool, damp and dismal so the "wet weather programme" had to be applied.

Mrs. Roupell's health was proposed in a witty and delightful presentation speech by Col F.A.H. Magee who has known her rather longer than twenty five years. She made a charming reply. Some of the contributors were unavoidably absent, but all were remembered and recorded.

There was the usual excellent buffet lunch and it was a memorable occasion for all those guests present who were - Mrs and Miss Acton, Mrs. Bruce, Col and Mrs. Buchanan, Brigadier and Mrs Clarke, Lt Col and Mrs Hannaford, Miss Hill, Major and Mrs Hill, Major and Mrs Howard, Major and Mrs Jourdiere, Miss Kennedy, Mr Langley, Lt Col and Mrs Lyle, Col and Mrs Magee, Major and Mrs Reed, Mrs Peter Roupell, Major Spearing, Major Taylor, Major and Mrs Finch White.

BAH

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres run two residential homes for ex-servicemen and ex-merchant seamen and their widows. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, can take 29 residents. Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, can take 52. Residents, who must ordinarily be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings. They are not nursing homes and residents on admission must be capable of looking after themselves though some help, for example with bathing, can be given. Those interested should apply to: The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP.

The Second Royal Surrey Militia

The History of the Militia in England properly begins with the fyrd of the Anglo Saxon Kings. This body, divided into the select fyrd and the great fyrd and under the control of local lords, could be called out in times of emergency to protect the homeland. It was the select fyrd which defeated the Danes at Stamford Bridge in 1066, but the less well trained and equipped great fyrd which was defeated by William at Hastings.

Throughout Medieval times the Militia, variously known as the Muster or wapontake and drawn from every hundred in every county, was maintained and exercised by statutes. By the time of Queen Elizabeth I it was well organised and well armed and in a high state of training. This state continued until the reign of King Charles I, when the control of the Militia was one of the direct causes of the Civil War.

During the war Militia Regiments fought on both sides; of especial fame were the Regiments of London whose hostility lost the King the control of the city. However, at the Restoration, control of the Militia was vested in the Lord Lieutenant of each county and, through him, the King.

During the Commonwealth there had been, for the first time in England, a regular army of permanent Standing Regiments maintained in peace time. This precedent was followed by Charles II after his restoration and it is from the Regiments raised after 1660 that our present regular army is descended. Regiments continued to be raised, for some time for short duration - such as those Regiments raised for the Dutch Wars.

Technically, Militia men could not be pressed into service in the Regular Regiments, but in practice many volunteered for short term service, returning to the Militia later. This not only helped with manning but also helped increase the military expertise of the Militia.

The starting date of the modern Militia is generally taken to be 1756 when Parliament passed the Militia Bill in consequence of the declaration of war against France. The 2nd Surrey was raised soon after under the Colonelcy of the Earl of Onslow and was composed of two battalions. From this time onwards until 1876 the History of the 2nd Surrey is fully documented in Colonel John Davis's Regimental History.

By 1876 the 2nd Surrey had completed almost 21 years embodied service, during which time it took part in the suppression of the Gordon Riots in 1780; had mobilised for the defence of England against French invasion in 1799-1800; supplied men for the 2nd Provisional Battalions for the Peninsular Campaign 1809-1814; declared Royal in 1802 and furnished drafts for the Crimean War.

Throughout its existence it continued to supply officers and men by voluntary transfer into the Regular Forces. It also numbered some notable men as its Colonels: and among its members and in particular Captain Francis Grose the author of 'Military Antiquities' in 1812. However, as a formed body it undertook no active service during the period.

It should be noted that there also existed within the Militia a body known as the Militia Reserve, who were picked men who were liable for immediate transfer to the line in emergencies and who received extra pay. In this they resembled closely the Territorial Army Emergency Reserve, or Ever Readies, of the 1960's.

In 1881, Cardwell's Reforms of the Army brought an end to the Independent existence of the Militia, for it was to be grouped with Regular Regiments and their depots which were all now assigned fixed territorial recruiting areas. The 2nd Surrey became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of The Queen's whose depot was established at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford - the Militia, however, kept its own Barracks in the town and its commitment to Home Service only save by individual transfer to the line.

This was to change with the outbreak of the South African War - 1899. The 3rd Battalion was embodied on 4th December and marched off to occupy the Portsmouth Hill forts above Portsmouth. The accompanying picture is a rare photograph showing the Battalion marching off and it will be noted that although issued with Khaki Drill uniforms, the Battalion is still wearing the Home Service blue cloth helmet.

At Portsmouth, the Commanding Officer, Colonel Fautlough (who was later killed in France during the Great War), heard that Militia Battalions were required as Lines-of-Communication troops in South Africa. Some Militia Reserve men had already gone to the 2nd Battalion, but Colonel

Fautlough paraded the remainder of the 3rd Battalion and asked them to volunteer. Every man did so except for one permanent staff drummer who, when questioned, replied that as he was a regular he had no need to volunteer, being liable for service anyway!

The Battalion embarked in February 1900 in the *Cephalonia*, arriving at Cape Town a month later. From here the Battalion proceeded to the Railway Junction of De Aar where it was broken up into detachments for duty along the railway. After about 3 months of this rather tedious duty, the Battalion was reassembled at Greenpoint Camp, Cape Town. Here it was employed in guarding prisoners of war and in the defence of Cape Town.

Early in 1901 the Battalion moved up to Simonstown, again to guard POWs but at least it was able to enjoy good sporting facilities. This sort of duty continued until the end of the War when the Battalion returned home after an unspectacular spell of service but one which had released regular troops for the prosecution of the war.

Shortly after the end of the South African War, Haldane's reforms finally brought about the end of the old county force. The Militia was transformed into the Special Reserve, whose task would be to provide trained officers and recruits to the line Battalions in war time. In this role it served throughout the Great War and it should be noted that some distinguished officers of the Queen's began their service in the Special Reserve; Colonel HNA Hunter; Brigadier A Elgar Morgan and General Charles Monro, later Colonel of the Regiment being just three.

Before the Second World War, even the Special Reserve had vanished under Hore-Belisha's reorganisations, but its spirit and role lived on, perpetuated first in the National Defence Companies and then in The Home Guard.

Today, the Militia no longer forms part of the forces of the Crown, but the idea which represented seems impossible to forget and our Territorial Army still has Home Service Battalions and, since last year, Home Service Force Companies whose task is the defence of the homeland and whose local ties are very much those of county.



'You're right, Chalky!, A hundred multiplied by three - is five hours!!'

When next you travel down the old Dover Road from London look out for a most unusual memorial to those who fell at Ypres from 1914 to 1918. It is sited in the grounds of the church of Christ the King on Shooter's Hill and has a rather strange history.

Years before the First World War the old stone had informed wayfarers they were 8 miles from London Bridge from its place on the roadside opposite the church and were en route for Dartford. Then in 1903 the road underwent repairs during which a steam-roller smashed the stone, breaking it in two pieces and demolishing the Dartford plate. The pieces were thrown into the bushes where they lay forgotten until discovered by the Reverend Dr. T.B. Willson, who caused the stones to be welded together by Mr. Joseph Randall; the London Bridge plate was repaired and the stone was re-erected by the church door.

When after the end of the First World War, the Parish War Memorial Committee was deliberating on the form the local casualties would be commemorated the Secretary, Colonel A.H. Bagnold, C.B., C.M.G., Royal Engineers, conceived the notion of utilising the old stone as a distance marker to the Ypres Salient as a part of the memorial. The Committee considered the idea and approved of it.

Under the direction of Colonel Sir C.F. Close, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., F.R.S., Royal Engineers, the then Director General of Ordnance Survey, the distance was extremely carefully calculated on the arc of the Great Circle from the Church Door to the Door of the Cloth Hall at Ypres and is accurate to 1/10th of a mile. The British casualties were compiled officially to record those suffered from the right of the Belgian Line to Hollebeke and the information was cast on an iron plate to match the surviving one. This was placed on the north side of the stone – the eastern one bearing the distance to London Bridge.

The stone was then re-erected in a prominent position, visible from the road where the legend now picked out in black and red could be clearly seen by travellers and remind them how close they were to the dread, but Immortal Salient. The plate reads:-

130 MILES TO YPRES
IN DEFENDING THE SALIENT
OUR CASUALTIES WERE

90,000 Killed – 70,000 Missing – 410,000 Wounded

The record of the Fallen of the Parish is set inside the church itself – a larger copper plate weighing 3 cwt. inscribed with the names in full, ranks and service and dates and locations of death of the many sons of the parish.

ROSE E.B. COOMBS

Can You Help?

Would any surviving members of the original 'D' Company – 1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment who were on Fort McGregor, Goubellat Plain during the battle which took place on 25/26th February, 1943 please contact Albert Fielder, of 197 Field Road, Feltham, Middlesex – Telephone 01-890-1183.

* *

Mrs Margaret Biles is seeking information about her brother Private P.J. Nicholls (6093106) A Coy 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Nicholls was badly wounded at Tobruk losing an arm and a leg. He was put on a hospital ship bound for Alexandria which she believes was bombed and sunk with the loss of all on board. Mrs Biles believes the name of the ship was the CHAKDINA but is not certain. If any of our readers can help will they please write to the Editor who will forward all letters to Mrs Biles.

* *

Are there any old comrades of the 2/4th Queens who remember serving with Private 68503 Horace Childs between 1915-18. If so he'd be glad to hear from you.

Ninety year old ex Pte Childs now lives with his daughter at 55 West Street, Chatteris, Cambs. He joined The East Surreys in 1915 from his home in Sutton, Surrey. He was drafted from England into the 2/4th Queens when they moved from Gallipoli to Egypt in December 1915. He was wounded at Gaza.

THE SOLDIER'S CATECHISM

Question. What is your name?

Answer. Soldier.

Q. Who gave you that name?

A. The recruiting-sergeant, when I received the enlisting shilling, whereby I was made a recruit of bayonets, bullets, and death.

Q. What did the recruiting-sergeant promise then for you?

A. He did promise and vow three things in my name. First, that I should renounce all idea of liberty, and all such nonsense. Secondly, that I should be well harassed with drill. And, thirdly, that I should stand up to be shot at whenever called upon so to do; and I heartily hope our Colonel will never call me into such a perilous position.

Q. Rehearse the Articles of thy Belief.

A. I believe in the Colonel most mighty, maker of Sergeants and Corporals; and in his deputy the Major, who is an officer by commission, and rose by turn of promotion, suffered the hardships of the field-service, marching and fighting; he descended into trials; after the wars he rose again; he ascended into case, and sitteth on the right hand of the Colonel, from whence he will come to superintend the good from the bad. I believe in the Adjutant; the punishment of the guardroom; the stopping of grog; the flogging with cats; and the certainty of these things lasting. Amen.

Q. How many Commandments may there be?

A. Ten.

Q. What are they?

A. The same which the Colonel spake in the standing orders, saying, I am thy Colonel and commanding officer, who commands thee in the field and in quarters.

I. Thou shalt have no other Colonel but me.

II. Thou shalt not make to thyself any sergeant or corporal, that is in any European Regiment above, or in any Sepoy Regiment below, neither shalt thou salute them; for I thy Colonel am a jealous Colonel, and visit the iniquities of my men unto the third and fourth with stripes, and promote those who obey me and keep my standing orders.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of thy Colonel in vain, for I will not call him a good man who shall do so.

IV. Remember that thou attend church parade. Six days shalt thou have for drill and field-days; but on the seventh day thou shalt have no drill, thou, nor thy firelock, nor thy pouch, nor thy pouch-belt, nor thy ammunition, or any of thy appointments: for six days are sufficient for these things, and I like to rest on that day; wherefore I order church parade – attend to it.

V. Honour thy Colonel and thy Major, that thy comfort may be long in the Regiment you are in.

VI. Thou shalt not get drunk on duty.

VII. Thou shalt not be absent from drill.

VIII. Thou shalt not sell thy kit.

IX. Thou shalt not come dirty to parade.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy pay-sergeant's coat, nor his place, nor his pay, nor his sword, nor his perquisites, nor his wife, nor his authority, nor any thing that is his.

Q. What do you chiefly learn by these commandments?

A. I learn two things: my duty towards my Colonel, and my duty towards my pay-sergeant.

Q. What is your duty towards your Colonel?

A. My duty towards my Colonel is to believe in him, to fear him, to obey all his orders, and all that are put in authority under him with all my heart; to appear before him as a soldier all the days of my life; to salute him, to submit to him in all respect whatever; to put my whole trust in him, to give him thanks when he promotes me, to honour him and his commission, and to serve him as a soldier. Amen.

Q. What is your duty towards your pay-sergeant?

A. My duty towards my pay-sergeant is to attend to his directions, to look to him for pay and allowances, and all supplies of clothing; to borrow four shillings and give him five in return, to sign all books and papers he may require, and to never doubt his word in any thing.

War Graves, Thailand

Lt Col Brian Ray recently visited Thailand and paid a visit to The War Graves Cemetery at Kanchanaburi – he very kindly took a number of photographs of the graves of 2 Surreys. These are now with the Secretary and are available to relatives and friends on request to him.

When I was a lad at school I heard tales of soldiers in the Great War whose lives were saved by bullets or shrapnel being deflected by pocket watches or compasses. This I never really believed until it happened to me when I was a lance corporal vehicle mechanic with the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment on Day Two of the North African landing in 1942. It had been a very quiet invasion, too quiet in fact, because everyone's thoughts were dominated by the fear of the unexpected.

I seem to remember the Battalion moving from the Free French barracks area, because not having any officers present, some of their senior NCOs were getting edgy. On the outskirts of Algiers we got into conversation with a Frenchman and his wife who told us about Churchill's 'broadcast of the American invasion.

It was while we were in conversation that the Transport Officer, Lieutenant Crampton, told me the CO's car had not landed and I was to go to the German Consulate building in Algiers to collect a Consulate staff car, and report to the Commanding Officer, Lieut Colonel Wilberforce.

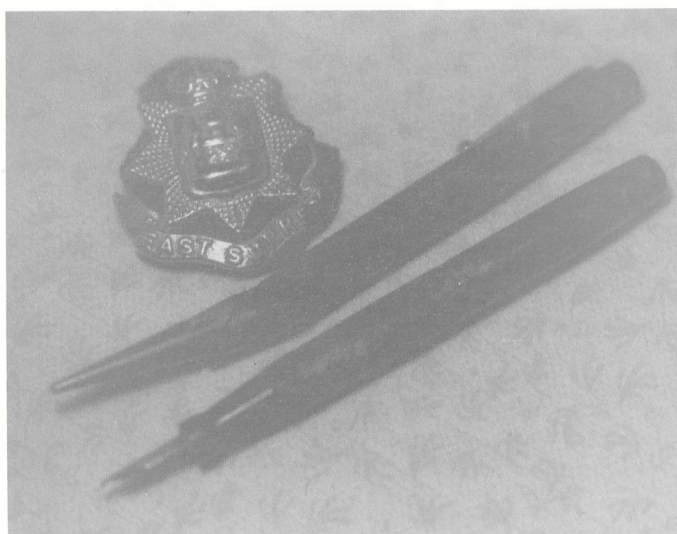
Next morning I reported with the car as ordered: the CO appeared accompanied by Lieut Fell, the Medical Officer. The Intelligence Officer, Lieut Geddes, dressed for motor cycling, took the lead and away we drove, followed by the five company commanders, Capt Andrews A Company, Captain Buchanan B, Captain Caffyn C, Capt Brooke Fox D and Major Hill HQ, all on motor cycles. After proceeding for a few miles, we stopped for the CO's O Group. Then after pointing out the areas for the companies, the CO said, 'Come on, let's see what you have got for Battalion HQ, Geddes', and away we drove, leaving the company commanders to rectify their areas.

I followed Lieut Geddes at 100 yards distance along a farm track between fields of grape vines. Presently he stopped, then still astride his machine I saw him stoop and pick something up. He held it high with his right hand, glanced under it to examine it, then put it on his lap and drove on to a white painted farm house situated beyond an arched entrance at the far side of a concrete courtyard. I stood by the front of the car, some seven or eight yards from the officers looking at the dark green coloured object that Mr Geddes held by its small linked chain. The CO told him to put it down, then walked through the archway to the house. 'It might be a bloody bomb,' remarked Mr Fell. Mr Geddes carefully lowered it to within an inch of the ground when there was an almighty explosion.

I pulled myself up from the rear of the car and made an effort, for the MO and Lieut Geddes were on the ground horribly injured. The CO in the house was untouched by the explosion. The MO was conscious and I took off my jacket and made a pillow for his head. We got his medical bag from the car, and on his instructions the CO and I endeavoured to fill a syringe with morphia, but fumbled and broke the only phial available. I did what I could for Lieut Geddes. His leg horribly peeled lay free of blood, so I gathered the wound together and applied a first field dressing. His right hand was just held together by his shattered gauntlet glove.

Then I too began to feel faint, because I began to realise that my chest was so sore. I put my right hand into my shirt and felt blood. Mr. Fell, injured as he was, immediately became the doctor. He said, 'You've been hit, what saved you then?' 'Don't know, my jacket is under your head, Sir'. 'Well, take the bloody thing out,' he replied, just as though he was normal. We looked at the breast pocket of my jacket, and found that what had saved me was my Swan pen and propelling pencil, both damaged. My pay book had been penetrated, and there was a small piece of shrapnel lodged in the centre of a wad of letters and photos from home. Its outer edge protruding had penetrated through the skin in the area of my heart. I forget what the doctor remarked about my chest, but I do remember him saying, 'I won't live, you know. I have been hit in my legs and back. Oh God, and I was going to do such a lot for you chaps.'

It was then that the company commanders began to return. Major Hill summed up the situation. He said to me, 'Look, take my bike and find the American Field Hospital.' When he realised I had been injured, he dashed off himself and returned within a very short time, accompanied by a doctor and an ambulance. The American doctor conversed whilst examining Doctor Fell, then quickly prepared syringes for injections. It has



since been revealed that Doctor Fell had injected himself, whilst Captain Buchanan injected Mr Geddes.

I heard Mr Fell ask the American doctor, 'How is the other officer?' I never heard what he said, his reply was more of a sign, and I knew then that Lieut Geddes had died. Our gallant MO, well aware he was mortally wounded, died later. He and Mr Geddes were the first two casualties of the 1st East Surreys in North Africa. I luckily escaped, but without my Swan pen, pencil and a wad of letters and photos from home, I could have been the third. Of those mentioned in this reminiscence, Lieut Colonel Wilberforce, Captain Brooke Fox and Lieut Crampton were killed in action before the end of the campaign.

W. Barrow

Grand Annual Reunion, Basingstoke

There was a good turnout by members of the Association for The Queen's Regiment Reunion at Basingstoke. The day was marked again by good weather and the Association contingent marched past under command of the President at the conclusion of the Drumhead Service.

Fred Blackborow writes from 645 Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex:- What a fantastic day it was at Basingstoke reunion, the weather was again kind to us, the organisers have something to be proud of and what a turn out of old comrades and families to make it all worthwhile. Once again I felt lonely not another old comrade from the 2/6th Queens was there. If there was, could you get in touch with me?



From left to right, Tom Read, Gordon Peake, Frank Post, Fred Duffin and Bob Brinkley, all ex members of 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

Regimental Deaths

- Archer-Davis* – on 9th October 1986, Leslie Archer Davis aged 53 years, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).
- Bishop* – on 15th July 1986, John Henry Bishop, The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- Boxall* – On 19th May 1986, Private Jack Nelson Boxall, aged 86 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Boxall enlisted in September 1917 and served with the 8th Bn.
- Butcher* – on 27th May 1986, 614837 Sgt. Charles George Butcher, aged 71 years, The East Surrey Regt. Sgt. Butcher served in the 1st Bn (78th Division).
- De Jacobi Du Vallon* – on 23rd June 1986, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Grosvenor (Mike) De Jacobi Du Vallon, DSO, MC, Royal Artillery and The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- Everett* – in April 1986, Corporal Roger Everett, 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regt. MT Sect. 1939/45.
- Harper* – Lieutenant Colonel Ivor Debenham Harper, aged 77 years, The East Surrey Regiment and A.P.T.C.
- Hill* – on 23rd October 1986 Lieutenant Colonel Henry Robert Dunlop Hill, MBE, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment (an obituary will be included in the May Newsletter.)
- Johnson* – on 15th June 1986, Lieutenant Colonel John H.F. Johnson, OBE, TD, JP, aged 83 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment
- King* – on 22nd July 1986, 6085232 Cpl. Arthur John King, aged 74 years, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- Lasbrey* – on 15th October 1986, Lieutenant Colonel James Arthur Lasbrey, MBE, aged 87 years, The East Surrey Regiment.
- Law* – on 7th August 1986, Reuben Law, 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- Luff* – on 18th June 1986, Sgt. Les Luff, 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regt. Signal Platoon, died after a long illness.
- Mason* – on 1st October 1986, Alec Mason, The East Surrey Regiment.
- McGuinness* – on 6th September 1986, S. McGuinness, aged 64 years, The East Surrey Regiment.
- O'Shea* – on 14th June 1986, L/Cpl Andrew (Andy) O'Shea, aged 72 years, The East Surrey Regiment.
- Post* – on 22nd September 1986, Pte. Francis Alban Post, aged 69 years, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.
- Reed* – on 29th March 1984, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Reed, TD, The East Surrey Regiment.
- Stanley* – on 30th May 1986, Major Richard Morton Stanley, TD, DL, aged 77 years, The Queen's Regiment and 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).
- Tallent* – On 15th May 1986, Captain Paul Tallent, 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1939/45. Committee member of the Old Members Association.
- Ward* – on 29th May 1986, Private Frederick Walter Ward, aged 89 years, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.
- Wigan* – on 7th August 1986, Colonel Charles Richard Wigan, MC, TD, DL, aged 96 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Obituaries

Lieutenant Colonel J.A. Lasbrey MBE

James Arthur Lasbrey, who has died aged 87, was one of the few remaining officers who served in The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

He joined the 1st Battalion in France, and was wounded at the Battle of Albert in August 1918.

Between the Wars, Jim Lasbrey was a professional actor with the stage name of Jack Carlton. Recalled for the 1939-45 War, he served in Provost in Egypt and later in the Army Welfare Service. Jim was an above average golfer and was a keen supporter of the Regimental Golfing Society.

He was responsible for organising the entertainment for the Festival of Britain at Battersea Gardens, and was awarded the MBE for his services.

PGEH

Lieutenant Colonel H G de J Du Vallon DSO MC RA

Lieutenant Colonel 'Mike' Du Vallon who died in June 1986 was a Gunner Officer who was appointed to command 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in India in December 1944, when he took over from Lieutenant Colonel T V Close. His tenure of command lasted until September 1946.

He was born in July 1910, and was commissioned into RA in August 1930. In 1944 he was in command of 60th Regiment RA of "The Chindits", being awarded his DSO for leading his Column. After the Chindits operation both physical debility and the beginning of repatriation (PYTHON) began to take a toll of all units, and in the autumn of 1944 amalgamations were imposed and these included 60th RA joining 2nd Queens with Colonel Du Vallon, or 'DV' as was often referred to, in command.

His period of command was one of great difficulty, since for the first year there were continual changes of plan as the War in the Far East reached its final stages, and these were accompanied by the loss of all experienced officers and men on repatriation – by September 1945 there was not a Chindit left. These losses were replaced by drafts of all sorts, which included 6 Australian officers seconded from the AMF and a strong contingent of RWF, both officers and men, and certainly very few Queensmen. However throughout all this Colonel Du Vallon set the highest standards, and made it clear that being in the Queens, particularly in India, was something special and that a Queens Battalion was expected to be that much smarter and more efficient. He personally was a fine example, having a high sense of duty, and he was enormously admired and respected by all his soldiers. He was also a fine sportsman, and with his long legs able to outrun any member of the Battalion on both the hockey field and the running track.

While during his command no action in war was required he led the Battalion with distinction during the intensive riots in Bombay in February 1946 which followed on from the mutiny of the Royal Indian Navy. The Battalion was deployed for up to a week, and platoons had to open fire on many occasions.

For nearly two years Colonel Du Vallon was a distinguished Queensman, even though sometimes late at night he would extol the virtues of the 'Screw Gun' in a fine singing voice. After his command he returned to the Royal Artillery, and retired from the Army in 1956.

The Museum has been very privileged to have his medals on display at Clandon for the Far East exhibition.

JWS

Colonel C.R. Wigan, MC, TD, DL

Charles Richard Wigan who died on 7th August was born on 27th December 1890, the son of Charles Wigan J.P. and was educated at Eton and University College, Oxford.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined the 5th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment serving in India and Mesopotamia where in 1916 he was awarded the M.C. Towards the end of the war he became A.D.C. to Lt. Gen. Sir Harry Brooking. He continued as a territorial, commanding the battalion from 1929-33 in a time of great austerity where he was able to keep up excellent morale. He continued his association with the Regiment and was Honorary Colonel of his old battalion from 1951-56. He was elected to Surrey County Council in 1949 and was an alderman 1962-67 and Vice Chairman of the Children's Committee until his retirement. This latter appointment gave him great pleasure as he always enjoyed involvement with children and young people; his skill on committees will long be remembered.

He was admitted a solicitor in 1920 and in the following year succeeded his father as Under Sheriff of Surrey; a position which he held for forty years. The revision of Mather's Sheriff Law which he published with Lord Meston in 1935 is still the standard work on the subject. He was President of the Under Sheriffs Association from 1931-1961.

In 1933 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey, a position he held until death. The service he gave to Surrey in so many areas has long been remembered.

He followed his father becoming a liveryman of the Weavers Company in 1934 and was Upper Bailiff twice in 1947-48 and 1955-56.

His beloved wife Barbara died in 1980, but he is survived by his only son.

Major A.P.W. Simon, TD, FCA

Tim Simon was commissioned into the 7th Queen's TA in 1939 and saw war service with the 2nd Battalion in the Western Desert, Syria, Ceylon and India and with the Military Commission in Burma.

Qualified as a Chartered Accountant before the war, he joined Prince Simon & Co. in 1946 before founding Unit Trust Schemes in 1962 and subsequently the Target Group in 1967. He was Chairman of the Group until he retired in 1980.

He was Chairman of the Association of Unit Trust Managers in 1975 and Deputy Chairman of merchant bankers Dawney Dc and the Trustee Savings Bank Trust Company. Among his other Directorships were Gabbitts Thring and Equity Capital.

Those who knew and worked with Tim in peace and war will always remember his sense of fun, his friendliness, and above all his complete loyalty to his colleagues.

Although his distinguished career in the City far outshone his military one, all ranks with whom he came in contact will readily recall his courage, his calmness in adversity, his cheerful approach to all problems and his care and thoughtfulness to those under his command.

His widow, Barbara, has been Secretary of the Hampstead branch of the Forces Help Society for 21 years and his late Mother was awarded the MBE for her work in the Forces Help Society, SSAFA and the British Legion for 50 years.

E.B.G.C.

F.W. Ward

Frederick Walter Ward, who died the day after his 89th birthday, enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1913. He was posted to Lieutenant Roupell's platoon in the 1st Battalion, then in Ireland. He went to France with the BEF in August 1914, and was severely wounded at Hill 60 the following April, losing a leg. The pain from this wound was unceasing throughout his long life. In spite of his handicap, Fred Ward was a very loyal supporter of his old Regiment, and attended Regimental functions whenever he could.

PGEH

Alec Mason

Alec Mason who died in October will be remembered for his never failing friendliness and charm, also for the remarkable youthfulness which he retained into his 80's. It was difficult to believe that he was old enough to have served in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the first world war, as did his late brother Harry (known as "George"). His son Peter was a national service officer in the Regiment. All three gave stalwart support to Surreys and Queen's Surreys golf.

Alec will be missed by all who knew him and, in particular, by Regimental golfers.

BAH

Lieutenant Colonel W.L. Johnson, M.C.

"Johnnie" Johnson joined the 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1941 and went with them in May 1942, to Africa in time to take part in the Alam Halfa battle prior to Alamein. He took part in all the battles until the end of the campaign in Tunis.

In Italy as a Major he was awarded the Military Cross for his drive in advancing "A" Coy. so rapidly that it outflanked and completely surprised a unit of the Hermann Goering Div. guarding the bridge over the R. Sarno and securing it intact although prepared for demolition.

He returned to the UK with the Bn. in January, 1944 to prepare for the Normandy landing and served throughout the NW Europe campaign again commanding "A" Coy. He was promoted to Second-in-command early in July, 1944, and soon after liberation of Ghent, he was transferred as Lieut. Colonel to command the 7th Arm'd Div. Battle school in Brussels.

On the 11th June, 1945, he took over from Lieut. Col. I.H. Freeland command of 1/5th Queen's in Berlin and led them in the Victory Parade, a fitting conclusion to a magnificent war career from Alamein to Berlin for him and for the Regiment. Handing over command on the 4th August to Lieut. Col. H.G. Duncombe, DSO, Johnnie returned to the UK for release and, after a short course, took up teaching as a career.

With his great understanding and humanity, he soon advanced and became Headmaster of a school near Horley in Surrey. Always a modest man, few ever knew that during an operation to correct varicose veins, he volunteered for a longer section of vein to be removed to aid another man in danger of losing a leg; this man fully recovered but Johnnie developed thrombosis and was severely ill for a considerable time. His strong constitution and will-power helped him through and he returned to continue as Headmaster.

Two years after retiring he had a heart attack from which he recovered and remained his usual cheerful, gentle self. His death leaves a sense of tremendous loss to his many friends.

Those who served with him will always remember his warmth of character and how his discipline was based by leading by example. Respected and indeed held in affection by all, it was fitting for such a fine English gentleman to depart on St. George's Day.

Our most sincere sympathies are offered to his wife, Win, and the family.

CHN

Memorial Service

A service in memory of Brigadier C.D. Armstrong, CBE, DSO, MC, was held on July 2nd at the Kingston upon Thames Parish Church. The Association was well represented. Major Guy delivered a most moving address.

Annual Service Guildford Cathedral

The Annual Service took place on Sunday, 1st of June. A larger congregation than usual of over 500 attended, with in addition a detachment from 2nd Cadet Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. The Service was conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend A C Bridge, who announced his impending retirement to us during it, and he was assisted by the Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallett.

We were privileged to hear an interesting and most thoughtful Sermon from the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Michael Adie, and the Association is most grateful to him. The President of the Association read the lesson. Major Generals Fergus Ling, Michael Forrester and Rowley Mans, and Mrs Rachel Roupell were amongst those present.

There was the usual gathering in the Cathedral Refectory after the Service.

The Very Rev. Canon Jack Devine

Anybody who served with 1/6th Queen's during the war will surely remember Jack Devine, purveyor and distributor of necessities, both spiritual and temporal, to all troops in need, and founder of the Order of Great Men.

A recent call upon him showed that at the age of 85 he has not lost an iota of his ebullient personality. Perhaps there is a slight diminution in remembering the cards, thus reducing somewhat his prowess at poker and such-like reprehensible games, but this is alleviated by watching football on TV and irritating the local bookie by showing a profit at the end of the year. "I follow the hosses instead, me bhoy" says he!

Father Jack, as he still likes to be known, was delighted at our call (my wife and I) and would be equally delighted to see anyone else of the Regiment could they spare time. He is now in residence at the Sue Ryder Home, Studio Apartment, Bordean House, Langrish, near Petersfield. The best way there is (from London on the A.3) turn right on to the A.272 at the cross-roads in Petersfield and Langrish is about 4 miles. The Home is at the far end of the village on the left. Please make sure to give him a ring first on Petersfield (0730) 63188 as he does not like to be caught unprepared - it will give him time to get the brew going. (Beware of his measures of sherry if you're driving!)

CHN

The Memorial at Longstop Hill

The photograph taken seven years ago, shows the Memorial at Longstop in pristine condition. News now coming in indicates that it is falling into disrepair and money is required for its restoration.

There are several similar memorials on the battlefields of Tunisia, erected I believe, by the French before the granting of independence. When I was in Tunisia with Bill Caffyn, and Ken Plater, we certainly saw a similar one at Sidi N'Sir. Who is responsible for their maintenance I do not know?

The one at Longstop is of particular interest to the East Surreys, for a Platoon of the 1st Battalion was in fact the 'longstop' which gave this dominating hill its now famous name, (on the maps DJEBEL AHMARA). Major Peter Hill remembers the C.O. (Lt Col Wilberforce) giving out his orders and there and then christening it Longstop, and throughout the Tunisian campaign it was always referred to as Longstop Hill, and as such entered into history. It is a Regimental Battle Honour, not only of the East Surreys, but also, I believe, of several other Regiments.

What is of interest though is that all the Histories of the campaign (all those I have read anyway), have made the same mistake.

History of the East Surrey Regiment (Vol. 4)

..... One Platoon of C Company had been temporarily left a dozen miles to the rear (of Tebourba) on a hill at a point where the valley narrowed, to deal with any tanks which might infiltrate behind the forward line. The task of this Platoon was, in fact, the same as the old-fashioned position of longstop at cricket, and accordingly the feature became known as Longstop Hill

The Tunisian Campaign by Charles Messenger

..... Allfrey's (5 Corps Commander) influence on the fighting Gap to the area of Longstop Hill. This feature had been given its cricketing name by the East Surreys during their initial advance from Medjez to Tebourba, when they left an anchor platoon here, some four miles north of Medjez, while the remainder of the battalion pushed on to Tebourba. It was shortly to play a significant part in the subsequent operations in the Medjez area

The Plain Cook And The Great Showman by Gregory Blaxland.

..... Having waited in vain for their supporting American tanks, the East Surreys set off for Tebourba after dark, riding in lorries and taking the road on the left or west bank of the river. Noticing on his map that an arm from the mountain range stretched down to the river six miles north of Medjez, their C.O. Lt. Col. Wilberforce dropped off a platoon to form a longstop, thus giving the hill a name that was to stick. It was a further 16 miles to Tebourba, and the Surreys covered the distance warily but without incident

They all state that a Platoon was dropped off as a 'longstop' on our way to Tebourba, but this is not true. The correct story is as follows, I say correct, because Bill Caffyn (on the right in the photograph), the Company Commander concerned has a good memory, and although it is all now a long time ago (Nov. 1942) is quite clear that his 'longstop' Platoon was not left behind when the Battalion dashed forward from Medjez-el-Bab to Tebourba. After all we went in our T.C.V's and this would have been suicidal unless the road had been reconnoitered beforehand. The front line was then at Medjez, the Germans having been pushed out by the other two Battalions of 11 Bde. (2 L.F. and 5 Northampton), but how far they had withdrawn presumably at that stage no one knew. The Commander of 78 Div. (General Eveleigh) sent elements of the Div. Recce. Regt (56 Recce Regt) up the Tebourba to find out. One must assume that they found the road clear and Tebourba (20 miles from Medjez), unoccupied.

So to set the record straight this is the real 'longstop' story, as Bill Caffyn remembers it. After the capture of Medjez he was ordered by the C.O. to send a Platoon to occupy a hill about 4 miles up the road from Medjez. He sent the Platoon commanded by Lt. R. Heath. When at night the Battalion advanced up the road in its T.C.V.'s, his Company ('C' Coy.) was leading. He stopped at where he thought his Platoon should be, and by waving a torch managed to contact Heath, who with his Platoon rejoined the Company. (The whole Battalion had to stop for some time while all this was going on). Then the now complete Battalion drove on



The Memorial at Longstop Hill - 1979
Ken Plater Bill Caffyn

up the road, and just short of Tebourba made contact with a patrol from 56 Recce. Regt.

Lt. Ray Heath (now the Rev. Heath) the Platoon Commander concerned, confirms this, except he thought there was no-one in front of him except the enemy! He does not recall anything of 56 Recce. Regt. As he was not relieved by any other unit the hill was temporarily left unoccupied - there was no 'longstop' when we went into Tebourba. It would seem that the Platoon only acted as a 'longstop' to the 56 Recce. patrols, and not as recorded in the various histories. Ray Heath and his Platoon were in action through the Tebourba battles, in which the Battalion lost some 430 officers and men.

Soon after the withdrawal, and in appalling weather 11 Bde. went into reserve around Oued Zarga, several miles behind Medjez. The heavy casualties sustained at Tebourba, and lack of reinforcements, meant that Longstop Hill reluctantly had to be abandoned; it was quickly occupied by the Germans. In mid-December a new advance on Tunis was attempted, and the first phase obviously included the re-capture of Longstop. This was undertaken by the Coldstream Guards, who handed it over to the Americans, but when they were counter-attacked the Guards had to be sent back in again. The hill was finally evacuated at Christmastime. It remained in German hands for the next four months, overlooking and dominating the 1st Army positions around Medjez. It was clearly the 'key' to Tunis, and in April 1943 was once again attacked and finally taken by the Battalion, and 8th Argylls of 36 Bde., thus opening the way for a successful conclusion to the campaign.

Longstop Hill certainly deserves a memorial, and let us hope that the urgent repairs now required will soon be carried out before it disintegrates completely, so that future visitors can identify the famous hill first occupied by a Platoon of 'C' Company, The 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

R.C.T.

All Ranks Reunion, 2/7th Bn The Queen's

The 41st Reunion will take place on Saturday 28th March 1987 at the Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, London SW1 at 6.30 for 7 p.m. For details write to Harry Neale (01-693-5074) of your intention to attend, and if you have not heard from him in the last two or three years, please write now sending your address to him at 63 Aidan's Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0RW so that Harry may add you (or re-include you) to his regular list for circulation of the final details being sent out in February. Brigadier MacWilliam will be in the Chair for the evening. Please keep in touch even if you are unable to come this next time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

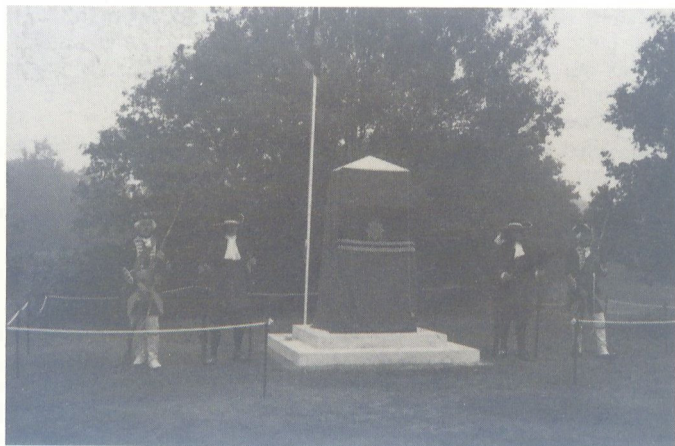
The Editor wishes to thank the following for their assistance and help in producing this edition: Ben May for his photos, Charles Stadden for allowing his line drawings and water colour to be printed, The Illustrated London News for permission to reproduce the drawings by their war artist at the battle of Susteren, to the many readers who have supplied articles for publication and Mr. and Mrs. D. Isom the printers, for their help and guidance in producing this special edition. Finally to Major John Fowler who gave the paper to the Association for this Newsletter, thus allowing printing costs to be reduced.

Besides Admiral of the Fleet and Lady Fieldhouse, the chief guests included Colonel A B Harfield ADC RM representing the Commandant General Royal Marines who unfortunately was prevented from attending through flu, Mrs Witt The Chairman of the Wimbledon Common Association, Sir Robert Andrew representing the Ministry of Defence, Commodore C J Howard Captain of HMS Nelson, and the Presidents of our sister Associations of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Sussex and The Middlesex Regiments.

Members of the Association who paraded included Major Generals F A H Ling, M Forrester and M F Reynolds: Brigadier P H Richardson was Right Marker, and the lines included ten of our In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, and oldest of all Mr H E Hannam of the 9th Surreys (The Gallants) wearing his 1914/15 Star and his other 1914-18 medals.

The success of the day owed an enormous amount to our Secretary, and to the support of the Regimental Information Team commanded by Captain A Hill, who started his career in the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Surreys.

PUTNEY HEATH 1986



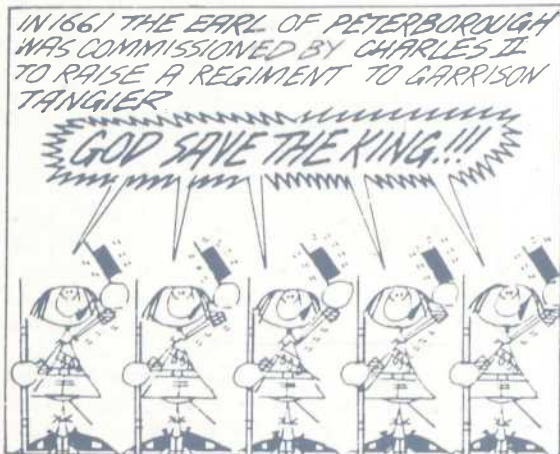
The details of the new inscription on the reverse of the Monument are:

*The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
who set up this monument in 1961 was
formed by the amalgamation in 1959 of
The Queen's Royal Regiment (2nd Foot)
and*

*The East Surrey Regiment (31st & 70th Foot)
The Regiment became part of The Queen's Regiment on
31st December 1966*

The motto "Pristinae Virtutis Memor" has also been added to the front below the existing inscription.

All the Queen's Men (And for the final word in this edition, the answer to what "Tommy Atkins" had in his kit bag:-)



ORANGES - So now you know!