

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



### Association Newsletter

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#### Editorial

In this edition we record the disbanding of the 2/4th Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association.

The Croydon Advertiser paid tribute to the Old Comrades of the battalion recently and with their permission I have reproduced extracts from their Editorial and story printed on 30th September. It is believed that this Association was the oldest in the country, and The Regiment and the surviving members of the Association owe a great deal to Harry Mann, the secretary who helped form the original Association over sixty years ago. Today there are only five known surviving members of the original Old Comrades of this battalion and we salute them, and in particular, the dedication of their secretary Sgt Harry Mann MBE. The Freedom Marches in Guildford & Reigate were well attended by our members and thanks to the hard work of Doug Mitchell and his helpers at Guildford and Jimmie Patterson's help at Reigate, "mini" reunions were able to be held after the parades.

The origins of 'The Lamb' once again has been the subject of much research & conjecture. I am aware that the articles by OVID and R.C.T. at times contradict each other, however I print them and you the readers may draw your own conclusions. I doubt if we will ever know the origins of The Paschal Lamb.

Any further correspondence on this subject will be passed on to OVID & R.C.T.!!

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

Les Wilson

#### President's Notes

Inevitably News Letters must record the passing of events, and for this one I highlight two. Firstly, the death of Colonel J.B. Coates in July in his 91st year. He was a very distinguished Officer of The Queen's Royal Regiment, who had become a legend and indeed part of history in his life-time, which his son said "rather amused him". The Regiment is enriched by his memory.

Secondly, at the end of this year Brigadier Charles Millman came to the end of his time as Colonel of The Queen's Regiment. In his 5 years he has contributed a very great deal to the Regiment and enhanced its standing and reputation in many fields - on behalf of the Association I pay tribute to him. He is to be relieved as Colonel by Major General Mike Reynolds, and once more we are able to take great pride that another officer nurtured initially by our side of the Regiment has been selected for the Colonelscy. I wish him a very rewarding, happy and successful tour.

Finally my very good wishes to all members of the Association for Christmas and for 1989.

J.W.S.

**BEST WISHES TO:-** Dr. William Smurthwaite, MC, Major 'Sandy' Sanders, DSO, and Mr. Eric Stenning, all now happily recovering from major heart surgery.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Colonel & Mrs. L.C. East who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on September 27th; and to Major & Mrs. A.W.V. Domoney who also celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on the same day.

Lt. Col. M.J. Ball on being Mentioned in Despatches for operational services in Northern Ireland. Lt. Col. Ball recently handed over command of the 1st Battalion and is currently serving in Zimbabwe.

Major A.A.A. Beattie who is also Mentioned in Despatches for services in Northern Ireland. Major Beattie was a company commander during the recent South Armagh tour and is at present the second in command of 1 Queens. He moves shortly to the R.M.A. Sandhurst.

#### Annual Service Guildford Cathedral

The annual Association Service took place on Sunday 5th June. The Service was conducted by the Precentor, Canon Adrian Leek, and the Address was given by the new Dean, the Very Reverend Alex Wedderspoon. Dean Wedderspoon who had had connections with the Regiment when he had been Curate at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames, gave a very inspiring and caring Address using the life of Bernard McCabe as a background. The Lesson was read by the President.

Amongst those present were Major General's Fergus Ling, Michael Forrester, Rowley Mans and Michael Reynolds. We were also very pleased to have a Detachment from the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps under the command of Major B.J. Gould.

The Cathedral Refectory was as usual open for a successful reunion after the Service.

#### Regular Forces Employment Association

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Their task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Their services are free, and they take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so that they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Their Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1st April 1987 - 31st March 1988 the Association assisted 10,269 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,017 in employment. Of those placed 2,321 were men and women from the Army and 26 were from our old Regiments.



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



1988

### Details

20 December THE BRITISH BATTALION DAY

1989

10 February SOBRAON DAY

18 February 6th Bn Queen's OCA - Dinner Dance at Union Jack Club.

18 March Queen's Surreys Regimental Trustees & Association Meeting - Clandon Park.  
Details to Members from Hon. Sec.

March Annual Reunion Dinner, 2/7th Queen's. Details from Harry Neale - Tel. (01 693) 5074.

7 April Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Dinner - Duke of York's HQ.

23 April YPRES DAY

4 May Golf Society Spring Meeting at Richmond. Details from Maj. F.V. Sheppard MC.

13 May 5 Queen's OMA Annual Dinner. Details from D. Mitchell (0483) 232043.

16 May ALBUHERA DAY

1 June THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE

4 June Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral. 1100 hrs. for 1115 hrs. Service.

5 July Golf Society v Royal Marines GS at Northants Golf Club. Details from Maj F.V. Sheppard MC.

9 July The Queen's Regiment Annual Reunion - Bassingbourn.

8 or 15 September Officers Club Luncheon, Clandon (To be confirmed).

9 September SALERNO DAY

9 September 2/6th Bn Reunion Union Jack Club. Details from S.B. Pratten, MM. (01 472) 4268

5 October Golf Society Autumn Meeting at Richmond Golf Club. Details from Maj. F.V. Sheppard MC.

14 October WOs' and Sgts' Past & Present Dinner - Bassingbourn.

27 October The East Surrey Regiment All Ranks Reunion. (To be confirmed).

3 November The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment All Ranks Reunion at Union Jack Club.

12 November Remembrance Day Parade.

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### Ladies at Sea

In September reports of WRENS reservists going to sea were hailed as something of a novelty in the national Press, but the idea of women on board H.M. Ships, even in war time, is not new.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it was common practice for sailors to take their wives to sea with them. At the naval battle of the Glorious First of June in 1794, when members of the Queen's Royal Regiment were embarked and fighting as marines, women were also present alongside the men.

One sailor's wife, Mrs McKenzie, on board H.M.S. Tremendous, gave birth to a son just before the battle, and mother and son were both present throughout the engagement. The baby was later named Daniel Tremendous McKenzie and, furthermore, was awarded the Naval General Service Medal for his presence in the action. The award was not allowed to become a precedent, however, as later Admiralty instructions forbade the practice.

In recognition of their services in the battle the Queen's were later granted the privilege of embodying the Naval Crown on the Regimental Colour. The Naval Crown has continued to be used and is borne today on The Queen's Regiment Regimental Colour.

The large desk used by Admiral Richard, Earl Howe on board HMS Charlotte during the battle is on permanent display in the regimental museum at Clandon Park.

### Taches and Tables

Browsing through some old files at the Regimental Museum, Clandon, I recently came across one dealing with the participation of the East Surrey Regiment in the making of the film "Four Feathers". Generally speaking, it seems to have been a well organised and conducted affair, but a couple of problems arose.

One was the question of moustaches for the troops playing the parts of old time soldiers. Due to the time consuming difficulties of making up so many characters with false moustaches ("each day, almost hair by hair") it was considered that it would be "of greatest help if men would grow moustaches, not of the 'Charlie Chaplin' type but long flowing ones such as favoured by our Grandfathers".

To encourage efforts, the film company offered prizes valued at £ 1, ten shillings and five shillings for the three men who grew the best moustaches.

Something of a crisis seems to have arisen over the lack of tables for the NAAFI. A curt signal on the subject stated that "the manager knows nothing - does less" - a welcome indication that such characteristics are not an entirely modern phenomenon.

R.F.

### Donations

The Trustees wish to record their sincere appreciation to the following for their very generous donations:- Major J M B Westing, A E C Holmes, and the executors of the estate of the late Captain C M Estall, MC.



# THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

## Regimental Hierarchy

Brig Charles Millman OBE, who has served the Regiment as Deputy Colonel from 1979 to 1983 and as Colonel from 1984, and Col John Holman CBE who has been a Deputy Colonel since 1984, both complete their Regimental appointments on 31 December. The names of Maj Gen Mike Reynolds CB, and Col Richard Graham MBE, have been submitted to HM The Queen as their successors as Colonel of the Regiment and Deputy Colonel B respectively. The other three Deputy Colonels, Brig Bob Acworth CBE, Brig Mike Constantine OBE, and Brig H N Tarver CB, will, of course, continue in office.

## The Battalions

The 1st Battalion, under command of Lt Col Chris Charter, is still based in Tidworth and in September exercised in Denmark. The 2nd Battalion, under Lt Col Merrick Willis, has returned to Minden after completing an emergency tour in West Belfast from April to September. The 3rd Battalion, which is on a 'Residential Tour' in Aldergrove, is now commanded by Lt Col Andrew Barratt. Our three TA battalions, commanded by Lt Col Philip Pearce (5th), Lt Col Roger Lowans (6th/7th) (who hands over at the end of November to Lt Col John Salmon) and Lt Col Nick Brunt RRF (8th Queen's Fusiliers) continue in good heart following some reorganisation when companies were transferred from command of the 6th/7th to the 8th Battalion.

## Recent Successes

The 5th (Volunteer) Battalion team won the UKLF (TA) Combat Catering Competition and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, in addition to coming 6th out of 100 teams at the TA Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley, won the UKLF (TA) Orienteering Championships. The 1st Battalion have meanwhile been showing their prowess at boxing and cricket, while the Regimental Golfing Society teams, under Col John Davidson as Captain, won both the Queen's Division Cup and the Argyll and Sutherlands Inter Regimental Challenge Bowl this season.

## Freedom Parades

A contingent from the 1st Battalion in June exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Guildford, Reigate and Banstead, Margate and Maidstone and on 1 October a 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion contingent marched through Worthing. The parades in Guildford and Reigate were well supported by members of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association which was also represented afterwards at the civic receptions by Col and Mrs Toby Sewell, Lt Col Les Wilson MBE and local branch officials. On 24 June next year, Crowborough is to honour the Regiment with the town's Freedom and it is hoped that members of the Association will also travel to Sussex to support this important occasion.

## Kohima (Volunteer) Band

The TA Band has a new name - the Kohima (Volunteer) Band, The Queen's Regiment. This name was selected in view of the Battle Honour awarded to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment for their part in the fighting in April 1944 when the meagre garrison of Kohima checked the Japanese advance towards India. During this battle LCpl Harman, 4 RWK, won a VC, awarded posthumously. Giving the TA Band a Regimental Battle Honour title brings it into line with our two Regular Army bands, the Albuhera Band now serving with the 2nd Battalion and the Quebec Band at present with the 1st Battalion.

## The Flying Dragons

The Regimental Free Fall Team, The Flying Dragons, who have been supported by Prudential for three years have now won the sponsorship of Danepak for 1989, 1990 and possibly 1991. This is a most appropriate company in view of the Regiment's links with Denmark which next year will date back exactly 300 years to 1689 when Prince Georg became Honorary Colonel of The Buffs.

## Acorn

From Flying Dragons to flying cyclists. A team of three from the 2nd Battalion pedalled their way back from Belfast to their base in Minden, West Germany at the end of August to publicise ACORN, the charity which supports handicapped children. En Route they called in at Canterbury where they were welcomed at the Cathedral by the Archdeacon, the Sheriff and representatives of the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion has already raised a four figure sum in aid of ACORN and their success has had considerable publicity in local papers.

## 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Since the last Newsletter the battalion has progressed further with training and now, after a series of exercises, we are fully operational in our role with 1st Infantry Brigade.

After more company and battalion low level training on Salisbury Plain the battalion took part in Exercise 'Wiltshire Pheasant', 1 Brigade's dress rehearsal for deployment to the continent. This was followed after summer leave by the Brigade moving complete to Denmark to take part in the NATO FTX 'Bold Grouse'. This exercise, the biggest in the region for four years, involved over 100,000 troops from the UK, Denmark and West Germany; regulars, reservists, and Territorials. As in all major exercises, things moved slowly at company and battalion level. What compensated for the lack of enemy activity was the wonderful kindness and hospitality of the local people, who put their property at our disposal. Most platoons enjoyed an almost continuous supply of hot drinks and home cooking; No 7 platoon of C Company even had its trenches dug by a local farmers JCB!

As well as military training there were several notable social events during the time in Denmark. The largest was Beating Retreat by the Combined Bands and Drums in Copenhagen, which was combined with a large cocktail party. The burden of administration for this event fell on 1 QUEENS, cynics remarked that more effort went into this than into the preparation of the main defensive position! The high-spot of the trip, however, was the visit of our Allied Colonel-in-Chief, HM Queen Margrethe. The Queen visited Battalion HQ and stayed to lunch with the field officers; although this visit was short, Her Majesty plans to make a longer visit to the Battalion at Tidworth before the end of the year.

Two aspects of training may be of interest: The first is the advances made in field defences. Readers may remember the fire-team concept described in the last Newsletter. In keeping with this concept, each half section fire team occupies a slit trench together. This team trench incorporates 6 ft deep shelter bays, with overhead protection and fire bays for both SA80 and Atk weapons. To give the trench the strength to survive artillery bombardment a considerable pack of defence stores is issued, including specially shaped corrugated sheets to form the shelter bays. The completed trench, which takes 4 men up to 40 hours to prepare, is a bomb-proof bunker known as the split-hairpin shelter in which the team can live and fight with confidence.



The second aspect is that of obstacle crossing. Being a wheeled vehicle designed to move troops rapidly by road or track, the SAXON APC can be brought to a halt by a fairly inconsiderable ditch or stream. To overcome such obstacles, our vehicles carry fascines – a piece of equipment used since Roman times to cross moats!



In between field firing periods, Kirkes Competition has been completed for the year. This competition has been run annually since it was re-instituted by Lt Col Millman in 1968 and comprises a series of military and sporting inter company competitions. This year, the 20th anniversary of its inception, the competition was, under Major J P Riley and WO2 Tidey, once again won by C Company – as it was in 1968.

Sport has also featured large in the programme, with boxing taking first place as ever. The team, under the control of Quarter Master, Captain V D Ebbens and RSM Brown and coached by Cpl Norman Phillips, reached the final of the UK Novices Competition. After an absence of six years from a real competition this was a fine achievement. Congratulations go especially to Pte Roffey of C Company who went forward to the Army Individual Competition, and is now Army Featherweight Champion.

Otherwise on the sporting scene, many soldiers have been able to attend inshore and offshore sailing expeditions; A Company entered a team, for the Nijmegen Marches; and finally a large team (including the whole of C Company) entered the Tidworth Marathon – the battalion dominated both the team and individual competitions.

Finally, it will not have escaped the reader's attention that B Company, under Maj R J Knight and WO2 Kelling with The Quebec Band and the Corps of Drums of the Battalion, and the Regimental Colour carried by Lt Gordon Fotheringham, undertook Freedom Marches in Guildford and Reigate. The Battalion is very proud of these Freedoms, and greatly enjoyed the marches and excellent hospitality.

During the rest of the year the Battalion has exercise commitments in support of the School of Infantry, after which there will be a return to basics once more. By the time of the May Newsletter the Battalion will have visited Fort Orst in California as the guests of the 7th US Infantry Division, what appears to be an escape from winter on Salisbury Plain.

OVID

#### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Subscriptions for this year's Newsletter are now overdue. The subscription remains at £ 1.60 per year.
2. No action is required by
  - a) those who have already paid in advance;
  - b) members of the Officers Club whose Club subscription covers the cost of the Newsletter;
  - c) those who pay by Bankers Order, but please check you are paying the correct amount.
3. If you would like the Newsletter sent to a friend, please send his name and address, and enclose £ 1.60 for a year's subscription.

IF IN DOUBT – PAY!

KEEP IN TOUCH

#### Freedom Marches

Being just an interested spectator, I was in two minds about going to watch the 1st Battalion exercise the Freedom of the Borough of Guildford. I knew that this had been first conferred in 1944, and exercised in 1945, but this was well before my time. I was more familiar with the last time the battalion marched through the town, in 1972, and of course, it hardly needs to be said that I was well aware of the close links between our Regiment and the town through the old Depot and the continuing presence of the 5th Battalion at Sandfield Terrace. Even so, I wondered whether or not to turn out.

It was, I think, the fine weather that did the trick. I duly pottered off to Guildford, and went first of all to the Drill Hall. Here everything was humming with the suppressed excitement of preparation. You could tell in a minute that, not only had a great deal of effort gone into the preparations for the parade, but also that the soldiers were really looking forward to the Parade: they knew that the Freedom of Guildford really is a Privilege. I began to feel glad that I had come. I discovered that the contingent was found mostly by B Company, commanded by Major Robert Knight. I also discovered that the Regimental Colour was being carried by Lieutenant Gordon Fotheringham, from Camberley. I learned that Mr Fotheringham is soon to go off as the Regiment's exchange officer with the Royal Marines. I soon spotted the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 (RSM) J Brown, who was born at Chilworth and began his army service as a Territorial at Sandfield Terrace with 3 Queen's Surreys. Looking further I found Corporal Bromidge, son of CSM A A Bromidge of the East Surreys and Queen's Surreys; also Cpl McCartney, whose father and grandfather both served in the Surreys; and Private Norris, whose grandfather and uncle served with The Queen's. I began to feel very glad that I had come.



By now it was getting on towards noon, so I took position as close as I could get to the Guildhall. I was only just in time, as a large crowd was forming, I guessed several hundred strong all down the High Street, and hanging out of every first floor window. All around the Guildhall were the Old Comrades, along with Generals Mans and Ling, and the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Millman, with the Lady Mayor. It was not long before I heard the sound of the Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums of the battalion. As they approached the Guildhall, resplendent in scarlet Home Service Dress, they broke into Braganza. I could feel the hair on my neck stand up on end at the sound, and the crowd obviously appreciated it too!

As the contingent halted in front of the Guildhall I found that I had a grandstand view. I was impressed. The turnout, especially the ammunition boots, was excellent, and so was the standard of foot drill and rifle exercises. I was interested to see the new SA80 rifle on parade, and to see the return of the slope arms position. A lot of folk said that it looked odd, but then I expect they said the same of the SLR; others said why not keep the old rifle for drill? That seems pretty daft to me; a soldier drills with his combat weapon, the same as he has done since 1661. I also had a fine view of the vehicles on parade. The new SAXON APC looked pretty business-like to me, and I was interested to see the MILAN anti-tank guided missile also on show. Needless to say, the standard of turnout of the modern fighting equipment was every bit as impressive as that of the troops drill order.



After the Parade marched off to be entertained (very well too, I heard later) by the Mayor and Corporation, I went back to Sandfield Terrace where the Association had kindly laid on some lunch. Nothing like a good natter, and I found everyone else as impressed as I had been. I heard one old soldier say that they were every bit as good as anything before the War. High praise indeed, and well deserved. Yes, I was glad I'd turned out and I know everyone else was too.

SPECTATOR



#### Salute the Survivors

(Extract from the Editorial, Croydon Advertiser)

The long march of the original comrades who made up the Queen's 2/4th Battalion is almost at an end.

A thousand of them marched to war - the Great War - and only 204 returned. They formed the Queen's 2/4th Battalion Old Comrades' Association, pledged to stay together to honour the memory of their fallen comrades.

But time has marched on, too. And taken its toll.

Today, only five of the original comrades survive. So the association is being disbanded. The order to dismiss has been given.

We salute them and remember those who died to win the peace, and those who survived to earn companionship and the final peace.

This article has been reproduced by kind permission of the Editor, The Croydon Advertiser. - Editor.

#### 2/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

The final battle of Croydon's Old Comrades has ended in surrender as time takes its toll on our First World War heroes.

Secretary of the Queen's 2/4th Battalion Old comrades Association, 98 year old Harry Mann, has announced the disbanding of the group after more than 60 years together.

The battalion was formed from Croydon volunteers in the Great War who fought on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Flanders, Gaza and Palestine.

Of the 1,000 young men who went away to war from the Mitcham Road Barracks 204 returned - staying together through the Old Comrades.

Now only five known of the comrades remain - and stranded by age or long-distance travel the Old Comrades Association is no more.

But the story carries on, as relayed by 'Sergeant Harry' - who can still trace the events of war with a detail as though it happened yesterday.

Taking up the story, as the ranks move out from the Croydon barracks, he said: "Embarking at the Devonshire Docks for an unknown destination, under sealed orders which were broken when we reached port, it was announced we were to make a second landing at Sulva Bay, Gallipoli, on August 10, 1915. Hundreds died against the Turks in battle and the depleted ranks evacuated under darkness - following lines of white flowers to the beach. From there it was on to Egypt's Sinai desert, and then through to Palestine.

Over 60 comrades were killed or died in action from wounds received in the fighting and were buried in a mass sandy grave on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem in Palestine.

After that it was on to the "Western Front" in France where hundreds died at Flanders at the end of the First World War.

The memory of the Queen's 2/4th will live on in Croydon - in the Parish Church inside of the West Door stand two statuettes of British soldiers in full battle order. They represent an officer and an other rank from the barracks - and above them hang the Regimental Colours.

The links with the church have continued up until the present day - with the 2/4th having services near or on Remembrance Sunday in November each year.

As another episode begins to pass into the pages of history books rather than through the mouths of those who witnessed it, it is right that perhaps the greatest spoils of war are those which keep people in unity for more than 60 years.

#### Museum Open Day



## 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, O.M.A.

A record turnout of one hundred and eighty members including one from Australia, attended the Old Members Association Dinner and Reunion on Saturday 14th May at Sandfield Terrace Drill Hall, Guildford.

Welcoming everyone to this annual reunion/dinner, the association Chairman, Lieut-Colonel Foster Herd, made a special mention of Mr Ken Morrison who had taken his holiday from Australia to coincide with the reunion, surprising all his old pals who had not seen him since the War. He emigrated from this country in 1947. Ken was one of the MT fitters with Sgt Bill Morris REME.

Colonel Herd also welcomed the Mayor of Guildford, Mrs Elizabeth and her husband Mr Stanley Cobbett, performing one of the first official functions of their Mayoral Year, also Brigadier Hugh Tarver, Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Lieut-Col Les Wilson, Secretary of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt Old Comrades Association, Colonel John Kealy, Brigadier F.E. Stafford, a sprightly 97 year old, and the Battalion's Padre during the war, The Reverend Castle, who now lives in Essex.

The Chairman invited Brigadier Tarver to say a few words, on thanking the Association for the invitation he said how marvellous it was to see so many old comrades together after so many years. He wished the association well, and hoped that this event would continue to take place for many more years to come. He also gave a short resume on the movements of The Queen's Regiment's battalions.

All particulars of The 5th Bn Queen's Royal Regt Old Members Association can be received from The Hon. Secretary, Doug Mitchell, 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey. GU3 3JE or Worplesdon 0483 232043.



The Mayor of Guildford, Mrs. Elizabeth Cobbett and her husband. Also in the picture are Brigadier Hugh Tarver, a Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Lt Col Foster Herd, Ron May and Doug Mitchell.

## 6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment O.C.A.

I must apologise for the absence of notes in the May Newsletter.

The Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Union Jack club on Saturday February 13th 1988 with a very good turnout. The evening was a great success. Our Belgian friends were entertained in May and a return visit was made to Belgium in September. Both visits were voted a success by all members who attended these functions. In July in association with 1/7th Queen's we organised a coach party to Bassingbourn. There are usually some seats spare if any one wants to join us. Contact Secretary.

By the time these notes are published we will have held our Ladies night Dinner and Dance. Our next function which is in the process of being organised is the Christmas Social. The final venue has not yet been arranged.

Our Annual Dinner Dance for 1989 will be held on Saturday February 18th 1989 at the Gascoigne Rooms at the Union Jack Club. Details from Hon. Secretary J.T. Brown, 10 Lawrence House, Millbank Estate, London SW1P 4ED.

JTB

## 2nd/7th Queen's O.C.A.

It was a great get-together in March of this year, and we are planning a similar success for our 43rd Reunion Dinner on Saturday 1st April 1989. Please note the date as it is a week or two later than usual due to the timing of Easter. If you do not hear from Harry Neale in February, do get in touch with him for the details - he won't leave your address off the list deliberately, but we lose a few each year when members move without trace.

## History of 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

The other great event of the moment is the imminent reprinting of Roy Bullen's complete history of the Battalion in a full reproduction of the 1958 edition with all maps and illustrations as before. With the generous help of the Association, private donations and use of some existing funds, we are able to keep the cost down to a modest £ 6 for a hardback production of this quality. There has already been a gratifying response from exploratory circulation of the existing list of OCA members, so that if you have not heard previously, or you failed to reply at the time, or you are any other interested reader of these notes who has not previously seen Roy's excellent and most readable book, please quickly reserve copies for yourself, relatives or friends from H.T. Neale, 63 St. Aidans Road, East Dulwich, SE22 0RW.

AGS

## 2/6th Queen's Royal Regiment Annual Reunion

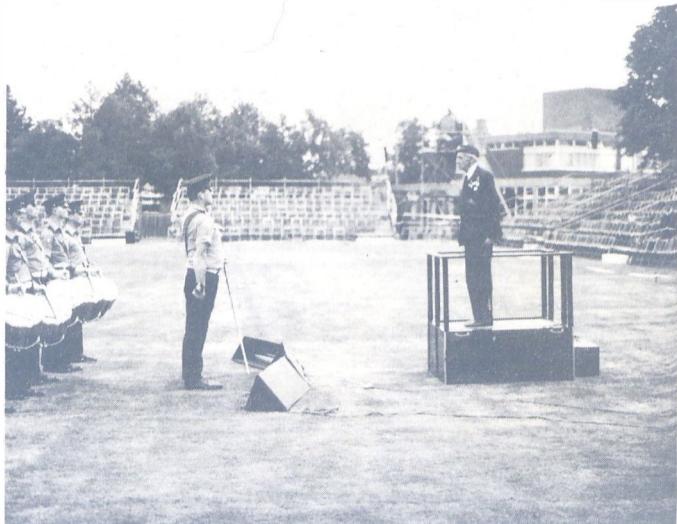
This was held on Saturday 10th September at the Union Jack Club. 63 attended and many of the situations that arose within the Battalion during the war years were discussed with great gusto, and it is "most surprising" that those responsible for the "big" decisions failed to get hostilities over much quicker!!!

It is gratifying that members look forward to news of their Old Comrades who for many reasons are unable to attend.

Next year the Reunion falls on the anniversary of the Salerno landing, and will be held at the Union Jack Club at 1900 hrs. Looking forward to seeing you all.

SP

## Taking The Salute



Mr Harry Brooker, 46 Shackleton Road, Tilgate, W Sussex taking the salute at the final rehearsal for the Chichester Military Tattoo on 11th June.

The Tattoo, which took place in Roussillon Barracks Chichester (formerly the Depot of the Royal Sussex Regiment) raised over £4,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund. Mr Brooker, who is 68 and served with The Queen's Royal Regiment was discharged in 1942. He was unable to attend the full performance in the evening but was invited to take the salute in the afternoon.

The picture shows Drum Major Fairfax of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion

The Queen's Regiment asking permission to march off.

### Post War Service

Those of us who were to be repatriated home to the United Kingdom were despatched from Bangalore to the transit camp at Doolali. After a short stay we were on our way to Bombay to embark on the SS Stratheden, and we sailed from Bombay in the first week of June 1944.

Within a few days of sailing we heard over the ship's tannoy system that the invasion of Europe via Normandy had begun and that the initial landings had been successful. The voyage home was uneventful; a convoy was formed up outside Bombay, and we set course for the United Kingdom via Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean, Straits of Gibraltar, and finally anchored in the Clyde, disembarked and proceeded to a transit camp somewhere near Glasgow. Most of us on board had not seen home since January 1939, so the reader will know our feelings.

On arrival at the transit camp near Glasgow, the first instruction was that we were confined to camp. I will leave it to the readers imagination to know how that was received; suffice it to say that the camp was minus many senior ranks that evening, and the pubs in and around Glasgow were blessed with the presence of many sun tanned members of His Majesty's Armed Forces, ex Fourteenth Army?

I think that action by us on our first evening home galvanised the staff into some very quick action, for the next day we were documented, issued with ration cards, (very foreign to us), leave pass, and 28 days pay, and put on a train for London that evening and proceeded on leave.

After completion of disembarkation leave in July/August 1944, we reassembled at Colchester Barracks, and after a brief stay were despatched to a Holding Camp at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, and it is from this time on that we were to lose touch with one another, for many were posted to different units at various stages of our stay there. Those of us who stayed at Fenham Barracks were put through a period of re-training. It was not a happy time at all.

As the reader will remember I had been abroad for a number of years, including active service in the Middle East and Burma. Those of us who had served as Chindits were very proud of our distinctive badge. Before leaving the Far East we had been told that we would always be permitted to wear it. We were ordered to cut them off our tunics in such a way that the instruction hurt. Most of us felt the contempt in the way in which the orders were given.

Most of my comrades repatriated with me from India were long serving NCO's, but sadly we were not made to feel welcome in the Sergeants Mess. Squads were made up of senior NCO's and were given instruction by young Lance Corporals, in the main reading direct from a training pamphlet. Such remarks from these young NCO's as "You may have been here, there and everywhere and been members of a so called forgotten army, but in the main you know --- nothing about mustard gas or anything else that matters"! One day, one of our senior NCO's could take no more and told a Lance Corporal his fortune, whereupon he promptly left us saying he was going to report all of us, which he did.

A short while later, an officer approached us, and with a smile on his face told us he had good news for us, we were to be posted to London immediately, where we were required to work at the Officers Personal File Branch which at that time was at Hobart House, Victoria. Within the space of an hour or so, we were packed and on the train from Newcastle to London, the late 'Spike' Gage and 'Chirpy' Watson (C/Sgts) and myself were the only Queen's members so far as I can remember.

We duly arrived at Victoria Station, reported to Hobart House where we were received with courtesy and assistance, found ourselves some lodgings, and settled in. It was about this time that the V1 and V2's began to arrive over London; I have often wondered since, who had the last laugh, the young Lance Corporal who no doubt remained in the safety of Fenham Barracks, thinking of how he had got rid of an 'Awkward Squad'.

The war at this stage certainly looked as though it was going to finish by Christmas of that year, 1944, but the failure at Arnhem, and then the subsequent German Ardennes offensive put paid to that hope, and the war dragged on until May 1945.

Our posting to Hobart House came to an end in December 1944, and once again we were returned to Fenham Barracks, but luckily only a day or so after we were despatched to Wootton Underwood Camp, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

It was a bitterly cold winter, with very little fuel to warm the billets, and we were left alone most of the time. There was an acute shortage of infantry at about this time, and I remember other arms of the service being converted to infantry, even groups of sailors from the Royal Navy, and yet at Wootton Underwood Camp there were quite a few of us infantry just waiting around for postings.

In January 1945 I was posted to Belhus Park, Avelly, near Purfleet, Essex. I was to be one of four Colour Sgts to staff the camp, known at S4 Marshalling and Transit Camp. Readers of the News Letter will have seen my remarks concerning this transit camp in the May 1988 issue, comparing it with Clarrie Jarman who was there in 1914, passing through. The Transit Camp was later transferred to a more permanent site at a place called Orsett, nearer to Tilbury Docks.

Early in 1946 I desired to rejoin my regiment. It took a few months to come about, but in September of that year I was able to rejoin the Holding Battalion at Gravesend. The Regimental Sergeant Major was Fred Harcup, and I at last after a lengthy absence, felt I was back where I belonged, with my own Regiment, not quite, but I think it right to say that this is where the 'Post War Service' part of my story really begins.

### Stoughton Barracks, Guildford

In November 1946 Number 2 Primary Training Centre, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, was activated, and now I really was back with my own Regiment, and many friends that I had lost contact with over the past eighteen months.

The Depot was commanded by the late Lieutenant Colonel H G Veasey, DSO, Major Bill Watsford was the Quartermaster, Len Cousins his RQMS. RSM Fred Harcup was the Depot Regimental Sergeant Major; Major Norton was to be the Training Company Commander, the late Charlie Cronk, MM was the Company Sergeant Major, and I was the Company Quartermaster Sergeant.



Training Wing 2 PTC Guildford

Some other well known names were at the depot at this time. Major 'Buzzy' Waspe was Secretary of Regimental Association, Bandmaster Larry Gaines, CSM Dick Hutchinson, CSM Nobby Hall, C/Sgts Charlie Sleet and Hargraves, and Jack Moule and Nobby Clarke were civilians staffing the Orderly Room.

The recruits passing through for training were, of course, all National Servicemen, and were badged under the General Service Corps cap badge. On completion of their six weeks basic training they were posted to different Regiments and Corps according to demand; and so for the next twelve to eighteen months many of these young lads were to pass through our hands. I suppose the high lights of life at the Regimental Depot at this time was our Saturday Night entertainments in the Sgts. Mess. I wonder how many old members remember Len (Fishy) Barton arriving late on Saturday night after closing his fish shop, and bringing lots of fresh fish for those married members who had ordered it. Mrs Ida Cronk can tell one or two amusing incidents concerning kippers at 0200 hrs on a Sunday morning.

The most important event was the visit of the late Field Marshall Lord Montgomery in his capacity as Chief of the Imperial General Staff. I had the honour to be introduced to him, he asked me if I could remember the name of the driver who drove his staff car when he was the Brigade Commander at Portsmouth in 1937/38. I was able to tell him it was a Private Bridger.



Field Marshal, Lord Montgomery talking to the author

Early in 1948 the Depot was again reduced to Cadre Strength, due to Army reorganisation, recruit training was to be completed elsewhere. Fred Harcup left the army at about this time and became a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London, and Charlie Cronk left the army and was employed at the House of Commons.



Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, Guildford 1947

Once again I was on the move, this time to Shorncliffe, awaiting a decision as to my next posting. It was at Shorncliffe that I met for the first and last time RSM Percy Tasker. However, my stay at Shorncliffe was very brief, for I had at last got a posting to the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, they who I had left in May 1944, and was now to rejoin them in Dortmund some four years later.

#### Dortmund

It was a very different Battalion to the one that I had left, and I joined them at a particularly trying time.

The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Col L C East, DSO, OBE, must have had a particularly hard time because of the continual departure of demob groups, hard training, and the general conditions prevailing in Germany at that time.

I found that I knew very few faces in the Battalion, I think George Deacon was the only one I knew well, but it didn't take me long before getting back into the fold and making many more new and lasting friends in the Sgt's Mess.

Ben Nokes was the RSM, Jim Spence the RQMS, and Captain Jackson the QM. There was one other very young junior NCO who I did not know at the time, he was found in the Signal Stores behind what to me seemed heaps of coils of signal wire, umpteen wireless sets in various stages of repair or whatever. He looked very keen and alert, not lost for an answer when required. His name was, and is L.M. Wilson, now of course the Secretary of the Regimental Association Lieutenant-Colonel L.M. Wilson MBE. The Battalion was under orders for a move to Berlin just after I joined the Battalion, and it was to have been mainly by road and rail. About half the Battalion were on the way by road when the Russians imposed their 'Blockade of Berlin', and no entry into Berlin could be made by road or rail, the only way in or out was by air. This meant of course that a major task of

repacking all the stores and equipment had to be undertaken in Dortmund, and packaged for conveyance by air, and all personnel who were unable to complete the journey by road and rail had to be airlifted in to Berlin.

I remained behind with a rear party in Dortmund, working with Billy Motton, WOII at the time, very shortly to take over as RQMS. We had to gather in all accommodation stores, and prepare to hand the barracks back to the BIA. This eventually accomplished, we too got on to a Dakota aircraft amply loaded with stores which included mortar bombs, and headed for Berlin, landing at Gatow airport in Berlin without incident.

#### West Berlin

The Battalion was quartered in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin for the first part of the stay in Berlin. It was very basic, the Sgt's Mess was in dressing rooms of the number one swimming pool, as also was the accommodation for some of the mess members. Others were accommodated in various rooms in the buildings surrounding the main sports area.

Here at last I was able to get to know the members of the Sgt's Mess. A few, like George Deacon, CSM 'Twinkle' Herbert, Bill Elkins and Sid Waldron, I had already known; others became long standing friends, like Eddie O'Laughlin (ORQMS) Billy Motton (RQMS) Derek Adkins (PRI) Vic Aukett (C/Sgt) Charlie Cheeseman (C/Sgt) Dick Wright (Pro/Sgt) Neville Jackson, Pat Duffy, John Stiles Drums, Dinky Lampard, (Harry Drayton, Band) Harry Gill, Vance Cotsford, Fred Wickens, 'Tiffy' Stone, REME, Bill Redford under the RSM, firstly Ben Noakes, and then Joe Simmonds MC, all these senior NCOs and warrant officers formed the backbone of the Sgt's Mess for a long time to come, and were to be long term friends.

Most of the members of the Sergeants Mess that I have recalled by name have been those who have been long standing members and naturally long service. One of the strong points of the Sergeants Mess structure in the British Army is the new younger members who are promoted into the Sergeants Mess, from the Corporals Mess within the battalion, who take a back seat at first, to watch, listen and learn from the older hands, and then when some of the older ones depart the younger members come into their own, and carry on the traditions of the Sergeants Mess.

It is right and proper at this point to introduce a few of these younger members who came into the Sergeants Mess during the Berlin tour or very soon afterwards, who were to make their name in their own right, and even to surpass the heights of the older members. Space, and perhaps a loss of memory, prevents me from mentioning all those young members, I hope those I have not mentioned will forgive me.

Young Les Wilson joined the Mess about Berlin time, and went on to become Lieutenant Colonel (QM). Keith Yonwin and Derek Adkins were also to become Major Quartermasters. 'Bozzle' Wilmhurst became a Superintending Clerk (WOI). 'Bozzle' was a jovial character who gave us many a laugh. He was also an excellent shot and a very good Mortar Sgt before entering the orderly room. I must not forget to mention 'Busty' Humphries, (similar in nature to 'Bozzle') who, together with Fred Wickens (CSM), were among the first reinforcements from the Regiment to go to Korea in 1951. Happily they both survived that encounter, although it is sad to relate Fred Wickens died earlier than expected. Sgt Watret, better known to us all as 'Doctor' Watret, it goes without saying he was the M I Room Sgt.

These were just some of the younger members coming along. They, and those I have not been able to recall, were a credit to the Sergeants Mess and of course to the Regiment.

In the early days in Berlin, it had been decided at very high level that a reorganisation of the Army was to be; one of the changes being that a number of Battalions were to be disbanded. In our case this meant the 2nd Battalion, and so a large ceremonial parade was to take place, 'Trooping The Colour' of both the First and Second Battalions. We were then to become 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, the 2nd Battalion in name disbanded, and their 'Colours' laid up. It was a sad day for those of us who had been 2nd Battalion for almost all of our service.

The parade took place on the Olympischer Platz in Berlin on the 9th September 1948 under the Direction of General Sir George Giffard GCB, DSO, Colonel of the Regiment. The

parade passed off very successfully, a rather long parade. One must remember the circumstances under which all the rehearsals and the parade took place, that of being in a besieged city surrounded by hostile Russians, their MIGS zooming around the area like bees around a honey pot, and our own aircraft of all types and sizes, almost nose to tail flying in low, loaded with every kind of item needed to keep a besieged city alive. It only needed someone to lose their cool and shoot down one of the aircraft, and I think World War Three would have started. However, all remained peaceful during the parade. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel L C East, DSO, OBE; Ben Nokes was the Regimental Sergeant Major, Bandmaster Gaines was the Bandmaster, and Drum Major Sidney Harman was the Drum Major. I think it of interest to say here that the Band, and the Corps of Drums had reached a very high standard at this time. The regiment had always prided itself on the Band and Drums, and I doubt if they had been better at any time previously.

The whole of the Olympischer Platz was surrounded by eighty four, fifty foot flag poles all flying the Union Jack, and there were many V I P visitors, some from the American, French and Russian Sectors, and of course, from the British Sector.

In the evening, there was a Sergeants Mess Social where we had the honour of welcoming and entertaining the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, GCB, DSO, Colonel East, the officers and many other guests, from the Control Commission, from the American Army, and of course our own members wives and lady friends.

After this event, we settled down to what was to be a very busy and at times hectic daily routine of work. Life in Berlin under the blockade had to be lived in and seen to really appreciate the difficulties that arose. Perhaps a few lines on the subject might be of interest to younger readers.

The Battalion had been under orders to move to Berlin from Dortmund; I think the first two companies had left by road, as also had some coaches with the wives and children aboard. On arrival at the Check Point, they were informed of the blockade. The families coaches were apparently boarded by some Russians, who checked their documentation. They were then allowed to proceed under escort until they crossed the river bridges. They then had to make a long detour to get into the Western Sector of Berlin, where they arrived very late, very tired, and were taken to the Control Commission Headquarters. They should, of course, have been taken to Battalion Headquarters at the Olympic Stadium.

The duties of the Battalion during this blockade were very heavy indeed, the providing of many guards at important places throughout the Berlin Garrison, every day I think at least two companies were swallowed up providing the men for the guards, and of course unloading parties were required at the Airports to unload the aircraft as soon as they had taxied to a halt. Remember, the aircraft were coming in constantly almost like road convoys. There were in use every conceivable type of civilian aircraft, but I think the maid of all work was probably the plane we called the Dakota. Even the Sunderland flying boats were used, they landed on a large stretch of water called The Havel. There were three main airports, Tempelhof in the American Sector, Gatow in the British Sector, and there was a new one built in the French Sector, Tegel. These airports were in use day and night, every minute there was, unloading of aircraft and dispersal of the cargo, and this went on from the imposition of the blockade in June 1948 until the lifting of the blockade in 1949. The civilian population suffered severe food and fuel rationing throughout this period. To conserve fuel electric power was switched off, and candles used. Of course the Garrison and their dependants shared in these restrictions.

During the stay in the Olympic Stadium, we naturally made good use of all the sporting facilities that abounded in the area.

After some four or five months, the Battalion moved to a more permanent barracks named Brooke Barracks, which were adjacent to Wavell Barracks, where The Royal Norfolks were stationed. We soon established very friendly relations with the Norfolks. About the time of the move to Brooks Barracks, Lieutenant-Colonel L C East, DSO, OBE, relinquished command of the Battalion, and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel T H Hart-Dyke, DSO, Ben Nokes left at about the same time, and RSM J B Simmonds, MC, succeeded him as Regimental Sergeant Major.



Officers Mess Salerno Day 1948, Berlin

The Battalion also had a good reputation in the shooting area, and it is here that I should mention the man who captained and looked after our weapons. He was AQMS 'Tiffy' Stone, REME, attached to the Queen's as our armourer. He joined the Battalion in Dortmund in 1947 and was to remain with the Regiment until they returned from Malaya in 1957. I reckon we made him a Queen's Man. Others making up the shooting team in Berlin were Major T P Simmonds, Captain N A H Marsden, C/Sgt Vance Cotsford, Sgt Bill Redford, Sgt Jackson, and myself.

I think it would be right to pay a tribute to the wives of the married members of the Regiment who were in Berlin at this difficult time. The wives never knew when their husbands left for duty in the morning whether they would return home at the end of the day, for there were many occasions when all were confined to barracks because of some delicate issue arising between the Russians and the Western Sector Powers. There were also contingency plans for collecting the wives and the children into areas of safety.

Before my own wife was able to join me in Berlin, I 'lived in' as a single member of the Sgt's Mess. There were many occasions when I and other members were invited to Sunday lunch with one of the families. In my case it was to be invited to lunch with Alice and Vic Aukett. I must confess there were times when I was so involved in the bar, that I forgot where I was supposed to be for lunch. The phone would ring long after I was due to ask if I was coming to lunch! Alice took it all in good grace, and lunch would be held up until I arrived. Sometimes I never arrived at all, but I was never banished from her guest list, although I deserved to be. These many years on when we meet, we often have a laugh over it all. I think Kath Wright was the mother of all the families, and I mean that in the nicest possible way. I suppose Kath's husband Sgt Dick Wright, was probably one of the longest serving members of the Queen's even at that stage of his service. I also spent an occasional weekend with Drum Major and Maureen Harman. All these little incidents helped the single and living in members, and I tell these incidents as a token of gratitude to all those long suffering wives who were with us in Berlin during the Blockade.

I forget the exact date, but I think it was in the latter quarter of 1949 when the Blockade was lifted, and our tour of duty in Berlin came to a close. The Battalion was to move to Aldershot Barracks in Iserlohn, a very pleasant area. We were able to move by rail and road and the move was accomplished as far as I know without incident.

A final word about the Berlin period. I have mentioned by name some Officers, and a number of Warrant Officers and Sergeants. I think we ought not to forget the Junior NCOs and the Private Soldiers who bore the brunt of many long hours of hard work throughout the stay in Berlin. They were mostly National Servicemen who had their service extended by, I think six months, it may have been longer, that in itself was a bitter disappointment to many of them. There were some minor breaches of discipline, and one or two of a more serious nature, but taken in context with the whole effort that they made, they were a credit to the Regiment, and the Regiment was and is very proud of its National Servicemen.

To be continued.

on the NW Frontier. As a result at every station where the train halted there always seemed to be a supply of ice for us, and when we reached Kathgodam there was a huge basket of fruit. Wherever we went by train in India a supply of fresh fruit was there for us.

At one railway station en route we saw a bespectacled bald headed old man sitting crossed legged and spinning – it was Mahatma Ghandi.

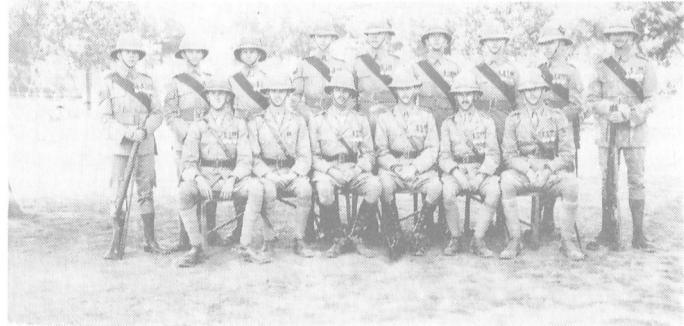
On arrival at Ranikhet food, fuel and bedding had to be organized although some of the married quarters were not finished; ours had no roof. Fortunately it did not rain and in two days the Sikh carpenters fixed it. Whilst at Ranikhet, Father was appointed acting RSM, and he organized a varied social life for the detachment – sports, dances, gymkhana and picnics. The school, where there was an Army school mistress, was about half a mile from the married quarters. One morning on our way to school we came across a donkey that had been killed and half eaten by a leopard. The local British representative and some officers organized a hunt, tracked the animal for two days and eventually killed it some twenty miles away. At Ranikhet we acquired a white Persian cat which remained with us for five years before being stolen.

The whole family was invited to tiffin with the British representative. This meant clean clothes, well washed, hair brushed and put on our best behaviour. The British Raj was very much in evidence; uniformed servants, silver plate and beautiful china. No sooner had you put your knife and fork down on the plate than it was whisked away, and Mother wasn't used to having her chair moved for her. The meal was cucumber soup, curry with all the appropriate fruits, rice and sauces, followed by a very sweet pudding. We apparently did not disgrace ourselves as we were invited again.

### Lucknow 1922

In September 1922 we moved back to our same married quarters at Lucknow. There was an old blind Indian who visited the quarters. He had a one-stringed fiddle made from a Huntley and Palmer biscuit tin with a piano wire for the string and the fret was bound by rubber washers from lemonade bottles. The soldiers had taught him a number of risqué songs and he always finished his repertoire by singing "Poor blind Charlie". The song

Prince of Wales Guard Company



CQMS Pye, Sgt. Willis, Sgt. Mitchell, Sgt. Akers, Sgt. Morgan, Sgt. Jenner, Sgt. Tucker, Sgt. Smith, CSM Domoney  
Lt. RE Pickering, Lt. RM Burton, Capt. GK Oliver, MC, Capt. SR Coates, MC, Lt. SH Sillem, Lt. AD Brock

went "Chase me Charlie, chase me Charlie, up the leg of me drawers!" He was scrupulously clean and honest and seemed to make a living.

### Dulikhet 1923

In April 1923 we move to Dulikhet, a neighbouring hill station to Ranikhet. Again a train journey to Kathgodam and thence by road transport. On the bus journey Norman Boxall leaned against the door which flew open and he fell out. We finally convinced the Indian driver that he had to stop and to return to pick him up. Norman was very frightened but uninjured; his mother gave him a good thrashing. At Dulikhet the married quarters were complete, well furnished and in a compact compound. The Devonshire Regiment were at Ranikhet and we had several social gatherings with them. We became life long friends with George Herniman and his family; he was Bandmaster of the Devons.

### Lucknow 1923

September 1923 saw us on the move again; back to the Plains, Lucknow, and the same old quarters. And also around were "Old Bhisti" and "Blind Charlie".

### Allahabad 1924

On 18th January 1924 the Battalion and families moved by train to Allahabad. This was a much smaller station. The Battalion was in MacPherson Barracks with D Company in the Fort. The other troops were, an Indian battalion, a gunner battery and a squadron of cavalry. The main duty was internal security. There was a large white civilian population and the town contained the Law Courts and some offices of the United Provinces Government. There was also a cathedral; the soldiers went to church services fully armed, there were racks in the pews for the rifles.

It was during this period that Alan Cobham made his famous flight to Australia. He touched down at Allahabad and D Company provided the guard for the aircraft. In 1929 I won a competition with an essay, and my prize was a trip with Cobham who remembered the Battalion.

The town and cantonment were at the junction of the Ganges and Jumna rivers. The Ganges is a very holy river and whilst we were at the Fort a great 'mela' or Hindu gathering was held. No one was allowed to leave the Fort but we saw fakirs swinging through flames, some lacerating themselves and several deformed people including one man with two heads. During our stay King George V broadcast the first wireless message to India and we were privileged to hear it on the Fort's wireless set. The aerial was carried on towers 250 feet high. I climbed about 50 feet up one of the towers and got a good hiding for my trouble.

### Kailana 1924

Allahabad was a very hot station and so we were pleased when in April 1924 we moved to Kailana, a hill station about 40 miles from Mussorie. The families went by train to Dehra Dun and then by bus. The troops marched from Dehra Dun; it took four days, across a very erratic river and a final climb of 3700 feet in seven miles. Our quarters were excellent and we were fairly near the bazaar and about half a mile from the barracks. From the quarters we could often hear the Band and Drums and then we would see them round Chilman Neck – a U bend below the Bazaar – and thence into the barracks. The Durham Light Infantry were stationed here and the camaraderie between the units was excellent and many friendships formed.

Mother always kept a good medicine basket and as the hospital was far removed from the quarters, there were many calls on her services from the other married families. On one occasion while watching a Mountain Battery, I was kicked on the knee by a mule. I was whipped into hospital where the kneecap was cleaned and scraped. I was incapacitated for three months and during this time I learnt to crochet bedspreads. I also had the habit of falling and cutting my head – it seemed to happen at least once at every station we were in. Most evenings we would play cards by hurricane lamp; father taught us Rummy, Spoof and Whist. One night a leopard bounded through the house, on to Olive's bed and out of the window. It had been wounded and spots of blood left a spoor easy to follow and so it was eventually killed near Chakrata, an adjoining hill station. Huge golden eagles would visit the quarters and sometimes a cat or dog would disappear clutched in their awesome talons. We took great care of our white cat and our dog Lancer; he was a Heinz variety with a preponderance of beagle. My youngest sister Joan led him an awful life, cleaning his teeth, combing him and putting pegs on his ears. Lancer took it all in good part. Again during our stay here, Father was acting as RSM.

### Allahabad 1924

In September 1924 we moved back to Allahabad and into the Fort where we spent Christmas. Schooling was by Regimental instructors; I actually attended classes with soldiers who were taking their 3rd class Certificate of Education under Corporal Kidson.

We left the Fort in February 1925 and moved to MacPherson Barracks. The main shopping centre was beyond the civilian lines and we travelled there by ghari (a horse drawn trap). On one occasion my mother and we children, were caught

up in a Hindu-Moslem riot. It was very frightening. They were knifeing and bludgeoning each other and some tried to cut the throat of our horse. Fortunately the Indian police arrived and escorted us to safety. We never went shopping in that area again!

During February there was a most impressive parade on the Maidan. There were the Indian Lancers on splendid horses and with their pennants, Mountain Artillery, the Broken Wheel Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery and Infantry of many regiments. What a kaleidoscope of colour against the sandy soil!

There were excellent sporting facilities, and Olive and I learnt to play tennis on the Sergeants' Mess courts. I also learnt to play hockey and was selected for the United Schools side to play against the University. Here I met Tiger Singh who eventually played for India. Bicycles could be hired from a contractor at 4 annas an hour; some were rare old bikes, but it was fun riding them.

### Kailana 1925

In April we moved back to Kailana. Our quarters were near the parade ground and we could look down the khudside into the barrack rooms of the Durhams.

Each night there was a film show in the gymnasium. We sat on Army benches, and the place was crowded while we watched such stars as Art Accord, Tom Mix, Pearl White and Mary Pickford. Incidental music was provided by Grace Hayde on a gramophone. Familiar tunes such as "Three O'clock in the Morning", "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" and First War songs accompanied selected parts of the films. They were, of course, silent films, but one could hear the steady munch of roasted peanuts purchased from the Indian vendor at the door. And the floor would be covered with husks. One of the harshest punishments meted out to us by Dad was "No pictures for seven days". My first taste of 'defaulters'!

Drummer Hubbard was the Champion Bugler of all India, and we children would walk down to the parade ground to hear him sound Reveille. Frank Hubbard was a CSM at the Depot in 1939; and in 1940 he was killed in action in France.

### Allahabad 1925

September saw us preparing to leave for the Plains, and my father was OC the rear party. When we were ready to leave it was found that the rivers were in full spate and snow, yes snow, had blocked the roads. It was a very hazardous journey with hillmen cutting a way through the snow. When we reached the river we were transported across in a type of boatswain's chair slung between two pylons. I still have a vivid memory of Olive with the sewing machine, followed by me with a bath full of cooking utensils, followed by Mother with Joan in her arms crossing over the raging torrent, while a bloated buffalo, cow, horse or goat floated underneath. It was a nightmare journey, and all told it took two days before we arrived back at Allahabad.

We learnt from those troops that had remained on the Plains that the daily routine had been changed. In the past, because the days were long and very hot, parades had finished by breakfast, but under the changed routine parades now carried on until midday. After 4pm everybody had to be out of the barrack rooms and take part in some sports activity.

By Thursday evening the troops were always short of cash. They would sit on the steps leading to the verandah and sing. This was the cue for Mother to send over the bearer with jugs of tea and trays of cakes. D Company, where Dad was CSM, was in the barrack block opposite our quarter, only about fifty yards away.



In November there was increased activity in the barracks. Gardens were tidied, trees were pruned and anything that did not move was whitewashed or red ochred. The married quarters were spruced up, we children had to be well dressed and clean and all the servants had new livery. I recall my father seeing me return from school with socks down, shoes scuffed and topee with the pugaree askew, giving me the order "If anyone asks you who you are, say Johnny Smith of the Royal Artillery, NOT Bertie Domoney of the Queen's." An inspection was imminent and finally the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, arrived. Lt Colonel Rainsford Hannay, our CO, was congratulated on the very high standard of the Battalion. It was a relief to return to normal.

Although it was not allowed, I would often visit the troops in their barrack room, and I recall one occasion when the word went round that the OC and CSM were visiting. I was hastily dumped into a huge kitbox until the visit was over.

The Band and Drums would give occasional recitals on the parade ground (maidan) for the troops in barracks. Christmas was the usual round of social activities. A replica of a zeppelin raid on London was constructed in the gymnasium, and Father Christmas descended from the ceiling by parachute. Every child in the Regiment received a number of small gifts. Mine was a multi-bladed penknife, a pencil box and a travel book. Most of the social life was organized by the Battalion, and functions took place in the gymnasium - cinema, parties and concerts. There were weekly dances in the Sergeants' Mess. Teenage girls were strictly chaperoned. Fraternising with the Indians and Anglo-Indians was not encouraged.

Our family life, like everyone else, ran according to the bugle calls. Reveille 0500 hrs, Father gets up; we all get up. We stood to attention for "Retreat", and at "Lights Out" our electricity was switched off. Meals were taken when father was not on parade. Even our parrot could imitate some of the bugle calls.

The dhobi would wash my clothes and return them ready to wear the same day. I would change three times a day just leaving them for the bearer to pick up off the floor! Another visitor to the verandah was the derzi, the tailor. He would arrive with a bundle of cloth and an old Singer sewing machine perched on his head. He would sit on the verandah and make anything required. Much of the hand sewing was carried out by fixing the cloth with the big and first toe of the right foot, holding the other end of the cloth vertical and sewing. Ironing was carried out with a charcoal filled iron and damping down was done throughout by a mouthful of water. Mother also had a couple of flat irons ready to press clothes.

By now our School Mistress was Mrs Burgess, known as 'Mrs Chips' because her husband was the Pioneer Sergeant and a carpenter by trade. From her I learnt raffia work and also my first country dances. The boys were taught mathematics, map reading, and geography by the Regimental Instructor, Tiny Kidson,(2) who was now a sergeant.

Once the Battalion marched to Shankargarh, a training camp 33 miles away across very rugged country. When they returned we could hear the Band and Drums some distance off. Mother immediately arranged for jugs of tea to be available at D Company Office. The refreshment was very much appreciated. Lieutenant H P Coombe wrote a note to Mother, "Thank God, Mrs Domoney, you saved my life!" I still have that note!(3)

### Kailana 1926

We moved back here in April. It was the same pattern as before. The Devons were at Chakrata, and we linked up again with our old friends, the Hernimans. Our School Mistress was now Mrs Buckenham, the wife of Sergeant Buckenham. She was very strict but an excellent teacher. It was at her school that I stuck my finger into a hole in the brickwork. It was stung by a wasp and swelled so that I could not withdraw it. The Pioneer Corporal had to cut away the brickwork; this not only released my finger but also a swarm of wasps which scattered the onlookers.

In September 1926 we moved back to Allahabad and were greeted by a violent sandstorm. Despite all windows and doors being closed, the sand was inches thick on the floor. A huge poplar tree some 60 foot high crashed down between the two married quarters demolishing the outside toilets. An old Indian woman seated in a wickerwork toilet was blown some 200 yards across the parade ground.

In October we learned that the Battalion was to leave India. A spate of ceremonies and social activities ensued. There was the Trooping of the Colour, followed by a torchlight tattoo and the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, visited the Battalion.

Finally, having sold all the wickerwork furniture, packed up all the brass that Mother had collected, purchased what was thought to be suitable clothing for our return to the UK, paid off the servants, we set off for Allahabad station and our journey to Bombay. And so ended the Domoney stay in India.

### The Domoneys Return to UK

#### Coming Home

On Christmas Eve 1926 we boarded the HT Assaye. The Battalion were not the only Army personnel on board. My father and I had a First Class cabin which entitled us to fruit and biscuits with our early morning tea. We of course met up with the family during the day. Spaces were reserved on the poop deck for animals being brought home. We had two parrots, Polly and Vulture, and it was Olive's job to feed them. There was a sentry at the entrance to the poop deck as we were only allowed up there during certain hours.

Life on the troop deck was not very good. The troops had hammocks slung over the mess tables. The deck was very airless and did not make for comfort for those with queasy stomachs. The going across the Indian Ocean was very rough. The troops were a very happy lot, and those that were not ill got very merry on Christmas Day. Every child of the Regiment was given several presents on Christmas Day. Being a good sailor, I thoroughly enjoyed the voyage, especially the meals. "Fiddles" had to be fitted to all tables to prevent dishes and plates sliding off as the ship rolled.

We stopped at Aden and were taken off in lighters so that we could take some exercise. We were lucky: my father had been stationed at Aden previously and knew his way about. The Devonshire Regiment were stationed nearby at Steamer Point, and their Bandmaster, George Herniman, a friend of the family, met us. After a very short stay we boarded ship and moved on to Port Sudan where the Battalion disembarked for Khartoum. There were no married quarters at Khartoum, and so the families remained on board to travel back to England. Dad did not leave with the Battalion - he had reached the age limit and was going home on discharge.

It was terribly hot after we left Aden, and got hotter as we sailed up the Suez Canal. But I thoroughly enjoyed the trip up the Canal. We saw Arab dhows drifting slowly along with multifarious cargoes. There were small boats with young boys peddling bananas, oranges and grapes. A line would be let down from the deck, a basket of fruit hauled up and the cost placed in the basket which was then lowered back to the boys. Coins would be thrown into the Canal and the youngsters would dive into its murky water to retrieve them. And on the Canal bank were camel trains carrying all sorts of goods.

Soon we were in the Mediterranean, but it didn't seem to get any cooler. We stopped at Malta to re-coal.

From Malta we sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay. The weather changed and the sea became very rough. There were not many people taking meals. When we were off Ushant we saw a French destroyer appearing and disappearing as the waves mounted higher. Everyone was confined to their cabins, and the atmosphere was awful. About a day out from Southampton the storm subsided and we were allowed back on deck, but it was off tropical kit and into something warmer.

We docked at Southampton about 7 a.m., had an early breakfast and collected up our cabin luggage. Our baggage 'Not wanted on voyage' was on the quayside. We said our farewells to those families not travelling on the same train, and soon we were on the train to Guildford. We were home again and thus ended a very adventurous and educational eight years spent abroad at the Government's expense.

#### Notes on the Domoneys

The article on the Domoney family recalls the boyhood in India of Major A W V Domoney, whose father, CSM A J D Domoney, served in The Queen's from 1903 to 1927. Father went to France with the 1st Battalion in 1914 and was taken prisoner. He served in the 2nd Battalion in India and took his discharge in 1927. He died in 1935, and Cpl Hubbard, the former Champion Bugler, sounded the Last Post at his funeral.

Major Domoney enlisted in The Queen's in 1933 and was commissioned in 1939. 'Dom', as both father and son were known, served as a company commander and second-in-command in the 2/7th Queen's in Italy in World War II. He attended the Staff College and retired in 1946.

(1) The Sergeant's sash, presented by HRH The Prince of Wales to CSM Domoney in 1922, was worn by his son in 1938 when escort to the Colours, and by his grandson, Sgt A B J Domoney in 1964 when serving in the Army Air Corps.

(2) Sgt R E Kidson, the Regimental Education Instructor who taught Dom as a boy, became CSM D Company, 2 Queen's, and in 1937 Dom was his Company Clerk.

(3) Lt Col H P Coombe and Major A W V Domoney were both serving in 13 Queen's in 1943.

#### The 4th Queens with the B.E.F. 1939/40

*(The somewhat sketchy recollections of one who took part in a rather unusual and hitherto unchronicled aspect of the 1939/40 Campaign in France and Belgium)*

The 4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, less colourfully known as the 63rd Searchlight Regiment was embodied in August 1939 and rapidly deployed in and around Southampton. In early September the Battalion was required to provide a detachment for service with the B.E.F. in France. The detachment comprised some of those not yet deployed and a few Sappers. Capt R.T. Walters (438 Coy) was selected as O.C. with Lieut J.H. Farmer (440 Coy), who was bilingual French; as 2 i/c. The party was to become an Army Observer Unit.

After arriving in the Amiens area the unit came under the operational and to a large degree administrative command of the Royal Air Force and met up with the wireless operators and MT drivers who were to become colleagues. Together they quickly learned the rudiments if not the art of spotting enemy aircraft and reporting their movements by radio (W/T) to an operations room at a fighter aerodrome in France.

In early October the 4th Queens were required to provide a junior Officer and a senior N.C.O. to accompany a group of National Service Gunners to strengthen the party already abroad. 2/Lt D.F.L. Evans and Sgt. Bicknell were selected. Soon after the two detachments had amalgamated the unit moved to Metz having set up a staging post at Signy L'Abbaye (Ardennes). A base was set up in the Caserne Ney from whence a Wireless Intelligence Screen was deployed just in rear of the Maginot Line in the Department of Moselle. All the service personnel were billeted in French villages and were given subsistence allowance as there were no supply facilities. A spotting station comprised four Army observers and two wireless operators, a driver was added when mobile.

Later in 1939, and after it was decreed that all Territorial soldiers (not officers!), under the age of twenty were to be returned to U.K., a second "Screen" was established in the Pas de Calais Department, HQ in Le Touquet with spotting stations along the coastline from Berck to Wimereux. This screen was mobile being equipped with caravans and tow trucks. Evans was in charge of the Northern unit while Walters and Farmer ran the Eastern Screen and HQ.

After 10 May and the end of the "Phoney War" the picture became somewhat blurred, the roads saturated with the B.E.F. advancing, refugees evacuating, and the radio waves blocked by simultaneous reports of enemy aircraft. The writer no longer had direct contact with the HQ Unit and his screen was independent when it moved into Belgium where it seemed that no one knew what to do with it. However minds were made up by the efficient and powerful radio network which relayed a message in clear "RTN Boulogne" which meant get there as soon as possible. This was done with few mishaps and no casualties. On return to UK the unit spent a short while at the RA Depot at Woolwich and later at Norton Manor, Taunton where it was disbanded.

Walters' Eastern Screen and HQ was redeployed in France and in withdrawal made its way to Brittany also without casualties en route for UK where the Army Observer Unit was sent to Aberporth in Wales with a view to forming two Army Observer Batteries for service in Northern Ireland with Walters, who had been mentioned in despatches, in charge of one with Evans as 2 i/c. Farmer is believed to have become an SOE operative and to have won a MC.

D.F.L.E.

**STAN BLAY** writes: At the Regimental Church Service at Guildford Cathedral I had a most pleasant and unexpected surprise. I met Peter Scott, an old school friend of mine who served with 1/5 Queen's during the 1939-45 war.

Peter and I had not met since we were last together in the same class at Northmead Boys School at Guildford in the early part of 1937, 51 years ago. After all this time we both recognised each other, and of course the gathering was not long enough to say all we wanted to, but many old times were recalled of our younger days.

Peter was over here from USA.

**A C MERRETT** writes: There can be no other document so memory erupting as the Association News Letter. When I see the names D'Albertanson, Gary Lockwood and Joe Stewart, my mind travels back sixty six years to Lucknow, then with the names Col Sheldon and Brig Wood I am reminded of Allahabad and Khartoum. It was on the banks of the river Jumna at Allahabad that as a Battalion Drill Instructor I was joined by Mr Sheldon in voice exercises, and I knew Mr Wood as a keen sportsman - hockey and rugby. We were both members of the Battalion rugby fifteen. I was sorry to read that these two fine officers have passed on.

Not so the owner of the initials L C E at the end of the obituary to Colonel Sheldon. It pleased me to know that Colonel East, another rugby man, is still going strong, (good show).

I'm sure that the author of the article "Learning the hard way" in Newsletter No. 43, did not realise at the time of the formation of 2/6 Queen's in 1939, that they were getting two stalwarts who knew service under 'Chokey' Sullivan in the 2nd Bn The Queen's, then known as 'The Guards of India'. I recall having heard that the Prince of Wales at his inspection of the Battalion on his tour in 1921/22 remarked 'you should be at home guarding my Father' (true or false - I don't know).

Then reference to Colonel Bolton takes me back to Stoughton Bks, where he was CO at the time he interviewed me as to my plans for continuing in the service, but my time was up and I was disenchanted. May be it was as well that I left then, otherwise I would never over a decade later, have been available to organise and train the Air Ministry Home Guard in London, especially the Whitehall Company.

**A H F WILLIAMS** writes: The letter from Colonel Tony Ling was most interesting, and I hope somebody can solve the mystery.

The Regimental number is a territorial one and I can only think that Pte Treasure was one of the forty posted from the 2nd/6th Surrey's to the 2nd Battalion in 1939. This, of course, does not answer why he rests among the Australians, I hope somebody can solve it.



**LEO DUNCAN** writes: Reading of the passing of Major (QM) Dougie Fraser in the News Letter, recalled one of many experiences we had together on the North West Frontier of India. We were stationed at a place called Razmak, when we were called out on column to go after some Pathans who were giving us a bit of trouble. We stopped for a few days at a camp called Tunda China. As usual we put pickets up the hills to protect the camp.

Just as we were settling down for the night, all hell broke loose on a large picket occupied by a platoon of the Punjab Regt. The R.S.M. called for volunteers to take water on a mule up to L/Cpl Frasers small section on a hill in front of the main camp. They were in a sanger, which is a circle of stones about 3ft high, built by troops generations ago, for which we were truly grateful. Well, as all good soldiers know, one never volunteers, so it came down to "YOU AND YOU", and I was one of the you's. As anyone knows who has led a mule it has a mind of its own. Well off we went, and as we went up a Pathan thought it would be good fun to take a pot at us now and again. He had little chance of hitting us, but just to be safe we got on the other side of the mule, but the mule had other ideas and kept trying to get the other side of us. We were told off for this later by the R.S.M. He said we were expendable, the mule was not! I often wonder if he meant it?

However, we got to the top in one piece and jumped over the wall into the sanger. We were about to make tea when a message came up from H.Q. by lamp to "GET THAT BLOODY MULE INTO THE SANGER". There we were, ten of us and an uncontrollable animal, all crushed in together. It stamped all over us. It was winter and freezing cold. At last the dawn came, and we made ready to go down to camp. L/Cpl Fraser was looking through his glasses to check if any Pathans had hidden up in the shrubbery, to catch us on the way down, when a shot hit the top of the sanger and young Fraser went down with bits of lead and chips of stone in the side of his face. There was plenty of blood but we were pleased to hear that he was not too badly hurt. We took him down on the mule, and were met half way by Gurkha stretcher bearers who took him back to Razmak.

I did not see him again till he came from Germany as Quartermaster to the 6th Queens T.A. at Bermondsey. We used to chat in the mess on old times, but he was a reserved type of man. I know we who knew him will miss a great soldier, and a Queensman through and through. My best wishes to his family.

Leo (Darky) Duncan

**D.J. BENNETT** writes from Suffolk: Thank you for the Newsletter. I have had a call from P. Mabbett of Bury St. Edmunds and joined him and others at the Royal British Legion on June 1st for a little get together and a drink. There I met Bert Hadley from Newmarket whom I hadn't seen for some 46 years, so there was much to chat about. Phil Mabbett read the letter that I wrote you and you printed in the last issue. He had a letter in the same issue, just before mine, so that started the ball rolling. Now we hope to keep in touch. Thank you.

#### Message from Australia on The Glorious First

Best wishes to all ranks on this Glorious First of June. 6087294 Ted Josling.

#### CAN YOU HELP?

In reading an old copy of that fine quarterly magazine "This England", I was very interested to read a very descriptive piece of The East Surrey Regiment. I was in captivity at a place called Yawata in the district called Fukuoka on the island of Kyushu in Japan. One of my best friends was a member of the East Surreys by the name of John Kitchener Codd. He was a regular having served in many places, Shanghai for one and maybe India, I forget now, and was taken P.O.W. in Singapore or Malaya. His home address pre-war was No. 11 Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey. I know he was living there in 1946 or '47 as I called on him. Since I retired in 1983 I have endeavoured to trace many old mates, John Codd being one of them, but have had no reply by writing to that forty year old address, nor have I had the letters returned. I know it is a "long shot" writing to you, but

hope you may have a registry of nominal rolls of past members of your Regiments; or maybe you can suggest some way of tracing my old friend via your Regimental Association Newsletter if there is one in existence.

Any reader who may be able to help should write to:- J. Urwin (Geordie), 24 Martin St. Beaumaris - 3193, Victoria, Australia.

**ERNIE PITT** writes: Enclosed is a photo of George Campbell and myself, George is on the left with the glasses. The last time I saw George was on the 25th July 1944. We were stretcher bearers with 1st/5th Queen's at ITS. South of Caen we had some stretcher cases to deal with and I said I would take them back to the R.A.P. on a Bren gun carrier. I laid on the back to hold them on, got about two fields away when a shell came over knocking me off and shrapnel going right through my leg. I got picked up by a Canadian tank. I got to know George was still alive by contacting Doug Mitchell.

George has just had an operation for throat cancer so he can't talk, but he wrote a lot of names down - what a memory he has. I spent a couple of hours with him, and he is going to come over to see me sometime. It is good to be in touch again after so long.



**Major P.G.E. HILL** writes: During a recent one day visit to Belgium I visited the Communal Cemetery at Oostdunkirk where there is a British War Graves plot. Here I found the graves of the following East Surreys killed in action between 29 May and 4 June 1940.

6144104 Pte A G Avis; 6141900 Pte E W Bailey; 6143615 Pte J Buck; 6142388 Pte H Bullen; 6141715 Pte C W Clark; 6144439 Pte N J Exall; 6144493 Pte F G Fenner; 6699527 Cpl G R James; 6144908 Pte M W W King; 6144304 Pte O Lawless; 6143539 Pte B R Sayles.

This small plot was in the usual immaculate condition associated with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Later that day I went to St George's Memorial Church at Ypres. On the walls in the chancel are large brass tablets commemorating All Ranks of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment who were killed in the Ypres Salient in the 1914-18 War. On the south side of the nave there is a Regimental banner and memorial plate presented by the 11th (Lambeth) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

There are a number of small brass memorial plates on the chairs in the nave, amongst them one inscribed with the name of Pte Leonard Baldwin MM, 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, who died on 20th October 1987. Almost exactly 70 years before, Pte Baldwin, a stretcher bearer, had won his Military Medal at Passchendaele, a few miles away. A picture of him being interviewed by Sir Harry Secombe for television appeared in the News Letter of November 1986.

**J. FLAGG** writes from 190 Sprowston Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 4JA, telephone number 0603 486294. He has recently joined the Association and become a subscriber to the Newsletter. He served in A Company, 2/7th Queens in Italy and would very much like to hear from any old member of 2/7th who cares to write or telephone him.

## Memorable Journeys in Peace and War

### 'Buster' Brown's Story - A Journey to Damascus

I am 6103161 a member of A Company, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. This is a train journey I remember back in June 1941. Our draft was called to reinforce the Battalion in Syria. From the moment we left Geneifa it was a big adventure and a scenic tour I would not have missed for anything.

We climbed aboard the train and started off our journey up the Canal Zone, which is the only part in this area which is cultivated, and we saw plenty of people working their plots using methods to irrigate and plough that were used in Biblical times.

We had not been travelling long when the train came to a standstill. Heads hung out of the windows and with much excitement we saw a train loaded with huge melons about to pass us. Sitting on top of the melons was an Egyptian in his "Burton" rags completely unaware of what was about to happen. It was a matter of "fix bayonets" and as the train slowly passed by, the melons came within easy reach, bayonets flashed and we had fresh fruit to eat. The Egyptian, by this time extremely mad, was trying to walk about on the melons which had become unstable and harangued another Pte Brown who reciprocated with equal venom. They both got down on the track and had a 'ding-dong'. Our train was now moving slowly and as our voices were getting faint Brownie jumped back on our train. At twenty it was a giggle, in retrospect I suppose it was unforgiveable.

At El Kantara, half way up the Suez Canal we detrained and crossed over by pontoon ferry. Every urchin gathered to pick up 'backsheesh' and as always on all stations the chant from children went something like this - "No mudder, no fadder, no seester, no brudder, anna misteen mafeesh fahlous, gimme backsheesh". If you weakened and gave alms you would be besieged, like throwing corn to pigeons. The other cry that you would hear was "Lemoneeade, cold lemoneeade, eggs and bread, bread eggs". We were under strict orders not to purchase any drinks or food - we also by then had learnt a few words of Arabic!

Over the other side of the Canal we marched to the cookhouse, run by Aussies and obtained a meal before crossing the Sinai Desert to El Arish. The meal consisted of a mug of tea, sausages and beans.

Once on the next train the scenery was rather boring, just reddish coloured sand stretching away to an escarpment in the distance with an occasional Bedouin camp in sight. As the train approached El Arish we could see the Mediterranean and the land began to look more cultivated. From there was up past what is now the Gaza strip to Rehovot, Jaffa and Tel-Aviv and on to Haifa. We passed through orange and grapefruit groves - huge mounds of rotting fruit on the ground. How our people back home would have loved to have them, but with no shipping available that was that. Fruit was the only thing we had issued in plenty.

The train for the last part of our trip was on a narrow gauge railway. This time we had to make do with cattle trucks and goods wagons. These had a sliding door on the side and were most uncomfortable. This journey was only about seventy miles in a straight line, but the track did not go straight for many miles as we were to find out. Just before the train left Palestine it stopped to pick up wood. (It was a wood burner!)

We had now reached the Lebanon and it was really picturesque, the land was not so flat and much greener. The railway crossed a river and it was obvious that the bridge had been blown up at some time. It was now just a set of rails, resting on a framework. The train's speed was reduced to walking pace and I tensed and held my breath till the train was again on firm ground.

Water came cascading down from high ground through lush vegetation and disappeared way down below us. As we entered Syria, the mountains seemed to have a grandeur about them despite the lack of any greenery. You could see where the railway had been cut into the mountainside; the gradient appeared to be about one in four.

The train stopped so that the engine could get sufficient power in its boiler to climb up the gradient awaiting us. The fireman was stuffing logs into the firebox. After a while there were a couple of impatient whistles from the engine and we climbed aboard. The train moved off at speed and we started to climb the hill, but about half way up the wheels started to slip on the rails and we came to a stop. We then started to go back down

the track which was quite unnerving sitting in a goods wagon. At the bottom news came back to us that the firebox would have to be cleaned out before we could start again.

There we were, Britain's 610 Queen's call-up, trying, if somewhat reluctantly, to reinforce our Battalion, but stuck up a mountain because the train could not get steam up. "Don't get too disheartened, lads, you may have to walk it yet. If RSM Tasker from the Depot was here he would have us white-washing those boulders to pass away the time!"

"All aboard". The whistle blew and we were away, the train, full of confidence, now charged at the hill that had defeated it. Heads hung out of the wagons urging it on. The train was nearly at the top but was weakening and the driver was coaxing everything he could get out of his engine. The train made it but had to stop on the flat to recover. Looking across the valley we could see where we had to go. The track climbed away up the mountainside. I supposed we would make it. Eventually we steamed through a deep cutting still climbing upwards. At the top we came out to flat landscape and rattled along at fair speed. We passed Kuneitra, where the Battalion had been in action and saw plenty of damage around.

We eventually reached Damascus where we at last made contact with the 2nd Queen's. It was dark and we were mustered on a track awaiting transport to where the Battalion were engaging the French.

Three tonners arrived and we climbed aboard. This was the moment of truth, the next stop would be where it was all happening!

#### EDITORS NOTE

*What about your own journeys before, during or after the War? Please let me know if you have any memories of particularly unusual journeys by land, sea or air.*

#### Museum Open Day



Major Peter Hill, George Head, Gary Lockwood, DCM, and Thomas Bramble MM



The President, Colonel Toby Sewell talking to Mr. Bramble with Lt. Col. Tony Hannaford in the doorway.



Lt. Col. Anson Squire and Captain Tony White

#### Old Soldier Sahib

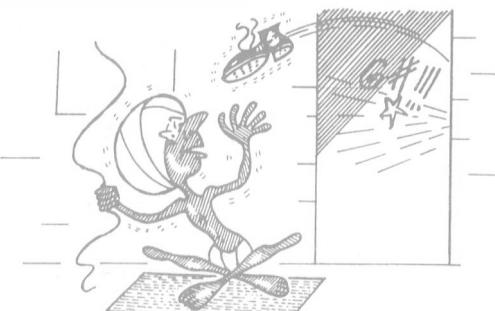
*Old soldier sahib, sometimes I hear  
A bugle calling, soft and clear  
across the empty barrack square  
as it called to you when you were there.*



*The barrack rooms are silent, still,  
no punkah swings, it waits until  
they fill again with ghostly throngs  
and echo with your soldier songs.*

*They're growing rice on the hockey pitch  
and there's six foot weeds in the monsoon ditch.  
An old pi-dog is scratching a flea  
where the bobbajee khana used to be.*

*Remember, sahib, those long hot days?  
when the bugle sounded "no parades"  
And me, at whom you used to fling  
a boot, when the punkah ceased to swing?*



*Old soldier sahib, you left your mark,  
down by the dhobi - ghat after dark,  
her name was Thula - you called her Sal,  
and you left her weeping at Naina Tal.*

*The charwallah wrapped in his dhote has gone  
- the dhurzi was old, he didn't last long,  
the nappi, boxwallah and the chowkidar  
well, after you left, they didn't go far.*

*Old soldier sahib, you're long long gone,  
but I've heard of the battles you fought and won,  
and we'll wait for you sahib, 'neath the mango tree,  
the nappi, the dhurzi, charwallah and me.*

## Officers' Club Luncheon - 9th September 1988

Clandon Park, bathed in glorious autumn sunshine, provided an ideal venue for this year's Club Luncheon on Salerno Day. Indeed, with such favourable weather, many of those attending enjoyed their pre-luncheon refreshment on the terrace overlooking the gracious gardens!

Over one hundred Members and their Ladies were present at this popular occasion, when the passage of time appears only to reinforce friendships formed over so many years.

It is always pleasant to greet so many familiar faces, but it is particularly heartening to meet those who have not attended these reunions for a very considerable number of years. Numbered amongst those attending this year's luncheon after many years of absence were 'Jock' Haswell, Anthony Mott and John Sutton, who, together with their wives, were most welcome, and one trusts they will all become regular attenders at all future functions.



*Major's Paul Gray and 'Jock' Haswell*

Our President, Colonel Toby Sewell, after proposing The Loyal Toast and that of The Queen's Regiment, gave a short after luncheon address and noted our particular pleasure that Major General Michael Reynolds, the next Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, and his wife had graced the Luncheon with their presence.

Members were saddened to learn that our new Club Chairman, Brigadier Michael Doyle, was unable to attend due to recent surgery to his knees, however, we were pleased to receive good news of his post-operative recovery in Cyprus! We wish Michael well and hope to see him 'on parade' next year.

It would be quite incorrect not to record our thanks to our Honorary Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson, for all that he did to assure that this year's Luncheon was, once again, a very pleasant and memorable occasion.

JVWJ



*The Presidents table*



*'Smokers Corner'*

## The Golf Society

The Spring Meeting of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society took place at Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on 5th May 1988. 24 members attended.

The Trophy Winners were:

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Challenge Cup: | Colonel J G W Davidson (70)      |
| Dodgson cup:   | Captain B M Scripps (67 Net)     |
| Heales Trophy: | Mr P Mason (38 Points)           |
| Veterans Halo: | Lt.Col B A Hannaford (40 Points) |

The Sweep was won by Colonel J W Sewell. Equal second were Major General G A White and Lt Col B A Hannaford.

The afternoon Greensome Competition over 14 holes was won by Brigadier M J Clarke and Colonel J C Holman with 35 points.

The Annual General Meeting was held following play with 20 members present. A vote of thanks was passed for Capt John Clark in appreciation of his work during his two year term of office as Society Captain. By popular acclaim Major B A Crutchfield was appointed Captain for the years 1988/89 and 1989/90.



*Graham Allott and Ray Sunderland*

The Autumn Meeting of the Golf Society was held at Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on 6th October 1988. 16 members played in the morning round - the winners of the competitions being:-

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Autumn Bowl:                  | Capt. J.A. Clark (66 net)       |
| Glasgow Greys Cup:            | Major R.A. Green (69 net)       |
| Heales Memorial Trophy:       | Col. J.G.W. Davidson (39 pts)   |
| Veterans Halo:                | Lt.Col. B.A. Hannaford (42 pts) |
| Petri Plate:                  | Capt. J.A. Clark (134 net)      |
| Harry Adcock Memorial Trophy: | Col. J.W. Sewell (35 putts)     |

The afternoon Foursome Competition over 14 holes was won by Colonel J.G.W. Davidson and Major P. Gray with 28 points. The Sweep was won by Major R.A. Green.

The 1989 Spring Meeting will be held at Richmond on Thursday 4th May.



**Annual Match v. Royal Marines GS**

This fixture was held at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Wednesday 6th July. The morning round was played under difficult conditions, many of the Greens being partly under water due to the heavy rainfall which continued for most of the morning. Fortunately the afternoon was fine and the course dried out well.

Having held the trophy for the last 2 years The Queen's Surreys were unable to make it three in a row and were defeated by 7 points to 3, all matches played as foursomes.

A.M.

**Queens Surreys**

|                           |   |                    |   |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Maj Gen G A White         | 0 | Maj Gen P Kay      | 1 |
| Major W J Sutton          |   | Col S Smith (5/4)  |   |
| M J Power Esq             | 0 | Col H Harris       | 1 |
| Major B A Crutchfield     |   | Capt D Hunt (1 up) |   |
| Col J G W Davidson        | ½ | K Shears Esq       | ½ |
| Brig M J A Clarke         |   | J Ridyard Esq      |   |
| Lt Col F B Herd           | 0 | Sgt J Francis      | 1 |
| Capt J A Clark            |   | Cpl P Doe          |   |
| Col J W Sewell            | 1 | G Russell Esq      | 0 |
| Major F V Sheppard (1 up) |   | A Smith Esq        |   |

P.M.

|                             |   |                      |   |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Col J G Davidson            | 0 | Maj Gen P Kay        | 1 |
| Major B A Crutchfield       |   | Col S Smith (4/2)    |   |
| Col J W Sewell              | 0 | Col H Harris         | 1 |
| Lt Col F B Herd             |   | Capt D Hunt (5/3)    |   |
| Capt J A Clark              | 0 | K Shears Esq         | 1 |
| M J Power Esq               |   | J Ridyard Esq (1 up) |   |
| Major F V Sheppard          | ½ | Sgt J Francis        | ½ |
| Major W J Sutton            |   | Cpl P Doe            |   |
| Maj Gen G A White           | 1 | G Russell Esq        | 0 |
| Brigadier M J Clarke (2 up) |   | A Smith Esq          |   |

3

7

Arrangements have been made to hold the 1989 fixture at North Hants Golf Club on Wednesday 5th July. The format will again be foursomes AM and PM, hopefully again with 10 players in each team.

**The Four Feathers**

Fifty years ago this December, the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, then in the Sudan, was engaged in a most unusual operation. London Film Productions had obtained War Office approval for military assistance in the making of their film 'The Four Feathers'. The book was by A E W Mason, but much of the film script was written by R C Sherriff who had served in the Surreys in the 1914-18 War. The film was produced by Sir Alexander Korda and directed on site by his brother, Zoltan Korda.

It was intended to re-enact the Battle of Omdurman on the site of the original battlefield, but the film experts decided the area was not photographically suitable, and accordingly a camp was pitched near the Sabaluka Gorge, some 50 miles from Khartoum. An augmented company was assembled under Major C D Armstrong MC, the tents were pitched in the desert with mathematical precision and in due course 45 film makers under Zoltan Korda arrived. The party consisted of technicians, administrative staff, actors (including Ralph Richardson and John Clements) and the delightful continuity girl, Eileen Corbett..



*Before the Battle of Omdurman*  
Left to right: CSM Cowie, Lt Hill, a journalist, Major Brading, an actor



*The Commanding Officer and some of his officers*  
Major Brading  
an actor  
Lieut Hill  
a journalist

The military side consisted of Major N B Brading, Major P K Doyle, Lieutenant P G E Hill, CSM A Alderman and CSM C Cowie, together with the Band and 250 soldiers. They attended to all the film company's requirements and provided troops for the military scenes. Every day a column of 15-cwt trucks, under 2nd Lieutenant B A Hannaford, the MTO, arrived in camp with rations, mail and other necessities of life. Water was obtained from the Nile, three miles away, and brought into camp in the Battalion's two water trucks.

The dervishes of the Mahdi's army were recruited from 2,000 Sudanese natives (some of whom claimed to have taken part in the original Battle of Omdurman in 1898), and a number of ferocious-looking Haddendoas (Fuzzy Wuzzies) from the Red Sea Hills.

Among the spectacular scenes were a fleet of feluccas negotiating the Sabaluka Gorge, the Dervishes' attack on the zareba, and, finally, the Battle of Omdurman. The film, first released in England in 1939, was an instant success. It has been shown on television a number of times and is still popular. It was last shown as recently as October 1988.

P G E H

## "So There We Were . . ."

**1688** The Queen's Regiment were moving about the country in preparation for an expected invasion by Prince William of Orange. On the Prince's eventual peaceful landing at Torbay on the 5th November, Major General Kirke was ordered to march to East Levington and during his stay there he was to have "an eye on all sides to prevent any surprise or attack of the enemy wherein His Majesty does not doubt of your care". However, his Majesty (James II) later had doubts of Kirke's "care" and, on apprehending disloyalty to the Crown, ordered his arrest. Taken into custody by a "Detachment of 20 horse with two commissioned officers" Kirke was examined before the Privy Council but "nothing being proved against him, he was discharged".

**1788** With the Queen's at Gibraltar, a good deal of attention seems to have been paid to military head dress. Many orders appear with respect to the new patterns of hats, one of which was sent to the clothing board on 6th July with orders that the form of the hat and the sewing on of lace was to be strictly in accordance with the pattern sent in.

The 70th Regiment were in Ireland, treading the paths that soldiers had trodden before them and would do so after them. Standing Orders issued to the Non Commissioned Officers specified many strange duties for them, one being that they were "not to suffer the Women to iron the Men's Linen on the Barrack Blankets".

**1888** The 2nd Queen's were in Burma after the campaign of 1885-87. Time had marched with them in the form of a sturdy guard-room clock which survived their travels and now rests in the museum at Clandon where it keeps good time and is dutifully wound by the museum staff.

The 2nd Bn. East Surreys, having had a comparatively recent tour of service in Egypt and the Sudan, were peacefully in Guernsey, but in the following year they departed for service in Ireland. They established their Headquarters at Tipperary, doubtless feeling that they had come "a long, long way . . ."

**1918** When the bugles sounded "Cease Fire" on November 11th both of the Surrey Regiments looked back on an era of bravery and bloodshed and triumphs and tragedies.

The Queen's had raised 31 Units during the war, including Home Service, Training, Labour and Young Soldiers Battalions. 8000 of all ranks had given their lives, serving in Flanders, France, Italy, Gallipoli, Salonika, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Egypt, India, Africa and Germany. 7 V.C's had been won.

The East Surreys had raised 18 Battalions in the war, including Service Battalions. 6000 of all ranks had given their lives serving in Flanders, France, Italy, Greece, Mesopotamia and India. 7 V.C's had been gained.

Re-actions to the news of the Armistice varied. In most units "work ceased for the day". Some livened the proceedings by turning out the bands and marching up and down playing the National Anthem, Marseillaise and other patriotic tunes. In one unit, the 2/4th Queen's at Deerlyk Welveghem "General training was carried out until 13/11/18" while in another, the 7th Queen's at Pommereuil, the day was spent "cleaning up" as baths had been allocated at Le Cateau.

The 9th East Surreys at St Waast "hardly credited the news" but in Mesopotamia the 1/5th members of the regiment re-acted smartly and "shortly afterwards started sending men home for demobilization". The 11th Queen's were in billets at Pommereuil. Bugles sounded the "Cease Fire" and "Stand Fast" and massed bands paraded and played the Marseillaise and the British National Anthem.

The 2nd East Surreys were at Summer Hill near Salonika on November 11th where they received news of the Armistice. Simultaneously they were told that they were to embark the following day for Constantinople.

But for a total of 14,000 men there was no "going home". They lay in foreign fields that were to be "forever England".

**1938** The 1st Queen's were at Benares where Hindu-Mohammedan rioting had broken out. The regiment quickly restored order but no doubt found that in India the bricks flew just as fast and hit just as hard as they now do in Ulster and other places.

The 2nd East Surreys left England on September 1st for Shanghai, calling en route at Port Sudan to collect 150 men of the 1st Bn. At Shanghai they were part of an international force protecting British, American and other interests in a city where Japanese elements were fermenting increasing trouble between themselves and the Western Powers.

**1948** For some the current point at issue wasn't "There we were . . ." but, sadly, "There we weren't . . .". Reductions were being made in the Armed Forces and the Surrey regiments were to suffer like others.

The 2nd Queen's were disbanded, went into 'suspended animation', and became part of the 1st in Berlin where, in the same year, the famous "air lift" was operated to defeat the Russian blockade of the city. In Greece the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the East Surreys amalgamated to form a single battalion. Any hopes in the regiments that these were to be the last of cuts and amalgamations were to be dashed in the not too distant future.

**1958** Saw the Queen's in Germany as occupational forces while the East Surreys, in between periods of Home Service at Bury St Edmunds, performed security duties in Cyprus at the height of the disturbances. During their Cyprus tour a rifle company were sent as reinforcements by the Queen's. They were fortunate enough to be home for Xmas. But "home or away" the regiments were approaching the end of their separate existences. Amalgamation was around the corner. The new QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT was about to be born.

## The English Officer

(Extract from the Russian newspaper "Odessa News" August 1959)

The English officer is least of all an officer. He is a rich landowner, homeowner, capitalist or merchant, and only an officer incidentally.

He knows absolutely nothing about the Services and is only seen on parades and reviews. From the professional point of view he is the most ignorant officer in Europe. He enters the Services not to serve but for the uniform, which is magnificent.

The officer considers himself irresistible to the fair-haired, blue-eyed English ladies. The English officer is extremely rich, an independent sybarite and epicure. He has a spoilt, capricious and blasé character and loves pornographic literature, suggestive pictures, recherche food and strong drink.

His chief amusements are gambling, racing and sports. He goes to bed at dawn and gets up at mid-day. He is usually occupied with two mistresses simultaneously, one a lady of high society and the other a girl from the opera or ballet.

His income runs into several thousands, often tens of thousands a year, of which he keeps no account, being incapable of keeping accounts. The pay he receives from the Government hardly suffices to keep him in scent and gloves.

English officers, especially the young ones, do no work of any kind. They spend their days and nights in clubs noted for their opulence.



OH! HAPPY DAYS!

## Regimental Deaths

*Brown* - In 1987 Private L. (Alley) Brown, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Brown was the battalion butcher.

*Butcher* - On April 6th 1988, Corporal J. Butcher, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Cpl Butcher served as a carrier platoon driver with H.Q. Coy.

*Callaghan* - On July 27th 1988, WO1 Dennis Callaghan, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and REME.

*Camp* - On July 12th 1988, ORQMS Edward (Harry) Camp, aged 84 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Coates* - On July 6th 1988, Colonel James Bertram (JB) Coates, CBE, MC, DL, aged 90 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Dearling* - In January 1988, Private Dearling, 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Goodfellow* - On June 2nd 1988, Captain Douglas Richard Goodfellow, The East Surrey Regiment. He will be particularly remembered as a fine athlete and sportsman in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment before the War. He went to France as a sergeant with the Battalion, and was wounded before Dunkirk. He later served in East Africa.

*Horseman* - On May 14th 1988, Major R.G. Horseman, The East Surrey Regiment.

*James* - On February 22nd 1988, Lance Corporal George Ernest James, aged 70 years, The East Surrey Regiment. L/Cpl James served in the 2nd Battalion in the Sudan, China, and was taken prisoner in Singapore.

*Kealy* - On June 2nd 1988, Major Peter Raymond Hope Kealy, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Lockyer* - On June 10th 1988, Major Edmund Arthur Walter Lockyer, MBE, aged 70 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Macfarlane* - On March 12th 1988, Captain W. (Bill) Macfarlane, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Captain Macfarlane served with B Company, 1/5th Queen's. He was wounded in the desert campaign and lost a leg.

*Mullins* - On August 12th 1988, Private Stanley Mullins, aged 74 years, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*New* - On June 12th 1988, W.O.II George Ernest New, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. At the time of his death W.O.II New was an In-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

*Nicholls* - On September 6th 1988, James William Nicholls, aged 71 years.

*Ryan* - On 17th October 1988, Sergeant W. Ryan, The East Surrey Regiment. Sgt. Ryan served with the 2nd Battalion during the war and was a P.O.W. of the Japanese.

*Squires* - In November 1987, Private C. Squires, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Stuart-Williams* - In May 1988, W.O.II (Drum-Major) Hector Stuart-Williams, MBE, The East Surrey Regiment. He joined the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1925 and served until 1965. He was successively Drum Major of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and later 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. A most loyal Territorial, he will also be remembered as a man with a great sense of humour.

*Terry* - On June 29th 1988, Lieutenant Colonel John Rose Terry, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Venters* - On September 6th 1988, Major R. Venters, The East Surrey Regiment and the Northern Rhodesian Regiment.

*Walmisley* - Lt. Col. E.A. Walmisley, aged 100 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Lt. Col. Walmisley was posted from the 3rd (Reserve) Bn to the 2nd Bn in 1914. He and another officer were taken prisoner having been lured into the German trenches during a local armistice. Efforts to secure their release during the "Christmas Peace" of 1914 proved unsuccessful.

*Williams* - On June 8th 1988, Private Charles Henry Williams, aged 80 years, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Royal Artillery.

*Worman* - On September 29th 1988, Lieutenant Arthur Sidney Worman aged 92 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Lt. Worman served in the 6th (Service) Bn and was wounded at the Battle of Arras in July 1917.

*Worrall* - On August 1st 1988, Anthony C. Worrall, MC, aged 67 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Regimental Families

*Kemp* - On June 8th 1988, Catherine Strachan (Kay) Kemp, beloved wife of Major J.W. Kemp, MBE.

*Lowry* - On May 24th 1988, Rua Susan Lowry beloved wife of Lt Col M A Lowry, MBE, MC.

## Obituaries

### Colonel J.B. COATES, CBE, MC, DL

Colonel J.B. Coates who died in July in his 91st year, was the last surviving Regular Officer of the Queen's Royal Regiment to have served in the 1914-18 War. He was born on 24th September 1897 the son of a very distinguished member of the medical profession, Sir William Coates, KCB, FRCS. He was educated at Marlborough where he went in January 1911 leaving in July 1914 before the age of 17 to enter the RMC Sandhurst for the then 2 year course. With the unexpected arrival of war Sandhurst did not know what to do with such a young man, and at his suggestion he was commissioned and joined 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment on 23rd November 1914 at the age of 17 and 2 months - this was one day too late for him to receive the 1914 Star. He then served throughout the War being wounded twice and being awarded an M.C. in 1917 when 2nd Queen's were transferred to Italy after the Italian disaster at Caporetto.

He was with 2nd Queen's throughout except for a short period of secondment to 21st KRRC in 1916 where he served with the young Anthony Eden, who became a lifelong friend. His 1914-18 war service recently became of national interest since with 2nd Queen's he was involved with the 1914 Christmas "Armistice" which has been featured in a number of television programmes. "J.B.", as he was known, had clear memories of the event when the mutual respect of front-line soldiers overrode dictates of discipline.

After the War "J.B." continued with 2nd Queen's, taking part in the Wazisistan Campaign of 1919-21 - he received the Indian General Service Medal with three clasps - and then was appointed Adjutant in 1922 under Colonel F.B. Mathew-Lannowe, who himself had been Adjutant to Colonel F.J. Pink. It was during "J.B.'s" time as Adjutant that the Regiments reputation for "smartness and turn-out" was confirmed by its general bearing, by the standards achieved by the special Guard for the Prince of Wales' visit to India, and by the magnificence of its Drums. Clearly at the same time "J.B.'s" reputation as someone to be regarded with awe, a certain amount of circumspection, but with some pride was also established.

After India "J.B." returned to the Depot, and was an Instructor at Sandhurst before attending the Staff College in 1932-33. After the Staff College, he returned to regimental duty with 1st Queen's in China and at Quetta, where he was present for the earthquake. He was next appointed Brigade Major to the Mhow Brigade Area before being selected as Commanding Officer of 1st Queen's in 1938. At the end of a successful tour in command, which included deployment of the Battalion on the North-West Frontier, "J.B." was appointed GSO I of the newly formed 9th Indian Division in 1941 and went with the Division to Malaya. He survived the Malayan debacle, and at the end in Singapore was Acting Brigadier in command of 6/15th Indian Infantry Brigade. On the last night before the surrender he was ordered out by his Corp Commander, Sir Louis Heath, and after a precarious journey which included being sunk and marooned, he got back to India. There he was appointed GSO I (Ops) Eastern Army, for which he was awarded a Burma Star to go with his South-East Asia Star - a rare combination.

In late 1943, after 10 years continuous overseas service, he returned to U.K. but at that stage and at his age, there was no appointment to take him back into the main stream of the Army and he finished his career as GSO 1 South Wales District.

He retired in early 1947 to become Secretary East Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, having received an O.B.E. and a Mention in Despatches for his war service. He filled the post of T.A. Secretary with his customary distinction and meticulousness and subsequently became Red Cross Commissioner for Lancashire - for his service in these posts he was appointed D.L. in 1950 and later C.B.E.

Colonel J.B. Coates was one of the most distinguished Queen's officers of his time, setting and insisting on the highest standards. Colonel L.C. East has written a personal note, but others seeking another flavour of him may think that "2nd Lieutenant George Foster's" Colonel Willett of the 1st Royal Bassetshires bears a resemblance.

In retirement and with his friends and family, he allowed his kindness and interest in people and things to be more openly shown. Right to the end of his life he kept detailed records of those he met and their families and concerns, so that on next meeting he could be well informed. He displayed much interest in and gave great encouragement to the Regimental Museum (where his decorations and medals are now displayed on loan - the Museum has also been given many of his papers) - and he was forward looking and understanding of the needs and processes of reorganisation of the Regiment.

Whenever he was able, he was a fine sportsman, playing hockey at Army level in India, being an excellent horseman and latterly an exceptionally keen and skilled fly fisherman.

The Regiment has lost a fine and most distinguished officer.

J.W.S.

#### J.B. COATES - An Appreciation

"When the one great scorer comes to write against your name, he writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game".

J.B. Coates, in my opinion, was of the most value to the Regiment of any officer of his vintage. Through having left school early to go to Sandhurst in 1914 he found himself, at his request, joining 2nd Queens in France in the November of that year at the age of just over 17. Accordingly he had the great advantage of being instructed at a very young age and very early in his career by the great teacher - WAR. He won a specially earned and very good M.C. J B was red-headed and decidedly outspoken, but his observations had no personal recrimination - they were made because he considered that the perpetrator had offended by word or deed some regimental benefit. He was acting as Adjutant of the Battalion when I joined in October 1919 and immediately gave me my first rocket of many for having slits up the sides of my shorts against regimental custom - he did promise, and carried it out, to write to my tailor.

He took over as Adjutant from Bobbie Ross in January 1922, being appointed by another very distinguished soldier, Colonel "Bunny" Matthew-Lannowe. He was immediately more fully employed as overall commander of the Guard which was specially selected from the only British battalions in India so selected for the Prince of Wales' visit to Delhi in February 1922. The Guard was a tremendous success and received congratulations from all sources. For some reason best known to himself J B made me his Assistant Adjutant and I therefore began to know how a battalion should be run. J B was very fond of riding and I will always remember his two famous ponies. He was also a great hockey player being the mainstay at centre-half of a successful Battalion hockey side - I played beside him at right-half. J B was a great Drums enthusiast and an ardent supporter of Drum Major Biggs.

He gave up the Adjutancy of the 2nd Battalion in January 1925 having filled the appointment with the greatest possible success, and I accompanied him home to England where he was posted as an Instructor at the R.M.C. Sandhurst. He later became the Training Company Commander at the Depot at Guildford where I was serving. We therefore were in close touch and I had the honour of being his Best Man when he was married. I did not know his wife well although we met together again with the 1st Battalion in Quetta - unfortunately later his marriage

went astray, but he and I kept contact until the end of his life, staying in each other's homes - his family were delightful to meet - and we corresponded on a regular basis - my last letter from him came a fortnight before his death.

I must mention one occurrence and that is the disbandment of the 2nd Battalion in Berlin in October 1948. I had the honour to be in command of the Battalion and always had in the back of my mind "what would JB have done?" - the parade was 100% successful and met with congratulations on all sides and particularly from the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard.

J B was always utterly reliable and one could expect and trust him to say and do the right thing at the right time. I shall always remember him with gratitude and pleasure. I offer my sympathy to his whole family.

LCE

#### Major P.R.H. KEALY

His many friends will have been saddened to learn of the death of Major Peter Kealy on the 2nd June. He was commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment from the Royal Military College in 1937, and then served with the 2nd Battalion in the Isle of Wight, Palestine, Western Desert and Syria (wounded) until 1941. He joined the 1/7th in 1942 and was wounded at Alamein and again in Cyrenaica. He instructed at 161 (Royal Military College) O.C.T.U. in 1944 before serving with the 2/6th in Trieste.

In 1946 he commanded the Queen's/Surreys Company at the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre, Shorncliffe, where I had the good fortune to be one of his subalterns, and first came to know his delightful dry and relaxed sense of humour. He had a light touch with us, but asked high standards and the Company reacted accordingly. Subsequently he served in Nigeria as both Staff and Regimental Officer for three separate tours, with the 1st Battalion in B.A.O.R. and Malaya, and as Depot Commander at Stoughton. He held Staff appointments at MOD and in Cyprus from 1960 to 1964 and then became Brigade Recruiting Officer. His final command was the Army Defence Unit at Rheindahlen from where he retired to live in Portugal in 1972.

Throughout his Army life he drew a deep sense of loyalty, respect and comradeship from all who served with him both within the Regiment and outside, and not least from the Jugoslavs of his last unit. A man of integrity, quiet determination, and generous spirit; his friendship was prized and we shall remember him with great affection.

To his widow Eve we extend our deepest sympathy.  
M.P-Y

#### ORQMS E G CAMP

In the death of ORQMS Camp the Regiment has lost a soldier whose war-time service was unique. 'Harry', as he was known in the Regiment, was Orderly Room Sergeant of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the Malaya Campaign of 1942. Throughout the long years of captivity QMS Camp, at considerable personal risk, maintained meticulous records of all members of the 2nd Battalion in Japanese hands. Despite many searches the Japanese never found his nominal roll. After the War this remarkable book was accepted by the Infantry Record Office as the official record of casualties, and by the Regimental Paymaster as the basis for pay and pension awards. The record book is still in regular use by the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

QMS Camp's war-time service was recognised by the award of the Meritorious Service Medal which was presented to him by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir John Harding, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, at the Regimental Depot in February 1954. ORQMS Camp will be remembered as a loyal Surrey, a devout Christian and a man of the highest principles.

P G E H

### Lt. Col. J.R. TERRY

I cannot now recall exactly when John Terry joined 1 Queen's, but it was either shortly before or shortly after the battalion moved into Burma and across the Irrawaddy after its six months' rest at Shillong, Assam. John had previously served on secondment with the King's African Rifles. I believe he was a company commander in 1 Queen's before taking over as 2i/c from Major A.N. Browning when the latter was posted elsewhere during our progress through the oilfields around Chauk and Yenangyaung. George Grimston was our CO and I was Adjutant.

The battalion's chief task during the next two or three months - April to June 1945 - was to intercept and destroy the retreating Japanese forces as they withdrew across the Irrawaddy from west to east and attempted to reach the Burma-Siam border. It was a messy business, with few set-piece battles but many vicious skirmishes in a grim game of hide-and-seek. We were not helped by the deteriorating weather (the monsoon had broken) and the nature of the country: bamboo jungle and paddy intersected by chaungs in full spate and virtually impassable. The battalion was effectively cut off from all but air-dropped supplies, many miles ahead of Brigade HQ and even at one stage out of range of supporting medium artillery. Evacuation of casualties was appallingly difficult. To advance was impossible. In these circumstances it was in my view grossly unfair of the brigadier to remove George Grimston from his command and post him home.

However the battalion was fortunate in that John Terry was appointed to take over as CO. As his Adjutant I came to know him as a man of immense courage and determination. He was one of the few people I have known of whom it could be said that he was apparently without fear of any kind. While we were in the chaung country he personally led several attacks on pockets of beleaguered Japanese, at some cost to the battalion and, it must be conceded, little effect since the conditions were so adverse. At last Bde HQ realised our predicament and we were ordered to withdraw, which we did in good order. John Terry throughout this period was a forthright and positive commander who was held in respect and indeed affection by all.

(At about this time I spent three months in hospital and thus was not with the battalion during the bitter fighting around the Sittang river east of Rangoon in the final battle of the Burma campaign.)

I rejoined the battalion after the Japanese surrender when it was moved by air to Bangkok to form part of the garrison in what was then still Siam. The transition from war to peace was not an easy one. There were surrender ceremonies, victory parades and, most important, the rounding up of many thousands of Japanese personnel among whom were many wanted in connection with war crimes, actual or suspected. Our own soldiers were naturally anxious to get home to the UK. Bangkok itself offered many attractions - and temptations. It was not easy to maintain morale. It is to John Terry's credit that 1 Queen's came through better than most other British and Indian Army units. He initiated regular formal mess nights in the officers' mess. He dealt with the jittery situation which followed the death under suspicious circumstances of the King of Siam. He kept in touch with those of us who spent a good deal of time up country on detachment duties. John had no 'side'. He could talk to soldiers of all ranks in ways they could understand. He never asked anyone to do anything that he was not prepared to do himself. He was respected as a regular soldier in a unit which by this time consisted almost entirely of wartime officers and men. He was basically a simple man, bluff, straight forward, plain-speaking and good-humoured. He will be remembered with affection. I for one salute his memory.

RAS

### Lt. A.C. WORRALL, M.C.

Anthony (Tony) Charles Worrall who died on 1st August aged 67 years joined 1/7th Queen's as a replacement after Alamein, having been commissioned originally in the Devonshire Regiment.

'Tony' suffered many years of ill health due mainly to war wounds and their after effects. He was a strong, rugged individualist who had commanded the Bn battle patrol, for

which he was ideally suited. On an occasion when his platoon was called upon, and successfully demolished an enemy machine gun post, he was seriously wounded and selflessly brought back to our lines two members of his platoon who had also been hit by M/G fire. For this action he was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war and still suffering pain, he played as a rugby forward for Oxfordshire, displaying his continued determination to overcome adversity.

'Tony' was an ebullient, sometimes rebellious young character who will long be remembered by his war-time companions in the Regiment.

K.A.J.

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### Salerno Remembered

It is a sobering thought when it dawns upon you that you have become part of history. The joy of Regimental Reunions is that as the "Do you remember?" flow over a glass or two, the years roll off and you think again for a couple of hours as a young man recalling times and incidents shared together years ago.

It was on one of these occasions that it suddenly struck me that we were talking about Battle Honours now celebrated by the Regiment as important historical events. So it was that we decided to try to record our recollections while we may to bring alive for future generations the feel of battle in the Second World War.

Salerno is one of the Battle Honours celebrated each year by the Queen's Regiment, but I remember as a serving officer that a little Regimental History tended to go a long way, and I doubt whether many now serving can conjure up much of a picture of that battle. I think and hope that this book will help to create a vivid impression for the younger generations now and in the future of what it was really like, while at the same time bringing back many memories to those who were there and to all those who can look back on their own experiences of those days over forty years ago.

The book is written in the context of the whole operation which was the first Allied assault landing on the mainland of Europe, but it is primarily about the action of the Queen's Royal Regiment in the Battle. Uniquely the Regiment had six TA battalions involved, together with an independent company and a light anti-aircraft battery which had earlier been formed from a Queen's unit.

I was a platoon commander in one of those battalions and over thirty others who were there from private soldiers to commanding officers have contributed their own recollections of events. Factual information has been checked with the War Diaries, and I have consulted a number of other sources. The book is being printed and produced in hard-back by Macmillans, and will contain over 200 pages, 9 maps and over 20 photographs and various illustrations. We hope it will be available from mid December from the museum at Clandon or RHQ, The Queen's Regiment, Canterbury. Proceeds of sales will go to the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum at Clandon House.

GBC

(For details of how to order please see enclosed sales leaflet)

### Ex-Service Fellowship Centres

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres own two residential care homes for ex-servicemen (or women), ex-merchant seamen and their widows. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, can take 29 residents, Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex can take 50. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they wish. They are not nursing homes and residents on admission must be capable of looking after themselves though help (for example with bathing) can be given. Fees are maintained within the limits which DHSS will pay for those without more than the laid-down level of capital resources. Those interested should apply to: The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP.

## THE PASCHAL LAMB

### Introduction

The Paschal Lamb is one of the oldest badges in the Army. Over the years a good deal of effort has been made by various people in researching its origins. Chief among these have been SM Milne, Brigadier AP Block, Major Peter Hill, and Major R C Taylor. I would like to acknowledge their work, which I have used in this article and to which I have added from my own research.

### Literature

When dealing with the Lamb, it is first necessary to debunk several Regimental Histories and other writings which are misleading:

1. Cannon's **Historical Record of The Queen's** (1837) states that "the Paschal Lamb, the distinguishing badge of Portugal, was placed on its Colours".

Both Davis in his **History of the 2nd Queen's**, and Milne in his **Standards and Colours of the Army** agree that this is wrong. The Paschal Lamb is not, nor ever was, the distinguishing badge of Portugal. Nor was the device displayed on the Regimental Colours until 1751. Even then it was a plain lamb and not a Paschal Lamb. Between 1661 and 1768 the Colours displayed variations of Queen Catherine's cypher, as described in Ovid's "Regimental Colours of The Queen's" in this News Letter.

2. Both Blaxland's **A Guide to the Queen's Regiment** (1967) and the latest potted history of the Queen's Regiment (1986) both state that the Lamb "was known to have been worn before 1684". This is nonsense. There is no shred of evidence to show that the Lamb was ever worn on uniform before 1715. Until the middle of the 18th Century the usual way by which the dress of regiments of Foot was distinguished was by facings colour and lace.

It has been suggested that as other regiments, such as the Coldstream Guards, wore badges early, why not the Queen's? The point, however, is not that other people wore badges, but that nowhere is there any evidence that it was worn by the Queen's or the Tangier Garrison before 1715.

3. Walton's **History of the British Standing Army 1660 – 1700**, **The Encyclopaedia Britannica**, and Whitick's **Signs and symbols** all state that the Lamb was the badge of either Portugal or of the Braganza family. A glance at the Arms of either show that these authors are mistaken.

### Some Questions Answered

Having dismissed the errors of the sources above, a series of questions can now be posed and answered which come as close as it is presently possible to come to the origin of the Lamb as the Regimental badge.

#### 1. What is the origin of the Lamb as a symbol or badge?

This is quite simple. Since earliest times the lamb, or Paschal Lamb, has been associated with St John Baptist. St John's Gospel records the Baptist's greeting to Christ: "Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollis peccata mundi" – behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world, an allegorical reference to Christ as the victim of an expiatory sacrifice – the Sacrifice of Calvary – for at the time of Christ the lamb was a quite usual sacrificial offering. Early Medieval Church art, part of the aim of which was to illustrate Scripture for the benefit of the illiterate, usually shows the Saint with a lamb. A good early example may be seen on the North door of Chartres Cathedral, and another in the Wilton Diptych. This convention continues to the present. The familiar Inn sign of 'The Lamb and Flag' is often found in parishes where the church is, or was, dedicated to the Honour of St John Baptist.

#### 2. Can the Lamb or St John be linked with Portugal and the Braganza family?

This is answered by Brigadier Block, who found that Queen Catherine's father King John, had a strong personal devotion to the Saint. It appears that this devotion was passed on to his daughter since the Braganza Museum in Vila Vicosa,

Portugal, holds a set of Mass vestments all emblazoned with a Paschal Lamb. In the opinion of the curator, these vestments belonged to Queen Catherine. It has been said that vestments bearing a lamb could have been found in the possession of other royal houses. Again this is not the point, the direct evidence is that the Queen had a personal devotion to a Saint whose sign is the Lamb. Moreover Huysman's portrait of the Queen in Windsor Castle shows her with several lambs. In protestant England this would have been a way for the Catholic Queen to declare her allegiance to her Saint and her Faith. She would thus be making a signal to her co-religionists in a way which they would understand. Although there was no need for the Queen to hide her faith, she would have had to be discreet, since England was far more than nominally Protestant in the 1660's. Only 1 or 2% of the population were Catholics, the Test Acts were in force, the Exclusion crisis brought the succession into question, the Popish Plot caused uproar, and the twin spectres of popery and the army were constantly raised by the King's enemies. It has been suggested that there was some kind of St. John the Baptist cult "sweeping across England" at the time. In such a political climate, this seems highly unlikely, given the obvious popish overtones. It is true that other members of the court were also painted with lambs, but then the court and the country often went separate ways. Moreover courtiers would have been anxious to please the Queen, and through her the King, source of all patronage.

#### 3. Is there a link between the Lamb and Tangier?

This is more difficult. It has been suggested that the Lamb was adopted as a Christian symbol in the fight against the Moslem Moors, but there is no supporting evidence for this. In the early days, the Tangier garrison contained many old Commonwealth men who were violent Puritans, and who would have regarded such a move as rank idolatry. On the other hand, the garrison also contained a large number of English and Irish Catholics, to whom the Lamb would have been a familiar symbol. For the only provable link we must turn once again to St John. Although the Anglican Cathedral of Tangier was dedicated to the Honour of King Charles the Martyr (to the probable fury of the Puritans), the Catholic Cathedral, administered by Portuguese monks, was dedicated to the Honour of St John Baptist. The coincidence of this with the Queen's devotion is, in the very small world of the 17th century, almost certainly enough to tie the Lamb to the earliest days of the Tangier Garrison.

#### 4. Why was The Queen's known as "The Lambs" during Monmouth's rebellion of 1685?

This is more difficult still. It cannot be because the regiment displayed the badge on its Colours or uniform. It can only be because of the Braganza connection. Since there is still a field outside Taunton where the regiment was encamped, and because of the enthusiastic way in which Kirke's name was received by the townspeople during the Irish campaign of 1689, the nickname is unlikely to be an oblique reference to the cruelty of the soldiers, as is claimed by Ralph in his **History of England**, and later by Macaulay. There is always the possibility that the Regiment was not so known, and that Ralph and Macaulay were mistaken. Modern methods of scholarship were not used at the time they were writing, and many written sources now available through, for example, the PRO and the HMC, were just not available then. Word of mouth was often accepted as hard evidence, *vide* Cannon, and thus, writing some time after the badge had begun to be worn on uniform, Ralph in particular made a statement for which no hard evidence existed.

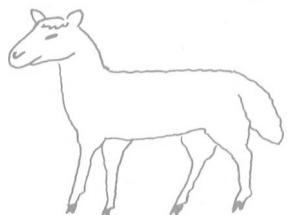
#### 5. When was the Lamb first formally displayed by the regiment?

The earliest instance of the Lamb on display is on the Grenadiers' caps of 1715, as shown by the Carlisle figures on loan to the National Army Museum. Here it is a plain Lamb. The Lamb does not appear on the Colours until 1751 where again it is a plain Lamb. The Royal Warrant which authorises its display describes it as the regiment's 'Ancient Badge', although in formal 18th Century terms this merely means a badge which has previously been displayed.

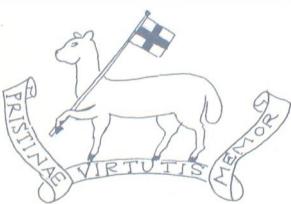
## 6. When did the Lamb become a Paschal Lamb?

The process of the badge's development has been a slow one. On the 1806 and 1820 Colours the Lamb holds a square ended flag in the near hoof and stands on a scroll bearing the Regimental Motto "*Pristinae Virtutis Memor*". By 1820 it has a nimbus or halo and in 1825 we see that the flag has become swallow-tailed, as it appears on the Torrens Colour and Regimental Colours of 1847. These Colours remained in service for 100 years so changes in the Lamb may be noted on uniform. The most recent change was in 1923 when the flag became square ended once more, and changed to the off fore hoof. Some drawings are shown below.

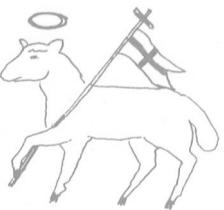
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*The first appearance of the Lamb on the Grenadiers' caps of 1715. In this form it appears on the Colours until 1806.*



*The Lamb as it appeared on the 1806 Colours. By 1820 the nimbus or halo had been added.*



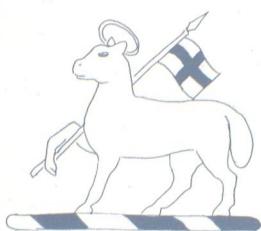
*The Lamb as it appeared on the 1847 Colours. Also worn in this form as a badge. Occasionally the flag drifted to the off fore hoof.*



*This form worn as a badge 1881-1902 with various bases.*



*Regimental badge 1902-1923*



*Regimental badge 1923-1959*



*As it appeared on the Colours 1847-1959*



*The Lamb as worn with the Surrey Star 1959-1967, and since then on the regimental buttons.*

## "THE LAMB AND FLAG"

### Some Random Inconclusions

In the November issue of the Newsletter (No. 42) R.A.J., apparently in a slight alcoholic haze, asks if someone 'can throw a light on an intriguing sighting' - the Queen's Badge in a church window in Germany.

The 'Lamb and Flag', Paschal Lamb, Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, is depicted in many churches throughout the whole of Christendom which naturally includes the Lutheran church in Germany. For its origin one has to go back in time to the ancient Jewish world (Exodus 12) when it was customary to sacrifice a lamb at the feast of the Passover.

Paschal, or Pasca, means Passover or Easter. The Jewish sacrifice of a lamb at Passover continued through the centuries and by the time of St. John the Baptist was about to be incorporated into what eventually became Christianity, which after all is partly an extension of earlier Judaism. St. John refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God (St. John 1:29) and this is repeated throughout the Gospels, and the Book of Revelations. Jesus was in fact going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover (The Last Supper) and his eventual crucifixion which makes our Easter coincide with this feast.

In portraits of John the Baptist he is usually dressed in a shaggy old camel skin with the Paschal Lamb at his side, (amongst other things he is also the protector of lambs). As Jesus is so frequently referred to as the Lamb of God it is not surprising that the Paschal Lamb is portrayed in many churches. It is normally depicted as a lamb with a halo, and carrying a cross to which a flag is sometimes attached.

It also appears on several Inn signs, mostly around Oxfordshire, the pubs being called 'The Lamb and Flag'. Also it is sometimes incorporated into the arms of several cities throughout Europe e.g. Toulouse. Of course, this has nothing to do with the Queen's Royal Regiment - it is the same old Lamb of God associated with the Christian faith.

This leads on to why it was chosen to be the badge of the Regiment. Being an ex-Surrey I am treading on dangerous ground if I endeavour to deliberate on this; and if I remember correctly some years back the late Brigadier Alan Block wrote a series of articles entitled 'The Search for the Lamb', but as far as I can recall came to no definite conclusions. At least we can eliminate a few errors. Some historians try to make a connection with Queen Catherine of Braganza who gave us Tangier as part of her marriage dowry to King Charles II, when the Regiment was raised to protect this new acquisition. There were two branches of the House of Braganza, Spanish and Portuguese. The arms of the Spanish house show a shield with a few crescents emblazoned on it, no doubt in some way connected with the fairly recent Moorish occupation. (Spain and Portugal were one country until about 1640). The Portuguese Branch of the house of Braganza has a fairly simple 'logo' as illustrated in Plate I. The Paschal Lamb does not appear.

In some recently published books, e.g. The Regimental Records of the British Army (1984), and Badges and Emblems of the British Forces (1968) it is still stated that the Paschal Lamb is the crest of the Royal House of Braganza. Both are quoting from some earlier source. Unknown to the rest of us there may be something in this, but research into the arms of both the Royal House of Portugal and the Royal House of Braganza shows no trace of the Paschal Lamb, and where illustrated they are both shown as variations of Plate I, and when not shown visually, but described in Latin Heraldic terms, again no mention of an Agnus Dei. Brigadier Block found that King John of Portugal had the Paschal Lamb embroidered on some of the Royal vestments but no doubt this could apply to other European Royal Houses.

Some time ago when I was engaged in preparing lectures on the Monmouth Rebellion (1685) I thought I might have by chance come across a clue concerning the Queen's badge, but in the end it seemed to lead nowhere. You will see in Plate II that a young James, Duke of Monmouth, has actually had his portrait painted as St. John the Baptist and at his side a very realistic Paschal Lamb. (He looks a bit of a 'twit' which later he was proved to be - except at his execution when he did behave with a certain amount of dignity). To try and find out more about this strange portrait I wrote to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch who owns the original, and is descended from Monmouth, who was created the first Duke when he married into the Buccleuch family. The title of the portrait is, The Duke of Monmouth as

John the Baptist, by Lely, but His Grace believes that it is by Huijsmans. Its date is not known but Monmouth looks in his early 'teens' and as he was born in 1649 it would make him about 12 or 13 and could have been painted in about 1662 the year Charles married Catherine, or 1661 when the Earl of Peterborough raised the Regiment on Putney Heath.

His Grace tells me that around this time John the Baptist was the 'in' thing, a cult figure for some reason or other, so it is hardly surprising that the King's eldest son, to be in fashion, wanted to be portrayed as St. John. Could there be some connection here? The Royal marriage, the formation of the Regiment, the King's eldest son painted with the Paschal Lamb all at almost the same time?

It is all coincidence of course, but it would be nice to think that when some years later in 1684 on its return from Tangier when King Charles named the Regiment 'Our Dearest Queen Consort's Regiment', that Catherine would recall the painting of her husband's eldest son, painted with a Paschal Lamb and think it would make an ideal badge.

But not so. In fact Catherine could not stand James, Duke of Monmouth, the first of the King's large brood of illegitimate offspring. (His granny Queen Henrietta Maria a staunch Roman Catholic was, however, extremely fond of her Protestant grandson).

In Plate III Queen Catherine of Braganza is portrayed with a rather shaggy sheep by her side and this is repeated in several other of her portraits. It has been suggested that this might be a discreet way of the Queen showing her Catholic faith in nominally Protestant England, but this cannot be so for the Queen had no need to hide her faith, and was surrounded by her Papist priests and Portuguese Ladies-in-Waiting. Certainly in the country at large Catholicism was not acceptable but this did not apply in Court, for after all King Charles was to be succeeded by his Roman Catholic brother James. Lord Feversham, very much a Protestant, was also the friend and confidante of Catholic Queen Catherine. (When the mob once tried to attack and insult one of King Charles' many Catholic mistresses, Nell Gwynn shouted out 'No not me, I'm the Protestant whore').

There was no need for Queen Catherine to hide her faith but being painted with lambs or sheep is as interesting as that of Monmouth, and after all who could have been more Protestant? If at the time of the raising of the Regiment a John the Baptist cult was sweeping through England it is not surprising that those at Court would want their portraits associated with this phenomenon!

As stated earlier the Protestant Monmouth even went so far as to dress up as St. John with a very realistic Paschal Lamb, while the several pictures of Queen Catherine are not so explicit. Whatever the reason for these portraits they would appear to eliminate any connection between the House of Braganza and the Regimental Badge.

There seems to be no definite date when cap or regimental badges came into being. During the Civil War some forty years earlier they were quite unknown and as uniforms on either side could be quite similar, confusion could arise and one can well imagine two soldiers facing each other with their pikes and having to ask each other which side they were on! The problem was easily solved just before fighting began for those in one army to pluck some twigs from the same tree or bush and stick the distinctive leaves in their hats. The opposing side would do likewise but with different foliage.

In Tangier there was no need for this because obviously the Moors were quite different and also they always, when engaged in a *Jihad*, or Holy War against Infidels, waved numerous large flags with Crescents on them so there could be no mistaking them for Christians. They were still doing this at the battle of Omdurman in 1898.

To counter this, according to Lord Macaulay, the Earl of Peterborough made his troops also wave large flags to indicate they were Christians. One would have thought that say a Crusader cross would have served the purpose but no, he supposedly chose the Paschal Lamb maybe for the reasons stated earlier that St. John the Baptist and his Lamb were very popular throughout England. In a letter to Colonel McConnell the Garter-King-at-Arms suggests that there is no foundation for this, but if this is so why did Macaulay record it and from

where did he obtain his facts? Some historians refer to the Regiment when still in Tangier as Kirke's Lambs for this same reason, but most likely this nickname was not then in use and writers are using it rather for variety than for accuracy. But on the other hand the Dictionary of National Biographies, which is usually taken as an accurate record, under the entry for Colonel Kirke, refers to the Regiment as Kirke's Lambs while stationed in Tangier.

There were always numerous coloured flags in a regiment (the word 'colour' replacing 'flag' in about 1620) denoting the company, a Major, a Lt. Colonel etc. Usually about a dozen in all and when in 1686 King James authorised ten new colours for the Regiment, there is no evidence to show that they were the same as those carried in Tangier – or new designs. In any case Macaulay's Paschal Lamb flag may have been carried for the purpose outlined above and in addition to the normal Regimental colours.

Originally flags were of a religious nature, an emblem which indicated communication with God. Often they carried a sacred picture and were carried by priests or monks to give the troops confidence, believing that the Saints would intervene on their behalf in the coming battle. In the Civil War the regimental flags usually carried religious texts and this was to continue until heraldic emblems were introduced a century later. Thus again the carrying of Paschal Lamb flags in Tangier was certainly in keeping with the religious tradition.

As mentioned earlier the twigs, leaves, and coloured 'favours' worn as distinguishing marks in the Civil War were not required some forty years later. When General Monk brought his Coldstream Guards over to the side of King Charles at the Restoration, the new King was pleased to grant the Regiment the wearing of the Royal Cypher as its badge.

In the Civil War soldiers often wore the Monmouth cap – a large brimmed felt hat not unlike that worn by modern cowboys (named after the town and not the Duke, who was not yet born). There are few contemporary pictures of soldiers in any detail at the time of Sedgemoor, but if the artist who produced the pack of playing cards recording the Rebellion (Plate IV) is accurate, this hat was still being worn. But he may not have been a soldier and relied on his memory rather than accuracy. It was not easy to wear a badge on this hat and the first cap badges seem to have been worn by the grenadiers of a regiment. (Grenades were certainly used in the Civil War forty odd years earlier, [c.f. Major Dowett's raid on Hamilton's Cavaliers outside Frome in 1643]).

This Monmouth cap was inconvenient for the regimental grenadiers when they had to sling their muskets prior to handling their grenades. Therefore, they were given a special cap with a stiffened upright piece in front to make life easier for them. This was an ideal place to display a badge. For example in 1684 the Royal Regiment wore a lion's head on the turned up portion, and the Coldstream Guards had their caps 'lined and faced with Blew Shaloon and on the frontlets the King's Cypher'. Did Kirke's grenadiers show a lamb as a badge – we do not know? In the earliest pictures of the Queen's grenadiers painted in 1715, these show a plain lamb but this does not imply that the lamb was not worn as a cap badge before that date.

As will be seen later soon after Sedgemoor Colonel Percy Kirke talked of his 'lambs' and maybe an ordinary lamb became the badge shortly afterwards. When later in the 18th century uniforms, colours, badges etc. became more standardised and heraldic devices appeared on the colours then this plain lamb may have become the Paschal Lamb we now know and heraldically accurate standing on a 'wreath of colours' – not a piece of old naval rope as I once heard it described, (the 'wreath of colours' were originally coloured ribbons worn round the helmet of a knight to keep his crest in place).

Only part of the Regiment (five companies) joined the Royal Army at Bath to pursue Monmouth and the rebels back towards Bridgewater and Taunton. As the whole Regiment was not involved perhaps Colonel Percy was not in fact in command. After all he had been Governor of Tangier and the night before the Battle of Sedgemoor King James promoted him Brigadier-General (no doubt acting or temporary for he was Colonel again later on in Ireland). It is interesting to note that perhaps there were three Kirkes present at the battle, Brigadier-General Percy, who, as he was now promoted, was clearly to become O.C. the troops who would carry out the round-up of the rebels once they were defeated. The following letter makes this clear.\*

"Sumrstt,

"Whereas comeplainte have benn made to me by the inhabitants of the Parish of Weston Zoyland, that the Rebells lately buried in the more are not suffeciently covered & that they have benn at great charges to builde Gallowsess & Gebbuts, & to make chains or gemmaces to hang up the rebells: These are in his Maties name to require you forthwith on sight hereof to press plowes & men, to come to the said place where the rebells are buried, that there may bee a mount erected upon them, as the inhabitants of Weston shall think fitt, and you are to heare your proportionable charges with them, in making the Gemmacess and burying the rebells, and this you are not to faile, as you will answer the contrarie at your utmost perlls.

"Given under my hand at Bridgwater, July the 13th, 1685.

"Kirke".

"To the constable or Tythingman of Chedzoy."

According to Henry Mudiman's Newsletter the other two Kirkes were Colonel Charles and his son Lt. Colonel Phillip, all related and whoever in fact commanded the Regiment during the battle, it is Colonel Percy as stated above who was in charge afterwards and allegedly committed all the infamous atrocities on the rebels.

\*In my copy of King Monmouth, by Allan Fea (1902) there is a scrawled pencil entry, 'These autographed letters of Colonel Kirke are in my possession (Eric Hope-Masham)'. So far I have been unable to trace them.

In 1744 (some sixty years later) Ralph's History of England Vol. I p. 888 reads "so infamous was the Behaviour of his own particular Corps, that he (Kirke) himself, by way of Irony, called them his Lambs; an appellation which was adopted by the whole West of England!" If this is so it seems strange that an 'off-the-cuff' remark like this was sufficient to give the Regiment a nickname which spread terror throughout the West country. On the other hand it appears to be the first written evidence of the use of the word 'lambs' and from them no doubt all later authors have written of Kirke's Lambs. All seem to have incorrectly used a nickname not in use prior to Sedgemoor. This chance remark by Colonel Percy may well have led to the ordinary lamb shown in the pictures of 1715, which eventually evolved into the heraldic Paschal Lamb introduced later in the century.

Thus we are left with four possible lines to follow in the search for the origins of the Regimental Badge:-

1. The Royal House of Braganza - unlikely
2. The St. John the Baptist cult - possible
3. The Paschal Lamb flags in Tangier - possible
4. The remark made by Colonel Percy Kirke calling the Regiment his lambs - most probable.

The mists of time have now descended on the scene and if the last possibility is the correct answer, it is still difficult to reconcile this remark, perhaps casually made, with the well known fact that Kirke's Lambs when encountered after Sedgemoor became such a terror in the West Country. The correct solution may now never be known.

I am not sure if any of this is any help to R.A.J. and his intriguing sighting in Germany, but should he come across a lamb and flag in a church once more there is no reason to show surprise, unless of course it turns out to be a sheep carrying a flag up and down the aisle, then he should rightly worry - and keep off the alcohol.

R.C.T.

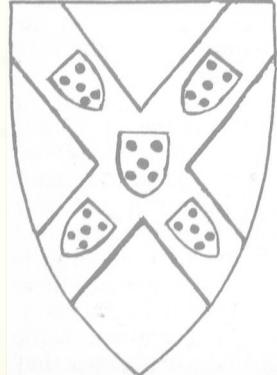


Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4

### Regimental Museum

The museum has now closed for the winter and will re-open again with the rest of Clandon House on Good Friday 1989. It has been another successful season. The museum has attracted many visitors and favourable comments, and we were especially glad to welcome a large number of Old Comrades on the Regimental Open Day on Saturday 24th September.

During the close season the TA display is being dismantled and items on loan returned to their owners. In this respect our thanks go particularly to Captain A.C.L. White and 5 and 6/7 Queen's for the use of their family and regimental silver. Now we are preparing for the next special theme display which is to be Regimental Life in India, and on expanding on World War 2 exhibits. We are most grateful for the help being provided by the Pioneer Section of the 1st Battalion.

### The Tradition Alcove

This display epitomises regimental tradition on which is founded that pride in the regiment which is the inspiration for selfless courage and comradeship in peace and war. Such tradition is common to all regiments. In this instance it has grown from the origins of The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1661 and has passed on to the present Queen's Regiment which came into being in 1966.

The main theme of the display is a parade of The Queen's Royal Regiment in ceremonial uniform with buildings of the Regimental Depot at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, in the background. The barracks were the home of the Regiment from 1876 to 1959. At the top of the alcove are the Regimental insignia worked in silk with the numeral in the top left hand corner denoting the 2nd Regiment of Foot. Top right is the cipher of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza, and in the bottom corners the Naval crown and a sphinx commemorating participation in the battle of the Glorious First of June 1794 and the Egyptian campaign of 1801. The drum-major's sash and side drums are emblazoned with other battle honours.

The miniature soldiers are on loan from a collection created by Lt Col Cedric Bath, OBE, the Gloucestershire Regiment. The needlework screen was embroidered by the wife of the Adjutant of 598 LAA Regiment RA (Captain, now the Reverend Douglas Howell-Everson) to commemorate that unit's previous existence as the 4th Battalion the Queen's Royal Regiment.



#### AUTHORS VISIT MUSEUM

The authors, Mr Michael Langley and Mr Chye Kooi Loong discuss their respective books with the Chairman of the Museum.  
Brig. M J A Clarke, MBE (centre)

#### Recent Additions to the Medals in the Museum

##### COL J B COATES, Queen's

Many will remember the late Col Coates, generally referred to as "JB". His son, Michael, recently presented his father's distinguished set of medals - CBE (Civil), OBE (Military), MC, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal, India General Service Medal 1908 with Clasps Mahsud 1919-20, Waziristan 1919-21, Waziristan 1921-24, 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star with Bar Burma, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 with Mention in Despatches. One unusual aspect of his decorations was that when awarded the CBE (Civil) he was ordered to hand back his Military OBE which he had received for services in World War II. Some years later the Queen changed the rule and the Military OBE was returned to him. Her Majesty ordered that in such cases the OBE be worn with the CBE and other decorations and medals, but that it would not be mentioned in titles after the recipient's name.

Col Coates was awarded the MC in Italy in 1917. The India General Service Medal and Clasps were for service with 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. On the night before the surrender of Singapore in 1941 he was ordered to leave by his Corps Commander. After various adventures he reached India where he became GSO I (Ops) Eastern Army which later became XIV Army. In his own words "I did go to Chittagong and other places but had not become really involved when I came home in June 1943. But I did get the medal!" This refers to the unusual award of Bar Burma on the Pacific Star.

##### LT. COL. L M CROFTS, Queen's

The medals of Lt. Col. L.M. Crofts, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, have been presented to the museum by his daughter, Mrs. P. Fitzgerald. Col. Crofts (born 17th December, 1867) served firstly in the East Lancashire Regiment and then in the Queen's from 1889. He was Assistant Provost Marshal, South Africa 1901-02, later becoming Adjutant, Militia.

After service in Bermuda in 1912, he later served with distinction in the First World War where he gained the D.S.O. He was wounded at Ypres and Delville Wood and in 1917, while officiating as Brigadier he was "severely wounded in both hands while witnessing a trench warfare demonstration near Winnezele". Returning to England by 1919 he was able to welcome returning troops at Guildford and on July 18th 1919 was one of the representatives of the Queen's in the Victory Parade in London.

Later he commanded the Second Battalion in India.

The medals are an interesting group, consisting of:- The D.S.O., Queen's South Africa with five clasps, King's South Africa with two clasps, 1914 Star with Mons Clasp, 1914-18 War Medal, 1914-18 Victory with Mention in Despatches, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Belgian Order of Leopold.

They will make a welcome addition to the museum's collection.

##### LT J H SILLEM and LT R O SILLEM, Queen's

These two brothers were commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment. Both have died and their sister, Mrs. M. Clarabut, has presented their medals. J H served in both World Wars and had been awarded British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal with Mention in Despatches, India General Service Medal 1908 with Bar Waziristan 1919-21 and Mention in Despatches, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 with Mention in Despatches, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. R O had 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal.

##### MAJ A R C STIBY, Queen's

Mr. Robert Stiby presented the medals of his late father in August of this year. The medals are the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45, T D with two Clasps. Maj Stiby joined 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regt. in 1928. After 20 years service he transferred to 315 Bty R A and became a specialist in Searchlights. As such he was sent to Singapore where he became a POW and was made to work on the Burma Railway. He is written up in the book "Dragons are Extra" by Basil Peacock.

##### SGT A P CREE, Queen's

His medals are the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal. They were presented by his nephew, Mr. Brown.

##### PTE J FARROW, Queen's

1914 Star, British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal. Presented by his son.

##### CPL W C FLACK, Queen's

The son of Cpl Flack presented his father's medals this year. They are the India General Service Medal with bars Waziristan 1919-21, Waziristan 1921-24, the Defence Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal.

##### PTE H FYFIELD, Queen's

1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal, Territorial Efficiency Medal. Presented by his son, Mr. R. Fyfield.

##### PTE G HAINES, Surreys

1914-15 Star. Presented by his son.

##### SGT F W HANCE, Surreys

The children of the late Sgt F W Hance presented his medals. 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Territorial Efficiency Medal.

##### CPL R A J JEAL, Surreys

Cpl Jeal was killed in action Sept. 1915 while serving with 9th Bn The East Surrey Regt. Mr. Lawrence was a close friend and treasured Cpl Jeal's medals - British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal. Mr. Lawrence died recently and his son thought it appropriate that he should present these medals to the Museum.

##### CPL W LANE, Surreys

1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Cpl Lane was in the Band of 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regt. from 1906 until 1919 and served as a Stretcher Bearer throughout the 1st World War. He later served in the Band of the R.A.S.C. His medals were presented by his daughter Mrs. B K Lardner.

##### SGT. W T CLEEVES, Surreys

His DCM, British War Medal, Allied Victory Medal with Mention in Despatches, were presented by a friend, Mr. Frampton, to whom they had been bequeathed.

##### PTE R E THOMPSON, Queen's

Mrs. M. Archer, niece of the late Pte Thompson, presented his British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal.

## A DIFFERENT BALL GAME

Recently a Daily Mirror published in 1916 was handed in to the Queen's Regiment museum at Dover Castle. The Daily Mirror contained an account of the 8th Bn The East Surrey's "Football Match". The Editor wishes to acknowledge the help and assistance by the staff of The Surrey Advertiser and The Daily Mirror, and for their permission to reproduce items from their respective papers. "On Through the Hail of Slaughter" is reproduced by kind permission of The London Illustrated News.

### The Football Charge of The East Surreys at The Somme



Contemporary verse by  
"Touchstone"  
in The Daily Mail.

*On through the hail of slaughter,  
Where gallant comrades fall,  
Where blood is poured like water,  
They drive the trickling ball.  
The fear of death before them,  
Is but an empty name;  
True to the land that bore them,  
The SURREYS played the game.*

*"On through the hail of slaughter, they drive the trickling ball"*

On the 1st July, 1916, under heavy enemy fire, the 8th Bn. East Surrey Regiment were waiting in their trenches ready to go "over the top" in the first Battle of the Somme. Their objective was Montauban Ridge.

Captain W.P. Nevill, attached from the East Yorkshire Regiment and commanding "B" Company had purchased four footballs for his platoons to kick across No Man's Lane "subject to the proviso that proper formation and distance was not lost thereby". Captain Nevill promised a reward to the first platoon to score a "goal" in enemy trenches.

At 7.27 a.m., led by Nevill, "B" Company climbed out of their trenches and the attack was on. In the face of murderous fire, and sustaining heavy casualties, they charged across the intervening ground with the footballs bouncing encouragingly before them. The combination of Nevill's initiative and their gallantry proved successful and they gained their objective on the Ridge. Sadly, Nevill was not there to pay the reward. He had been killed just outside the German wire. Two of the footballs were found there later.

The Regiment's valour did not go unrewarded that day. The 8th Bn. won two D.S.O's, two M.C's, two D.C.M's and nine M.M's.

*Mr. Ford's letter to The Surrey Advertiser*

Sir,

With the football now symbolic of degradation and violence it may be heartening to recall an occasion when it once symbolised determination and valour.

On July 1, 1916, at Montauban Ridge in the Battle of the Somme, the men of B Company of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, went "over the top" kicking four footballs before them.

The balls had been provided by Capt. W.P. Nevill who promised a reward to the first platoon to score a "goal" in the enemy trenches.

His initiative and skill proved successful as the objectives were gained and the enemy lines reached. Sadly, however, Nevill was not there to pay the reward. He had been killed at the first stretch of German wire.

The two recovered footballs were brought back to England and stirring scenes were witnessed at the Depot when one of them arrived there. The Daily Mirror referred to the ball as a "sacred emblem of the battalion's heroism and devotion".

One of the footballs is now held at the Queen's Regiment Museum at Dover Castle, and the other is at the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum at Clandon where the Curator, Richard Ford, recently wrote to the Surrey Advertiser, Guildford, comparing the determination and valour of the Montauban Ridge footballers with the degradation and violence of today's soccer hooligans. He is pictured here holding the football. The football from Dover was displayed at the National Army Museum, Chelsea in 1986 in an exhibition commemorating the Battle of the Somme.



#### Regular Battalion Postings

The 1st Battalion will move from Tidworth, Hampshire, to Minden, West Germany in January 1991.

The 2nd Battalion will return from Minden to Canterbury in January 1991.

The 3rd Battalion will move from Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, to Cyprus in March 1990.