

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Association Newsletter



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EDITORIAL

This edition will be published as many of our readers recall the events of half a century ago, particularly those members who were present with The British Expeditionary Force in France, and Belgium. Many of those were fortunate to be evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk, whilst sadly we have many who were captured and spent long years as prisoners-of-war in enemy hands.

This seems then, an appropriate time to remind you all of the annual church service to be held this year on the 10th June, as customary at Guildford Cathedral. The preacher this year will be The Reverend Jimmy Morrison, the Padre serving with 1 Queen's.

After the Service and drinks in the Refectory, ALL are invited to go along to Sandfield Terrace and join 5 Old Members Association in a finger buffet and swop yarns over a pint. Please do read the notice inside the Newsletter regarding notifying numbers attending. Do then make an effort to bring your wife and try and encourage your mates to attend also.

Once again I have been fortunate to have received many letters and articles, some as always must be put aside for another edition, BUT please do keep them coming in, as without them, this Newsletter would not be as interesting to as many of you as I am told it is.

There is a short article in this edition written by one of our "elder citizens" who served in The Great War and still attends many functions. This article was written in 1920 after the author had returned home.

Details of The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion are also in The Newsletter and once again I hope to see many of you and your wives at this very popular event.

Les Wilson.

Congratulations To:-

Mrs Freda Kerrick, on her 100th birthday. Mrs Kerrick is the widow of Brigadier W. Kerrick DSO MC, Royal Engineers and was the mother of Captain John Kerrick who was killed whilst serving with 2 Surreys in Malaya. The Association sent its best wishes to Mrs Kerrick on her birthday.

Major General Fergus & Mrs Ling on their Golden Wedding on 20th March

Brigadier A F S Ling OBE on his recent promotion.

Major and Mrs Peter Sparring on their marriage.

W. Petch and his wife on their Golden Wedding on 2nd March

Dave Clemens and his wife on their marriage.

Best Wishes to:-

Colonel Nick Nice, Majors Toby Taylor, Charles Cole, Messrs,

Jack Homersham, T. Kienzle and Tom Lawless, all have been ill since our last Newsletter was published. Major Charles Cole suffered a severe stroke and is at present in a small nursing home in Cornwall. Colonel Nick Nice attended The Association Committee meeting in March and says he is improving steadily. To the above our best wishes for a very speedy return to full health.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The commemoration this year of the 50th Anniversary of Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, the formation of the Parachute Regiment and other events which took place in the early days of World War II, are bound to stir the memories of many members. Such historic happenings fifty years ago put the formation of our own former Regiments and their many earlier battle honours into impressive perspective.

Inevitably there will be sad memories of those who did not return, but there will also be pride in the service given and honours gained by our former Regiments throughout the war. It is good that we are now being reminded of such events.

It is also good that we, whether we served pre-war, during the war or post-war, remain so close as fellow members of our Association. I look forward to meeting many of you at Bassingbourn on Sunday 8th July and continuing to forge even closer links with our successors in the Queen's Regiment.

Mike Doyle

'GAINST FIRE AND PILLAGE'

Deplorable and disgusting though the recent riots in London may have been, they still do not seem to compare, either in violence or magnitude, with the Gordon Riots of June 1780. Then the casualty roll was reported as:- "Killed by association troops and guards 109, killed by light horse 101, died in hospitals 75, (wounded) prisoners under care 173". This was exclusive of numbers (believed to be very considerable) who died in the streets or who were buried in the ruins of demolished buildings.

Complaints were made in some quarters that the authorities had not acted with the firmness expected or required of them, but at least the Surrey Regiment of Militia, fighting alongside regular troops of the Queen's Royal Regiment, responded nobly to the call to duty on London streets. A writer in the British Army Dispatch, Press and West End Courier later commented on how ".....during the Gordon Riots in 1780, when they who should have protected the state and commonwealth hesitated, and looked coolly on, the Surrey Militia cleared with the bayonet the City and Bridges, and rolling back the flood of Anarchy and Rebellion, saved the Metropolis of the Empire from Pillage and Fire".

R.F.



FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS



1990

Details

1 June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE
1 June	President's Reception for Freedom Mayors of Surrey - Clandon Park.
1 June	Annual Cricket Match v The Royal Navy - Tidworth.
10 June	Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral. 1100hrs.
23 June	1 Queen's (with Kohima Band) exercise Freedom of Worthing (Joint parade with HMS Sussex), followed by Beating Retreat.
4 July	Golf Society v Royal Marines, North Hants Golf Club (by invitation of the Captain).
8 July	The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion - Bassingbourn. Details enclosed.
9 September	SALERNO DAY
22 September	Queen's Surreys Museum Open Day - Clandon.
4 October	Golf Society. Autumn Meeting. Woking Golf Club.
5 October	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Luncheon, Clandon Park.
12 October	The Queen's Regiment Cocktail Party, Law Society's Hall.
13 October	The Queen's Regiment, WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner, Depot Queen's Division.
13 October	Annual Reunion, The East Surrey Regiment, Drill Hall, St. Johns Hill, Clapham Junction.
2 November	Queen's Surreys Reunion, Union Jack Club, London. Details enclosed.
8 November	The Field of Remembrance - Westminster. 1100hrs.
11 November	Remembrance Day.
20 December	THE BRITISH BATTALION DAY

1991

10 February	SOBRAON DAY
1 March	The Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Dinner. (25th Anniversary of Regiment).
23 March	Regimental Association Trustees and Committee Meeting - Clandon Park.
23 April	YPRES DAY
16 May	ALBUHERA DAY
2 June	The Queen's Surreys Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.

THANK YOU

Yet Again We Are Indebted To Major J. L. A.
Fowler TD. for giving us the materials on which
our newsletter is printed.





THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

The Battalions

The 1st Battalion completed a 4 1/2 month tour of duty in N Ireland at the end of February and returned to Tidworth where they will be based until their move to Minden in early 1991. Their CO, Lt Col Chris Charter handed over command to Lt Col Amedee Micville on 6 April. In the 2nd Battalion, Lt Col Merrick Willis will be succeeded as CO on 8 June by Lt Col David Wake and the battalion will be posted to Canterbury from Minden in early 1991. The 3rd Battalion moved from Aldergrove, after a two year tour there, to Cyprus in March where they are based in the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area. The 5th (Volunteer) Battalion will have a new CO on 2 November when Lt Col Philip Pearce hands over to Lt Col Chris Argent, a TA officer. The 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion are continuing their Orienteering successes having won overall the South East District TA Unit Championships in February, with three individual winners. Finally, the 8th Queen's Fusiliers will exercise the Regiment's and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' 'Privilege' of marching through the City of London on 21 May, before a change of CO on 3 August when Lt Col Nick Brunt hands over to a Queensman, Lt Col Peter McLelland.

Deputy Colonels

Early this year one of our four Deputy Colonels of the Regiment left UK for overseas and another returned - Brig Mike Constantine CBE moved to Hong Kong to become Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff and Brig Bob Acworth CBE was appointed Chief of Staff at HQ South East District.

Regimental Headquarters

Maj Hugh Tennent and Maj Dick Waite who have worked in Regimental Headquarters respectively for 10 and 11 years will retire in June. They will be succeeded by Maj Joe O'Gorman who started in the Middlesex Regiment and Maj Bill Marshall who was originally in the Buffs. Maj Bill Marshall, together with Maj Ian Jones who has returned for a second tour as Regimental Careers Officer, will be much involved in recruiting which is again receiving the highest priority in the Regiment.

£ 63,000 For Charity

Last year the Regiment raised or assisted in raising no less than £63,000 for good causes. The 2nd Battalion donated £11,000 to the Acorn Trust for the Handicapped, the 3rd Battalion £6,600 for the Royal National Life boat Institution and 8th Queen's Fusiliers £3,800 for the St George's Hospital Scanner Appeal. The 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, in conjunction with the Reed Business Publishing Group raised £30,000 for the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled. In addition, smaller sums were accumulated by all battalions for a wide variety of charities.

The Flying Dragons

For the second successive year the Regimental Free Fall Team, the 'Flying Dragons', did their Team Training in California in February. This season they are again sponsored by Danepak. They will be giving over fifty breathtaking displays before thousands of spectators at shows, fetes and other functions throughout the UK, as well as running a programme of one day parachuting courses at Bassingbourn. There are a few dates still available in their programme for future booking.

1ST BATTALION THE QUEENS REGIMENT

This is PTC's first article for the Newsletter. On a personal note I wish Ovid the best of luck in his next posting and hope that he has recovered from his Rottweiler bite from the streets of West Belfast!

West Belfast has dominated the 1st Battalion's life over the last four months, both in training and during deployment. At the

time of writing this article the Battalion is over half way through a highly successful tour.

For those members who have served in the Province many times over the years, the following locations of Queensmen may revive old memories:

Tangier Company at Girdwood

Holland Company at North Howard Street Mill

Kirkes Company at Fort Whiterock

Members of the Battalion were also based at Musgrave Park Hospital, the Divis Mountain Key Point and various Observation Posts.

The names of areas have not changed though the standard of housing has improved dramatically since the Battalion was first deployed to the Province 9 tours ago. The sophistication of equipment has also improved as can be seen by the accompanying photograph. The soldier shown is wearing an Improved Northern Ireland Body Armour (INIBA) vest under his combat jacket and the new design helmet and attached visor. He is carrying the new SA80 Individual Weapon, a secure HF radio and specialist bomb detection equipment.



It is not possible to go into any operational detail in this article, however, the role of the soldier has changed over the last 20 years in Northern Ireland, as police primacy has taken over and every soldier is in support of the RUC defeating terrorism.

The terrorist has also become more sophisticated. There are less "Cowboy" shoots compared with the 70s and most incidents are carefully planned. The current main threat is the Command Wire Improvised Explosive device (CWIED). The Battalion has had a number of CWIED attacks during the tour. They normally consist of a relatively small charge of explosive connected to a firing point by a thin wire sometimes only 20mm long. They are designed to catch out a soldier on foot patrol and tend to be within hard republican areas. Another weapon used is an Improvised Anti Army Grenade (IAAG). This is a home made grenade about 2 foot long with a shaped charge of explosive inside which is thrown at or dropped on military vehicles. The threat still exists from a shoot and also from proxy bomb or mortar attack.

This year sees the 1st Battalion in its normal conventional training cycle as part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force based in Tidworth.

Climbing back into our Saxon vehicles will seem a far cry from the streets of West Belfast.

PTC.

5 QUEENS O.M.A.

The Remembrance Day Service at Holy Trinity Church and subsequent march past was once again blessed with good weather and some 30 members of the OMA attended. The salute was taken by the Mayor - Councillor Bernard Parke. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial in the Castle grounds by Col Toby Sewell on behalf of The Queens Royal Surrey Regimental Association and by Lt Col Foster Herd on behalf of 5 Queens OMA.

The Cranleigh Reunion dinner of C Coy 1/5 Queens took place at Cranleigh Cricket pavilion in October. The President Lady Mullins and Rev. Castle were guests of honour and some 45 members and guests attended. It is believed that this is one of the few companies to hold its own reunion. Jack Petch and his committee are to be congratulated on organising the evening.

On 15 March a number of the members of the OMA attended a service of dedication at Holy Trinity Church of a plaque in memory of the late Major Ross Mangles. The buffet lunch to be held at Sandfield Terrace on Sunday 10 June, after the cathedral service, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the evacuation from Dunkirk is well in hand and we look forward to seeing as many of our members and their wives who are able to attend.

At our recent committee meeting we received a number of resignations, it is essential that we find some new members if the OMA is to run smoothly in the future. If you can help please contact Doug Mitchell.

Buffet Lunch 5 Old Members Association

At Sandfield Terrace on Sunday June 10th 1990 following the Cathedral Church Service 5 OMA have arranged for a 'Finger buffet' for their own members and ladies at Sandfield Terrace Guildford. This function is part of their own celebrations to commemorate the return from Dunkirk fifty years ago.

The buffet will commence at approx 1pm, drinks will be available at the bar.

5 OMA would be delighted for any member and his wife attending the Cathedral service to join them, particularly any member who was present at Dunkirk but they stress that this function is for All, past or present, you will all be welcome.

There are only two problems, the first is the catering, readers will appreciate that Doug Mitchell will need to give firm figures for the catering to be organised, so please do notify him before Friday June 8th 1990 if you will be attending. A mini bus will be available from the Cathedral to Sandfield Terrace. The second problem is a familiar one to drivers, sadly there is no car parking available at Sandfield Terrace. There is ample free car parking at Leapale Road and Bedford Road Public car parks.

Doug Mitchell can be contacted at 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlawns, Guildford, Surrey or Telephone 0483 - 232043. Do join them, a very warm welcome awaits all.

The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

Despite Anno Domini, gales, torrential rain and the fact that the event was held one month earlier than is normally the case, the faithful flocked in (perhaps a little more slowly than in the past) from all corners of the country to make once again the Annual Dinner at the Union Jack Club in February 1990, a most joyous occasion, and a resounding success.

Perhaps because one meets the same old friends and comrades so regularly it is hard to appreciate that half a century elapsed

since we marched and fought together so successfully. Many members seem to be fighting the ageing process equally successfully.

Some 65 members and guests sat down to dinner and our President (Lt.Col. W.D. Griffiths, DSO, MC) proposed the toast of The Regiment.

After dinner Sgt. Major 'Nuttie' Edwards regaled the company with an hilarious account of his early days in The Regiment, and gallantly 'took wine' with all present, and quite a number who were not!

Altogether a wonderful evening — long may they continue!

A.R.L.

SURREYS REUNION

Battersea Town Hall Friday 27th October was not the scene of a pop concert or religious meeting. It was the 1989 reunion of all ranks of The East Surrey Regiment. The hall was not crowded as it would take a few hundred people to stretch the sides of this grand building.

Those in attendance covered a wide age group. Service wise it spanned from pre World War II to the Fifties. Most wore a regimental tie and they eagerly looked at new arrivals to see if their friends had arrived or other comrades were in the hall. Talk and drinking took command until the fine buffet prepared by ladies was served. A raffle was held and the ribbing that took place as tickets were drawn was reminiscent of a tombola evening in the NAAFI.

During the evening strangers got into conversation and they became comrades again.

The object of this short report is to encourage ex-Surreys to contact Mr Stan Jupe and attend the Annual Reunion. The regiment has a fine tradition and with the mergers of regiments it is important that the comradeship and pride of one's original regiment is maintained, and it is only through these functions that this can be done.

Next year treat yourself to an enjoyable evening and attend the Annual Reunion.

Details can be obtained from Stan Jupe, 68c Havelock Road, Wimbledon, SW19 8HD. 081-543-1747

Annual Reunion, Union Jack Club 1989



Colonel Toby Sewell with Frank Bolm, Bill Elkins, & Sid Waldron



Harold Ruoff, Chye Kooi Loong, Len Harmon & Dave Boorer



Charlie Litton & Mark Waller



Major John Tamplin 'holding court'

Museum Notes

The winter closed season has seen the transformation of one of the rooms of the museum formerly the Archives room, into a multi- purpose facility for committee meetings and storage of archives, a greatly improved medals display and an excellent new shop front.

Our lease restricts us to selling "regimentalia", and while items carrying regimental insignia have a steady although limited appeal, books about aspects of regimental history are an important attraction, especially during the first year or two of

their appearance. In that respect Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis's excellent book 'Salerno Remembered' has been a major earner and we continue to be most grateful to him and the Association for allowing us to reap the profits from his long hours of work and style of writing which has attracted much praise. Do please encourage your friends and acquaintances to apply to the Curator for a copy only 9.45 including postage and a bargain at the price. The next book due is about our regimental forbears in India where there was almost continual regimental service from 1825 until 1947, a remarkable record.

Enclosures with this edition of the newsletter reflect other aspects of our continual efforts to maintain interest in the museum. One seeks to complete the remarkable record of commanding officers which has been compiled by Lieutenant Colonel Anson Squire, and the other invites personal reminiscences about China which are being compiled by Mrs Daphne Hill in preparation for a future special theme display depicting our regiment's service in that country. And the expansion of the World War Two section, continue to attract much attention. There is so much detail in them that they are well worth at least a second visit.

The museum opened for the 1990 season on 1st April. We observe the same opening hours as the National Trust which are every afternoon except Thursdays and Fridays from 1.30 to 6pm. Richard Ford, our curator, is assisted by John Woodroff as our archivist who is endlessly painstaking in answering written enquiries, by Captain Graham Wenn, our Treasurer, and by a new assistant curator, Mrs Penny James. Mrs Jean Ann Stock's departure after ten years of splendid service - ever since the museum opened at Clandon - has been a matter of great regret. She will be much missed, but we are fortunate to have Mrs James with us.

Now that we are open there is a need for volunteers to help with visitors to the museum at weekends and on Bank Holidays in order to assist our permanent staff at busy times and to enable them to take the occasional weekend off during the summer. Richard Ford would be very glad to hear from anyone prepared to help.

MJAC

Mrs. Jean-Anne Stock

When our Museum had to move from Kingston to Clandon Park a new assistant to the Curator had to be found. While traditionally assistants in military museums have generally been found from local "old" soldiers this was not a possibility at Clandon, and so Mrs. Jean-Anne Stock came to join us. Her background had little connection with the Army or military affairs, and indeed she had been working at a high management level in the London world of couture. However she wanted a job nearer home giving her a little more time and so, perhaps to mutual surprise on both sides she found herself the Museum Keeper and a very key person. After 10 years of direct service to the Regiment she has now retired much to our loss.

Throughout her time Mrs. Stock contributed much flair and good sense and her touch has been invaluable in the detailed layout of displays. From the beginning she set herself to become interested and knowledgeable about the histories of the Regiments, and she has always given a welcome of much charm to every visitor so that many have gone away with interest enhanced and many have come back again. She will be much missed, but she will continue to give of her help and time as a member of the Committee, while in 1989 she was also elected a Lady Associate Member of the Association.

Mrs. Stock has been replaced by Mrs. Penny James who is much welcomed in her place, and who is already doing a fine job for the Museum.

JWS.

THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER

A tour on the North-West frontier of India (now part of Pakistan), was a great attraction for a British battalion that had spent four years on Internal Security duty in Allahabad. 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment was chosen to spend a year in Razmak late in 1940. Almost fifty years later it may be of interest to know something about the time we spent there.



Bn Headquarters group, the group includes, Lt Col Evans, Major Phillips, Captains Mansel and Haswell.

The Pathans are warlike people who did not take kindly to the government's administration of their country. Most of the men had a rifle. Some of these weapons were ancient. Some had been acquired from dead soldiers. Ammunition may have been stolen or hand made which was why we had to account for every empty case everywhere in India. In everyday life the Pathans lived in fortified villages with watch-towers, cultivating or herding sheep or goats in mostly infertile country. Razmak was deep into Pathan country on the boundary between Mahsud and Wazir tribal territory. Inter - tribal raids could yield rich pickings. But as far as the army was concerned we knew that they were always on the look-out for a chance of a sudden attack on a careless patrol. When we left the perimeter of Razmak we loaded our weapons. Covering fire was arranged. We had to plan every patrol so that it did not get stereotyped. Otherwise a few Pathans were likely to lie up in ambush close by for hours on end, and if they saw the chance, a sudden volley would cause confusion. There would be a quick assault. A rifle might be snatched, and if there was time the attackers would withdraw with a present for the missis from a dismembered soldier.



A group of C Company 1 Queens. Note the dress, weapons and equipment the automatic weapon is the V.B. (Vickers Berthier).

Most of the everyday danger was from parties of a few men, but at that time there was a bogey man called the Faqir of Ipi,

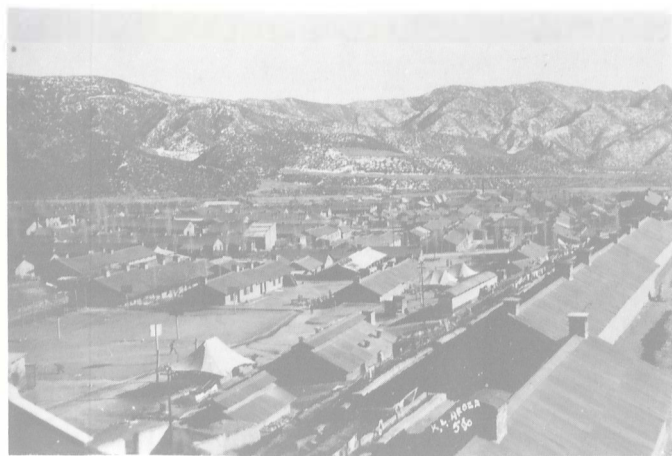
who was probably paid a retainer by Hitler to tie up thousands of soldiers who might otherwise be fighting the Germans. Ipi would summon a 'Lashkar' of several hundred Pathans and create some sort of havoc, which might entail the infantry of two divisions as a punitive force and protection of its line of communications.

The garrison of Razmak was six battalions, only one of them British. There were all the supporting arms, including a battery of medium artillery and a regiment of mountain guns - 3.7" howitzers (screw guns) which came to pieces to be carried on mules and were wonderfully accurate. Though we had lorries for where roads were adequate, mules were the main transport when we went on column.



'Bagan Transport Service' lorries and ambulances. Army transport was in short supply, it was therefore necessary to employ contractors vehicles.

To a certain extent we were able to carry out normal training, but twice a week we were liable to open the road towards Bannu, the nearest railhead, for supplies. The Razmak sector was about 7 miles long and piquets, normally of platoon strength, were sent up to about ten hill tops to occupy 'Sangars' made of stone breast-works, to ensure the safety of transport going past. Razmak is about 6000' above sea level and the piquets had to climb perhaps 500', though some were less. The theory was that the Pathans would not attack the convoy if they were between the piquets and the road. With guns and machine guns covering them, a platoon would spread out, giving itself covering fire across dead ground. A man in the leading section on the way up and in the rear on the way down, carried an orange piquetting screen to show the column commander and others where the piquet had got to. A pause below the summit,



RAZMAK Camp, view of the lines.

and an order from the commander and the piquet charged the top. Signalling was by flag or lamp and the IPA (I in Position Am) showed the column commander that he could move on to the next position. We had to climb as fast as possible consistent with safety, but on receiving RTR (Return To Road) the

piquet, which may have thinned out first, had to career down the hill as fast as it could go. Withdrawal was the really dangerous time, especially if it was getting late, as the Pathans may have been lying up close by all the day. A casualty in a piquet that was not out of range by the time the Pathans reached the top could cause untold trouble.

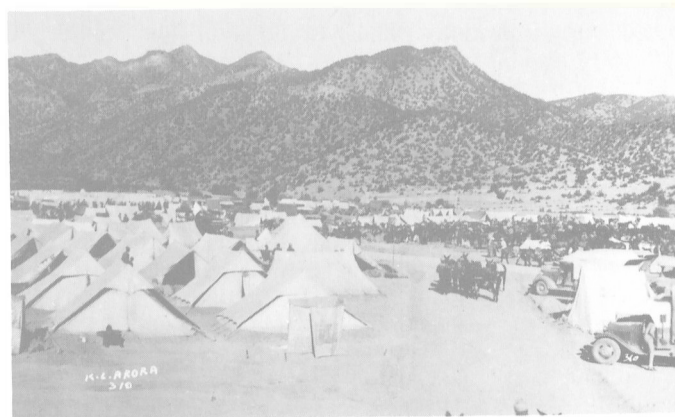
There were two punitive columns in which 1 Queens took part. The first left Razmak on 7th December 1940, when a lashkar of several hundred was bent on mischief a few miles from Razmak. We were fairly new to the job and fortunately were not sent to take a large feature called Pakkalita Sar, which was allotted to an experienced Punjabi battalion. When they were in position we could hear some shots, and we passed safely underneath. Our task for the day was protecting the campsite at Taudi China, a mile or two ahead. When the Punjabis started to withdraw it was obvious that the lashkar was opposing them strongly. Early casualties meant retaking the feature. The Pathans managed to get between piquets and reserves. Mountain artillery and machine guns did not deter them. The Commanding Officer and other British officers were killed or wounded. The day wore on and another Indian battalion was sent up to help the withdrawal. At nightfall the engagement was still hotly in progress and confused soldiers made for the camp and were overtaken by the enemy. I think some seventy were killed and many more were wounded.



Indian mountain artillery and crew set up and ready to fire.

For most of us this was the first time we had heard shots fired in anger. I was commanding D Coy and when we reached Tauda China the company was ordered to take a feature nearby, a steep hill with two or three piquet positions and covered with evergreen trees mostly holly. We took up our positions safely and sangars were built at great speed as you can imagine. We had a section out in front and our equipment was outside the sangar. It was nearly finished when 'Tac-Dum', (Pathan bullets were known as 'Tac-Dums' from the crack of the bullet going with luck- past, followed by the deeper noise from the firing of the rifle) a bullet whistled past, and then a few more. But no attack materialised. We brought in our equipment, but it was getting dark and I think we received no food that night, so subsisted on haversack rations, spending a cold, uncomfortable and sleepless night, but with no further sniping. But from Pakkalita Sar came the sounds of battle raging far into the night.

Incidentally there was another excitement from that camp piquet. We were still at Tauda China (which means Hot Springs), at Christmas when it snowed. At 0001 on Christmas morning, Vercy lights were sent up from the piquet. Everyone down below stood to and got ready to put down covering fire, when the piquet's lamp spelled Happy Christmas, from Lt. 'Oscar' Palmer who was in charge there. He took over the animal transport a little later.



A view of the camp at Tauda China. Note the mules and vehicles.

We stayed at Tauda China for several weeks while the 'Political' negotiated with tribal chiefs who were ordered to surrender a large number of rifles and to have watch towers in villages that had provided men for the lashkar destroyed. Some of the destruction was done from the air in the shape of a bomber that came staggering over, released its load and flew back to base rather faster. Incidentally we had other air support when needed - Hawker Harts, Audaxes and Wapitis, which could circle over a piquet's position when there was danger, ready to machine-gun, and bomb the opposition. Very comforting they were, though sadly an unlucky shot from a Pathan brought one down.

The other major column was to relieve a Scouts' post at Datta Khel, which involved a journey of well over 50 miles each way. The road was to a large extent piquetted for us as far as where we turned off from the Bannu road. Then we went through low lying malarial country and this was before mepacrine or paludrine were in use, so we only had the suppressive quinine. The result was that people caught malaria in large numbers, but after we left Razmak some ten per cent of the battalion suffered from relapses at any one time, so that, through no fault of ours, we were unfit for action when the Japs invaded Burma. Later of course 1 Queens had every bit of its share in the campaign. An interesting feature of the malaria scourge was that whisky drinkers seemed to be immune, so several senior officers escaped it.

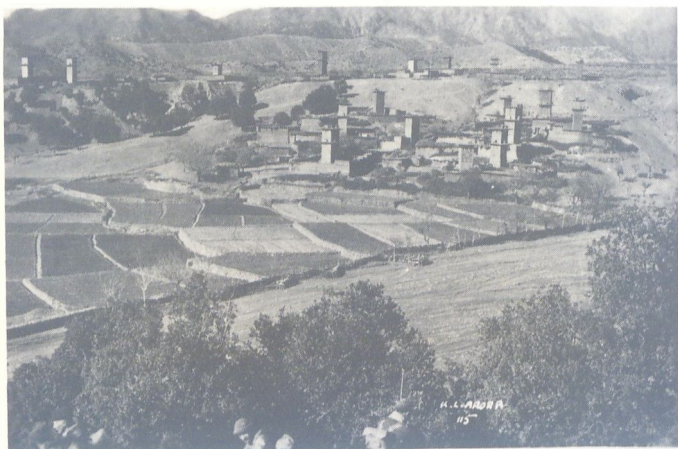


South Waziristan Scouts Fort. This force was commanded by British Officers who spoke Pushto fluently. Note the fortified towers placed in strategic positions, these were manned by troops who would live in them for a week at a time.

For the last three or four days to Datta Khel we had to do our own piquetting as the column advanced. It was midsummer and the hills were much bigger than the ones around Razmak. Companies rather than platoons were sent to occupy features. We would leave camp soon after dawn. If we were unlucky we occupied a hill near camp while the column passed by, come down it and have to climb another one later in the day. All this on a water bottle and a chagul (canvas water holder) to last the day. I have never been fitter in my life. But I can still visualise the arrival at the new camp, waiting while the company had tea, going to the mess for another, returning to the lines for foot and rifle inspection with a cup of tea at supper time and then

topping up with whatever liquid tasted best in the mess.

I suppose that we spent at least three weeks at Datta Khel. The besiegers not surprisingly had made themselves and their cannon scarce as we approached. While we were there, there were various tasks to do, such as preparing a road with pick and shovel before the Monster (a bulldozer) came and finished it. We also made our presence known in the surrounding country. Maps were rather vague and I remember having to take my company up a feature, but what looked simple from down below needed a bigger force than I had and in consequence we were spread out over a large area. Luckily there was no opposition on that day. Later, when the Political Agent had ordered destruction of towers and other penalties, we protected the Gunners who did a fine shoot on to their targets.



This village was bombed as the inhabitants were party to the troubles in the valley.

Eventually it was time to return to Razmak, a march without great incident until we were marching up to the pass leading to the Razmak plain. Two lorries overtook us, filled with - sailors. 'Get out your -- oars and row' was the cockney greeting. This was a party from H.M.S. Kelvin, that had been badly damaged off Crete and had limped into Bombay. Repair had taken longer than expected, so the Captain sent a signal to Their Lordships - did it go by sea? - asking permission to send a party to various parts of India. By the time the answer came back refusing permission, some 50 sailors were in Kashmir.



A Hawker Hart, this aircraft replaced the Westland Wapiti. The Hart was a two seater day bomber and was used during the Razcol Operation to bomb villages and Pathan fighting positions.

To celebrate our return and entertain the Royal Navy an open air show was laid on a couple of nights later. Gymnastics, singing and dancing, according to the customs of British, Indians and Gurkhas were in full swing, when 'Tac - Dum' and 'Buckshee Bill' opened up. The soldiers with stiff upper lip stayed on their forms. The sailors went to ground, presenting an equally good target. Another shot or two and prudence prevailed. The lights were turned off and all went back to clubs and messes.

And so our year in Razmak came to an end. No one claimed to have seen the legendary woman who was supposed to have got into 'the largest Monastery in the world'. We came to Ambala with pride in a job well done, confirmed in the reports of the Higher Command. We had enjoyed close comradeship with soldiers of other arms and races, which was not achieved in other stations. Sadly we had to leave four or five of our comrades behind, victims of snipers' bullets, which was the price that no one on the frontier could avoid paying.

I am sure that 'Darky' Duncan, who wrote of an incident at Tauda China in a recent newsletter, is not the only person whose mind goes back from time to time to the days we spent on the North West Frontier of India.

ARCM.

Editors note. The photos are from an album presented to the museum by Major George Dibley who at the time was Cpl G. Dibley of C. Coy. 1 Queens. Cpl Dibley transferred to the Royal Signals and retired from the Regular Army in 1963. He served a further ten years with the T.A.V.R.

CHUNGKAI 1943-1990

In the article entitled Museum Notes on page 6 of the November 1989 issue of the QRSR Association Newsletter, mention was made of the set of photographs, taken by Mr. L. H. Jelley, of the head-stones on the graves of the four 2nd East Surreys executed by the Japanese near Chungkai on February 4 1943. Ptes E J Cleaver, J Croker, N M Dorval & C Richardson had been re- captured after escaping from Tha Makhan prisoner of war camp. (Dorval was a Canadian who had enlisted in Shanghai).

At the time the prisoners at Tha Makhan (km 55) had been engaged in the construction of a steel railway bridge of eleven spans over the River Kwai Yai (or Mac Klong) near the town of Kanchanaburi. This bridge was completed in May 1943. A wooden railway bridge a hundred yards downstream had already been in operation for three months. It was retained for alternative emergency use. Across the river the track had been pushed rapidly northward towards Burma alongside the left bank of the River Kwai Noi. The camp located at nearby Chungkai (km 57) was later converted into a "hospital" base camp. Presently it is the site of Chungkai Imperial War Cemetery.

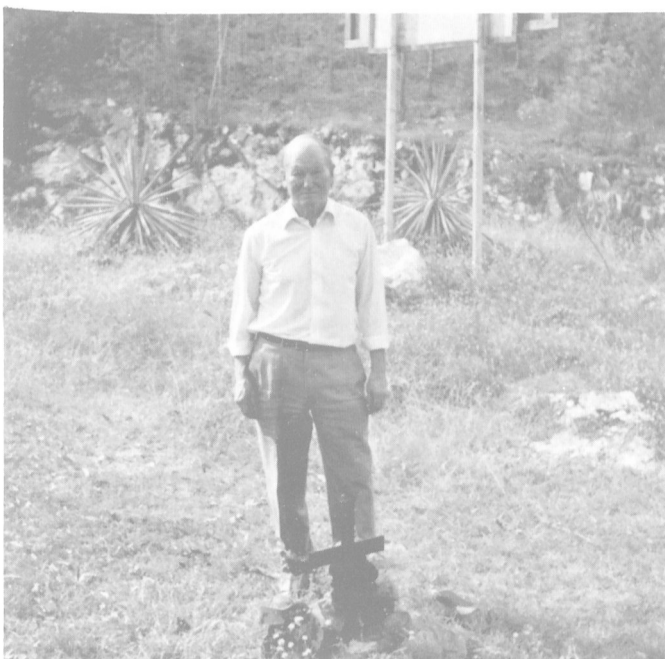
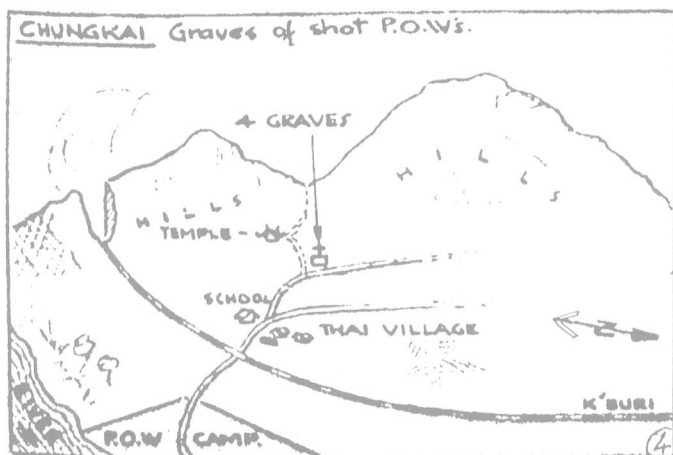


Railway cutting near Chungkai at (K.m 58.)

On the morning of the 17 January 1990, a small party of Far East Prisoners of War and wives led by Mr. Peter G Dunstan, a former Royal Marine on HMS Prince of Wales, laid a wreath and held a short memorial service at the Kanchanaburi Imperial War Cemetery. After luncheon we crossed the river by ferry and held a second service at Chungkai war cemetery. We then proceeded a short distance by road to Wat (temple) Thum Khow Poon. Here a wreath was laid as near as possible to the spot where the four Surreys had been shot in February 1943.



Cross marking the place near where four Surreys were shot, slightly to the right of the wheel rim.



H.F. Ruoff stands near the place where four men of 2 Surreys were shot on Feb. 4 1943.

On March 23 1943 only seven weeks later, and at the same place, there was yet another shooting incident. Three prisoners who had escaped from Hindato camp (km 198) were executed. They were Sgt. F. J. Kelly (RAMC), L/c T. Kenneally (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) and Pte P. Fitzgerald (RAOC). The fourth member of the party Sgt E. Reay (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) had been killed whilst trying to avoid arrest.

H.F.R.

THE COSSACKS

A little while ago, Ken Plater (Signals Officer 1/Surreys, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy), telephoned me to say that I should write something for the News Letter about the Cossacks, as at the end of last year there was a long court case between Count Nicolai Tolstoy and Brigadier Toby Low, now Lord Aldington.

As this can only be a column in the News Letter, and not a book, all I can say is that, with hindsight, it is rather like looking at faded snapshots in an old album.

In the Surreys we had survived Dunkirk, Tunisia, Cassino, and now with a sense of tremendous relief, we were still alive and our thoughts were mostly of home and families, and in the back of our minds the knowledge that we might have to start all over again in the invasion of Japan. We had been told there would probably be extremely heavy casualties. I am afraid we had little thought to spare for Cossacks, or the reasons why they had to be sent back to Russia. We knew all about the Yalta Agreement but did not give much thought to it except that it was impressed upon us that the Russians had overrun several British POW camps and that if we did not comply with their demands, these British POW's could be held as hostages.

At my level we did not appreciate the subtle differences between Soviet citizens, and the old-fashioned White Russians who had left Russia at the time of the Revolution in 1917.

In the beautiful valley of the river Drau between Ober Drauberg and Lienz in Carinthia, the scene was like an American Western a hundred years ago. Covered wagons, camp fires, tens of thousands of marvellous horses, the Cossacks (also of course, wives and children) in their incredible uniforms - some with British decoration from the Great War, which very proudly they showed us. I well remember the women, some of them busily making hammer-and-sickle flags which they were going to wave when handed over to Stalin. We requisitioned their horses, and I had a lovely one called Wotan also a dog called Ruskie. We had to feed these sad and scared people and I am afraid many of the horses ended up as sausage meat. I used to get phone calls about the horses and I used to say: "do you want horses for eating, or horses for riding?"

When the families had to be put on the trains and handed over, at least we provided ample 'compo' rations, blankets, and what ever else we could, but later I discovered from their escorts that on arrival in the Russian Zone of Austria they were stripped of these 'comforts', and the women and children marched off one way, and the men another. Their fate now too horrible to contemplate. 'Glasnost' was still far away.

I will pass over the unpleasant details of what we had to do, much of which I have discussed with Count Tolstoy, and which was revealed in the recent libel case, except to say that if obeying orders was wrong, then we were all in the same boat.

I am now sorry to say that thoughts of home, as far as I was concerned, were a priority.

R.C.T.

ARMY LINGO By Probitus

"Our Armies swore terribly in Flanders"
(Sterne, Tristram Shandy, ii, ch 2)

A pal loaned me a book entitled "Soldiers and Sailor Words and Phrases". The said pal is an enthusiastic student of military history; so much so that he has been known to prime his alarm for 4.30 am to digest a few chapters on the Gallic Wars. Before slapping on the Trumpers in preparation for the daily grind. So I accepted the offer of the loan of the book with diffidence for my reading preferences lean more to the pacem than to the bellum.

However, on a rainy Sunday afternoon with nothing on the box I turned the pages idly and soon became completely engrossed in this book published in 1925. I do not set out to impress more grizzled, battle-scarred veterans than I but some of the revelations found between the pages of this compulsive tome are revealing of the humour that somehow superimposed itself upon the misery, the tragedy and the appalling conditions of life for the front line soldier in the trenches during the 'Great' War of 1914-18.

There are two accounts I feel bound to include. First let me say that the book is laid out alphabetically with the word or phrase used picked out in bold followed by an explanation and - in certain instances - an example or two. Thus 'CANARY' was a name for any soldier wearing a yellow brassard; an instructor at a gas school or one of the Sanitary Corps of the RAMC. Likewise Battalion Sanitary Orderlies attending to latrines etc, generally as a punishment for some wrongdoing. Canaries were used in the war by the Royal Engineer Tunnelling Companies as gas detectors, being quickly affected by the presence of gas, otherwise imperceptible, in the mine galleries. It is said that a particular bird gave the necessary warning of gas by dropping off his perch twice. Having recovered from both episodes he apparently reckoned he had 'done his bit' for the war effort; in the next and subsequent forays into the mine gallery he fell off his perch within seconds of entry; there was not the slightest suspicion of the presence of gas. This wise old bird was relieved of this hazardous duty and took post as the Commanding Officer's pet!

On then to 'THE PORK AND BEANS'. This was a nickname in common use for our Portuguese allies serving on the Western Front.

When the Portuguese arrived there was a surfeit of tins of pork and beans; the British Tommy had made it plain that he was heartily sick of this particular dish and the decision was made to foist surplus supplies off on the Portuguese. To everyone's amazement the Portuguese took to the pork and beans with avidity and hence the nickname. At a British Divisional Concert a song was introduced 'Pork and Beans for the Portuguese!' The staff held up their hands in horror and a confidential order was issued requiring the Portuguese to be referred to by the Sobriquet 'Our Oldest Allies'. Unfortunately an indiscreet Adjutant published the Staff directive in Battalion orders and howls of derision swept like bushfire through the British lines and the 'Pork and Beans' nickname was immortalised. There is another tale concerning the gastronomic pursuits of 'Our Oldest Allies'. In March 1918 to assist the Portuguese in establishing a pigeon messenger service the Signal Staff of a certain British Division sent two pairs of pigeons to the Portuguese Headquarters with instructions. Results were awaited but the birds did not return to their loft. The third day after the birds departure a Portuguese Staff Officer arrived with a letter; "We thank our comrades the British Officers for their hospitality which we have much enjoyed!"

Recalling Roulement tours to Northern Ireland in more recent times and the restriction on Alcohol consumption it seems that things have not changed all that much. Tommy Atkins had a word 'AVEC'. Spirits were forbidden at the Front so at the Estaminet the order was for 'Cafe avec' with the accent on the

'avec'. The meaning was obvious to the proprietor and the coffee would come with the stronger stuff as accompaniment. In time the word 'AVEC' became a colloquialism for any form of alcohol.

Superstition played a big part in morale; we are all familiar with the derivation of the superstition of the third light. Of great significance to the front-line soldier was 'THE LEANING VIRGIN OF ALBERT'. On the tower of the Church of Notre Dame des Brebieres at Albert, a town between Arras and Amiens, stood a gilded statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, holding the Child in her outstretched arms. The tower was struck by German shells in October 1914 and the statue leaned over from its pedestal at right angles in a horizontal position, apparently about to fall at any moment. Thus it remained until March 1918 when during a German 'push' the tower was finally destroyed. During the three and a half years leading up to the destruction of the tower the legend spread that the gilded image of the Virgin and Child was supernaturally protected and would not be permitted to fall until the end of the war; also, that its fall would portend the doom of the Hohenzollern dynasty in Germany. Alas, a footnote suggests that the leaning statue was secretly made safe by British Sappers to maintain the superstition and at the same time bolster local Morale!

Other words and phrases indicate the humour (and in certain instances cynicism) of the lads at the front.

'AN AGONY' - the soldiers' derogatory term for a young newly-joined officer, confused or displaying nervousness in giving commands.

'ALL ARMS AND LEGS' - issue ale, having no body! Likewise weak tea.

'BLINKIN' - a more polite form of 'bloody'. It is related that a smart young Staff Officer in the South African War rode up to a party of dusty infantrymen wearily tramping over the veldt. In answer to his enquiry "Are you the West Ridings?" came the reply from the ranks "No we ain't. We're the blinkin' Buffs - walking!"

'BOMBARDIER FRITZ' - Fried potatoes (aberration of the French 'pommes de terre frites')

'THE CLUTCHING HAND' - The Quartermaster Sergeant as being popularly supposed (mostly unjustly) to derive personal benefit when there was a shortage of supplies, rations etc. (From a lurid film of the period of the same title.)

'DUKIES' - The familiar name for the boys (soldiers' Orphans) of the Duke of York's Royal Military School established in 1801 in Chelsea and removed in 1909 to Dover. In the Great War 2,427 Dukies were killed, 215 gained commissions and 185 won decoration including a VC.

'LANDOWNER' - A common colloquialism at the Front for a soldier killed in action and buried in France.

'LOAD OF LOOSE' - An expression for the burst on impact of a big shell; from the mass of earth and debris thrown up by the explosion.

'LONG-EARED CHUM' - a mule

'LONG-FACED CHUM' - a horse

'LONG-HAIRED CHUM' - a girl!

'OMMS AND CHEVOOS' - the soldier's corruption of 'HOMMES' and 'CHEVAUX' marked on French railway vans to denote which carriages were for humans and which vans were for horses. Wrote a soldier to his girl "There was trucks for Omms and Chevoos, which means men and horses in French. I went in one and we was packed so close we never had room to change our minds."

'PUTTY MEDAL' - Derogatory colloquialism suggesting that a decoration has been earned cheaply.

'RACE CARD' - the morning sick report

'RAINBOW' - post Armistice recruits or reinforcements (ie arriving after the storm had passed)

'Sawmill' - the operating theatre of a hospital

'THEY'VE OPENED ANOTHER TIN' - used in a derogatory sense by seasoned campaigners to describe a newly-arrived officer or draft.

'UNDERTAKER'S SQUAD' - stretcher bearers.

'VC MIXTURE' - sardonic term for the rum ration issued in cold weather before an attack.

'VIN BLANK' - white wine.

'VIN BLANK ANGLAIS' - whisky!

'WAD SCOFFER' - bun addict, hence teetotaler.

These are examples of phrases introduced by those incredibly brave men who suffered the dangers and the hardship of life in the trenches during the First World War. Most have passed into disuse although as recently as 1948 when I joined as a young sprog butter was still 'muckin' and gravy 'gippo'.

Perhaps the final paragraph should be reserved for an extract from the section of the book entitled 'CASUALTIES' and I quote:

"The toll of the war in human life, counting in both combatants and non-combatants, is thus graphically set forth by another American statistician. He pictures the vast host of fallen passing a given spot, ten abreast, day and night. To pass the spot it would he says, take the British dead ten days, the French dead eleven days, the Russian dead five weeks. All the Allied fallen would take two and a half months; the enemy dead six weeks; and a column of all the killed in the War four Months"

GOLF SOCIETY

The autumn meeting of the Golf Society was held at the Woking Golf Club on Thursday 5 October 1989, our first visit to this course. 17 members attended and were all delighted to be joined at Lunch by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Mike Reynolds.

The results of the Competition were as follows:

Autumn Bowl : Captain J. A. Clark 61 net

Glasgow Greys Cup: Major P.T. Carroll 71 net

Heales Memorial

Trophy : Colonel J. G. W. Davidson 40 points

Veterans Halo: Captain J. A. Clark 45 points

John Clark also retained the Petri Plate with a combined score for the Spring and Autumn Meetings of 136, just one strike ahead of John Davidson.

The afternoon Foursome Competition was won by the partnership of Lt. Colonel F.B. Herd and Major W.J. Sutton. Foster Herd also won First Prize in the sweep.

The fixtures for 1990 will be as follows:

Spring Richmond Golf Club Thursday 3 May

Autumn Woking Golf Club Thursday 4 October

Royal Marines North Hants Golf Club Wednesday 4 July

FVS.

Cpl A H. Herbert. 6th Bn The Queens (RWS) The Great War

Taken From A Book Compiled By Sergeant Bert Hughes, RAMC., Whilst Serving At Ecclesbourne Road Hospital, Croydon, Surrey, During The Great War.

A brief account of the experiences of Corporal A.H. Herbert 6th Queens (R.W.S.) Regiment during the Great War.

On May 29th 1915 12 Division left Aldershot and embarked for France on the SS Invicta arriving at Boulogne about midnight and spent the remainder of the night in St. Martins camp. The following evening we left by train for a village called Gueve, where we stayed for two days.

From here we commenced our march towards the firing line, and after two days hard marching in full pack, we reached the town of Meteren where we camped in the open fields for four days. From here we marched through Armentieres to Plug-street and held the front line there, and received our baptism of fire. After which we spent a few days at the blue blind factory at Armentieres. We then took over the line at La Touquet, where we remained until September. The strength of the battalion was 25 Officers and 1,010 other ranks.

During our stay here our Division did a tremendous amount of work in building new trenches, and fixing up barbed wire entanglements between our front line and the enemies. While this work was in progress (which was always carried out under the cover of darkness) patrols were moving about close up to the German wire entanglements, to protect our working parties from a surprise attack by the enemy. This patrol work was looked upon by many officers N.C.O.s and men as great sport, and many daring feats were accomplished. Before we left this part of the line in September, we had made many nightly raids into the enemy trenches. Towards the end of September we were hurried straight from the trenches at La Touquet to Loos, and took over a wide front some distance in front of Loos village, and soon set to work digging the new firing line, but before this was accomplished we had to meet some very strong counter attacks by the enemy, who brought up re-inforcements, but after very heavy fighting the enemy were repulsed, and before day break our position had been consolidated. The enemy finding his efforts to take the lost ground fruitless. shelled our positions heavily. But however much our new positions were battered by their fire, all attempts by their infantry to storm the positions was stopped by our fire, or the bayonet. During the weeks we had in this position we had very little rest, and if one was able to get more than one hours sleep in 24 hours he was lucky.

At the beginning of October our Divisional Commander, Major General Wing was killed by a shell, and Major General A B Scott CB DSO assumed command of the Division.

On October the 10th 1915 we took over a new position at Hulluch and were informed we were with the aid of the 7th East Surrey's to oust the enemy from a strongly held fortified position they held in our new front line. On October 14th our artillery shelled the enemies lines for 2 hours from 12 noon till 2 oclock, punctually at 2 oclock our boys scrambled out of our trenches and dashed into the German stronghold, and after hard fighting found ourselves in possession of the position. But under the cover of darkness the enemy who were the famous Prussian Guard, made a fierce counter attack, our supply of bombs had run out but we still hung on. But just before dawn our reinforcements arrived, and the Prussians were finally driven out. We were relieved by another battalion the following day, and went back to a village called Bourquin, where we

stayed for six days. Our casualties were one killed and 15 NCO's and men wounded.

On October 22 we relieved the Welsh Guards in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. The wet weather having set in made it impossible for either side to take the offensive. The weather here, as it was all through the following winter was our worst enemy. At night there was a lively exchange of bombs at the sap heads, and during the day the snipers on both sides were very active.

After a long stay in various parts of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, we went back to the village of Lieves about four miles from Lilles. We stayed here for a fortnight's well earned rest. Early in December we took over the line at Givenchy, and Festerburt, where the enemy were using rifle grenades and trench mortars very freely.

Just before we left this neighbourhood I received my first wound (shrapnel in the knee). I was admitted into a hospital near Bethune, but I was able to join my company after a fortnight's stay in hospital.

Early in February (1916) our Division took over once again the Hohenzollern Redoubt, but little did we know the rough time that was in store for us. The miners on both sides had been busy all the winter sapping under the opposing lines, where a great many mines had been laid ready to be sprung.

Our Division's first night there, will never be forgotten by those who are spared to come out of this war alive. Our miners sprung six mines in the enemies lines, and long before the earth and debris had finished falling our infantry were engaged in a bloody struggle for the craters. By morning we had taken all the craters and consolidated them. But the ground between was covered with dead and wounded British and Germans. For the next 10 days and nights that followed this sort of thing went on, mines were exploded on both sides followed by the fierce struggles for the craters.

On the twelfth of March we were holding a large crater and during the night the enemy made a determined attempt to storm it after pelting us for hours with rifle grenades, trench mortars, and aerial torpedoes, but after a fierce struggle which lasted for about two hours, they were repulsed with heavy losses.

During this attack a piece of shrapnel entered my shoulder, but I was able to carry on until the midnight of March 14th when an aerial torpedo burst in the crater and shattered my left hand. The twentieth of March found me in the Red Cross Hospital, Balham, where I remained for ten weeks until my wounds were healed. My stay there will always be to me one of the pleasantest pages in the history of my short military career.

MEDALS

The Distinguished Conduct Medal, three World War 1 medals, bronze memorial plaque and citation of Private Walter Day, 2nd Queen's, were recently presented, beautifully cased and mounted, to the Clandon Museum by Pte. Day's brother. They make a most welcome addition to the Museum's medals collection which now numbers over 2,000. A copy of Pte. Day's citation is shown below. He was killed later on in the War.

9059 Private W. Day, 2nd Bn., R. W. Surr. R. (attd. 173rd Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers) (LG 11 Mar. 1916). For conspicuous gallantry. With two others, by seven hours' continuous work, he tunnelled through 20 feet of debris and broken timber and rescued two men who had been buried in a branch gallery by the explosion of an enemy mine. To save time

they put up no props and thus were in danger of being themselves buried.

R.F.

NO SOFT OPTION

"A private of the 2nd Regiment of Foot (named John Furnell), when lying at Hull, had received 300 lashes, inflicted with such severity that he died in consequence at York. A coroner's inquest was held on the body, which continued two days.

Mr Andrew Browne, a surgeon in the 2nd Dragoons Guards, under whose care Furnell was placed on his arrival at York, thought that had the man been able to take sufficient nourishment he might have recovered; the lungs, he said were in a state of putrefaction, but that might have occurred subsequent to the punishment. He, however added, "that the man's bones were as bare of skin and flesh, as if his back had been scraped with a knife!" - Lieutenant Waring, the Adjutant of the 2nd Regiment, stated, that the deceased was tried by a Court Martial for having in his possession a silver spoon or spoons, belonging to the mess of the regiment, which he offered to dispose of, knowing them to have been improperly obtained. That the man was found guilty, and sentenced to receive 300 lashes, and that no more lashes were inflicted than the sentence authorised. That the deceased rode from Hull to York in the baggage cart. - Maurice Alexander, Surgeon of the 2nd Regiment, said, if he had thought the deceased unable to travel he should have been left behind. He examined the back of the deceased at Beverley, after the first days march and dressed it; he then appeared to be doing well. After the second days march, the deceased complained of his back, and on examination, witness had found that a mortification had commenced, and that the deceased was at that time labouring under a very smart fever. Witness did not know of any proper medical man with whom to leave him, and in consequence the deceased was taken to York. He complained of having received a hurt on the baggage cart. Witness concluded by admitting that the weather was extremely hot during the march - This closed the evidence; and the Jury returned a verdict: "That the deceased received 300 lashes; and that he died of the same, and of the fever, mortification and debility, arising therefrom".

Extracted from John Bull 4th August 1822

ST DUNSTAN'S

St Dunstan's are appealing for help to contact ex-servicemen and women who are now blind and somehow have escaped their net. They would be most grateful for any help that readers can give them to find these men and women, whom they could assist in many different ways if only they know who and where they are.

As readers will be aware, their primary task is to assist those whose loss of sight is related to their Service in the Forces. They can also, through the 'Gubbay Trust' give some assistance to ex-servicemen and women whose blindness is not a result of their Service in Her Majesties Forces.

If any reader is aware of any of their friends who they think are blind or have grossly defective vision, please notify the Secretary at Canterbury, who will contact St Dunstan's and they can then follow this information through on their own welfare net.

ANOTHER SOLDIER/POLICEMAN

Under the heading of "A Gallant Soldier/Police Officer" in the May, 1989 Newsletter, I wrote of the career of a former 31st (East Surrey) Regiment officer, Captain P.G.H. Fellowes, who eventually became Chief Constable of Hampshire and who was tragically killed while stopping a runaway horse at Winchester in 1893.

Another officer, this time of the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment, who became a Chief Constable, was Captain John Charles Tyrwhitt Drake. His Army record shows that he was "Ensign by purchase, 16 April 1852, Lieutenant without purchase, 6 June 1854, Captain by purchase, 1st Bn., 26 October 1858, retired by sale, 20 July, 1866". He served in the China campaign of 1860 and was present at the action of Sinho, the taking of Tangku and the surrender of Peking. He received the China Medal with two clasps.



"Captain J. C. Tyrwhitt Drake, Chief Constable Buckinghamshire 1896". Photo supplied by Buckinghamshire Record Office BC/7/1 who we are grateful to for their assistance and allowing us to reproduce this picture.

Appointed Chief Constable of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary in 1867, he found it necessary in his early days to instil some firm, but just, military type discipline into his Force. Drunkenness was one problem, and not only in the lower ranks. On one occasion an Inspector appeared drunk on duty at Court and gave song in hearty (but unappreciated) voice before the Magistrates. For this escapade Captain Drake reduced the miscreant to the ranks. At the other end of the scale, an over enthusiastic mounted constable quickly dispersed a group of citizens standing on Windsor Bridge before the approaching carriage of Queen Victoria only to find later that he had actually dislodged the Mayor and Corporation of the borough of Windsor who had been waiting to present an address of welcome to Her Majesty. There are no records of any disciplinary proceedings arising from the incident so presumably Captain Drake was satisfied that his man had acted in good faith and to the best of his ability.

Under Drake's leadership, morale and efficiency soon improved and once he found men to be reliable he allowed them plenty of scope for initiative. One Constable, P.C. (later Inspector) Pearman, in "hot pursuit" of a burglar, followed him on to a train and eventually arrested him at York, quite a trip in those days and one that showed that the Police Officer was confident of the support of his Chief Constable in his actions.

Captain Drake retired from the Force in 1896, his departure being regretted by those under his command. Prominent, and greatly prized, among his retirement gifts was a silver tea and coffee service, engraved "Captain John Charles Tyrwhitt Drake, Chief Constable of Bucks., with the best wishes of the constables on his retirement, June 1896".

There was strong Military competition for his succession to his post. The 62 applicants included 1 Colonel, 24 Majors, 19 Captains, 2 Commanders and 3 Lieutenants. Only 3 applicants were Police Superintendents. The appointment eventually went to Major Otway Mayne, formerly of The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

The military element and tradition among Chief Constables, particularly in County Forces, continued right up to the time of World War II and, in some instances, left behind certain Army habits and terminology. Within my own time (immediate Post-war), pay was issued at monthly "parades", single men's quarters were known as "barrack rooms", certain offices were "guard rooms" and the station reserve man responded to the call of "Guard".

R.F.

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT: DECEMBER 1915

The Winter of 1915 was one of the coldest of this century and we of the 9th East Surreys (The Gallants) were in the front line at Hoge. Some of the trenches were very shallow but we were unable to deepen owing to the state of the frozen ground.

On this particular night, standing on the fire-step doing sentry-go, owing to extreme cold limited to hourly spells, my feet are wrapped in sandbags with balaclava under helmet and mittens. It is full moon and brilliant and can see for miles but everything motionless not a breath of wind, yet not a sound and silence almost frightening. It's the most perfect natural scene I have ever witnessed. I am at peace with everything the War is at a standstill; the beauty of it all. Then in the distance, perhaps a mile or more in the rear, the sound of one lone mule drawing a G.S.wagon, advancing slowly with measured pace along a cobbled stone road. The sound of his hooves striking cobbles carried for miles and together with wheels grinding, it seemed as if an unseen small orchestra had suddenly opened up to provide a perfect ending to a perfect scene that I never wanted to end.

The measured pace of the mule seemed to turn it into a lullaby. After perhaps five or six minutes, it just suddenly stopped and although cold I still felt elated and content during my whole hour; this was the only sound that disturbed my peace and quiet.

I was relieved, and then reality stepped in. In the dug-out, feet absolutely frozen but too scared to remove boots to rub in the fat issued against frostbite, in case not able to get them on again should occasion occur.

Some years later, when I had developed a taste for classical music, I first heard Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and my scene was complete. It is my No.1 piece of music and I never tire of listening to it. My next favourite is Chopin's Funeral March, in memory of fallen comrades, and I put these two together.

Written for my own pleasure and to recall a moment of tranquillity in a time of sadness and horror and now, as I want to remember that War.

9524 H.E.H.

TALES FROM AN ADJUTANT . Tale One - A Rum One

On the 6th of February 1952 that beloved Monarch, King George the Sixth, died. Two days later the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) was told that it would be required to provide a detachment for route-lining duties at the State Funeral which was to take place on 15th February. Volunteers from the battalion's widely spread detachments had to be found, and Permanent Staff Instructors at the detachments then had to put them through the rudimentary drill required for such a ceremonial duty.

Came the 14th February, and all the Volunteers and PSI's reported to Battalion Headquarters at Kingston Barracks by 8 p.m. complete with uniform, equipment and arms, and prepared to spend the night at the Barracks. Then from just after 8 p.m. until 10.30 p.m. they paraded for the first time as one body to be put through by the RSM, the intricacies of that very difficult drill movement - "rest on your arms reversed". This accomplished, they bedded down in the Barracks until 4.30 a.m. on 15 February 1952.

At 5.30 a.m. on the bitterly cold morning of 15 February, the detachment embussed in 3 ton trucks for the journey to Hyde Park which was the London District Assembly Area for all troops on route-lining duty. Arriving here at 6.30 a.m., hot tea was served and haversack breakfasts eaten, prior to moving off at 8 a.m. to the allotted position for the detachment in the Edgware Road. Here, cold and possibly a little apprehensive, the detachment had to stand for a matter of two or more hours before the head of the funeral cortege was to appear.

The Detachment Commander, Major J H Johnson, who had been unable to appear for the full ceremonial drill session, took up his position in front and I positioned myself to his right rear from whence I could issue the words of command on his behalf.

Major Johnson, whose civil occupation was as a representative for the United Rum Company, had taken the precaution of issuing every officer and man on parade with a small bottle of Lamb's Navy Rum before moving off from Hyde Park. During the lengthy wait and long periods of "standing easy", the troops with their rifles firmly held between their knees, whilst ostensibly blowing on their frozen fingers, were in fact imbibing the warmth-giving liquor provided by their Detachment Commander! Three members of the Metropolitan Police stationed immediately behind the Detachment were not slow to also accept this largesse!

Tale Two - Booted but Unspurred

In the Autumn of 1952, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, was invited by the Borough of Richmond, Surrey, to re-open its refurbished Town Hall, and the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) was requested by the Borough to provide a Guard of Honour for this Royal occasion, together with a Band.

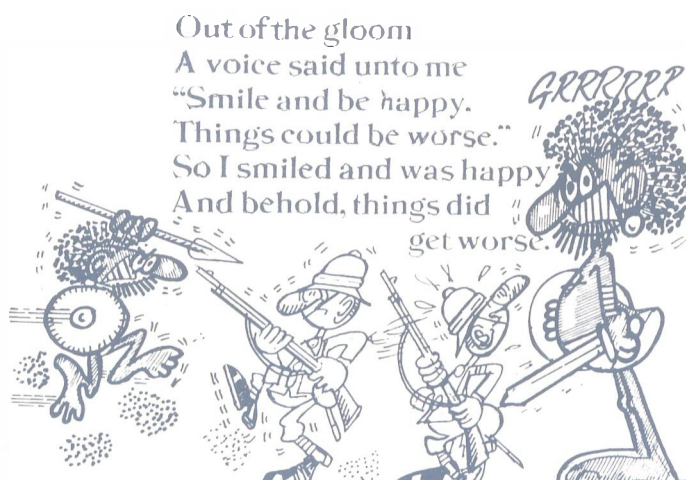
Unfortunately the Band of The East Surrey Regiment had recently left England to rejoin the 1st Bn of the Regiment in Libya, so I telephoned Captain Vivian Dunn RM at Eastleigh and asked him if it would be possible for him to provide a band for the occasion. As the ceremony was to take place during an afternoon, Captain Dunn said he would be only too pleased to bring and conduct a Royal Marine Band himself as it so happened that he and his band had an engagement that very evening at White City. This was to please The Queen Mother greatly as she had known Captain Dunn from his musical duties aboard the Royal Yacht.

The day of re-opening was appalling, dark and bucketting with rain. The Guard of Honour, commanded by Major G L A Squire, though great-coated, got soaking wet! The Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Lieut-Colonel T A Buchanan, had decided that he would accompany Her Majesty on her inspection of the Guard, and be dressed in No.1 Dress. This uniform he took to his civilian office where he changed,

only to discover that he had failed to pack his George boots or other suitable footwear. Nothing daunted, he borrowed a pair of black gum boots the tops of which he tucked underneath his No.1 Dress trousers, and in these unauthorised items of uniform he accompanied Her Majesty!

The Queen Mother had declined the services of an umbrella bearer saying that if the soldiers could get wet, so could she! It is highly probable that Colonel Buchanan had warmer and drier feet than anyone at the end of the occasion, including Her Majesty.

JFR



BUSTER BROWN REMEMBERS:

The Day of Indignity. "The Company will parade for F. F. I."

During the first weeks of service at the Depot, we were paraded in our hut during a bitterly cold spell, stark naked for two hours while we waited for the M.O. to arrive and inspect us, the time was interspersed with crude remarks by our senior N.C.O's, most of whom had been recalled to service on the outbreak of hostilities and I suppose found us a means of venting their spleen. I think this particular incident was the cause of my resentment to this form of body inspection in the following years, nakedness in the Army is the first thing you get used to, and I feel that most Privates felt distaste, rather the embarrassment at the manner that these F.F.I's were carried out, I am thinking of a day in the Jungle when we had an inspection. The most undignified parade in the British Army.

The M.O. was sitting in a chair beside the tarmac road, all the Officers were grouped around him, and we Privates had to cross the road individually, and go through the prescribed motions, which is common to all, but can you imagine this being observed by a native from the nearby village hiding behind a tree, having seen it all, rushing back to his village elders, and telling them of the wondrous sight he has just seen enacted. "There was a Rajah, sitting on his throne, with all his attendants standing around him; then the soldier Sahibs went to him one by one, stood facing the big man, dropped their trousers and raised their arms high in the air in praise of their Leader, they were all so very naked. The wise one looked closely at the soldiers bellies, then nodded his head, and this I could not believe, the soldier Sahibs turned round and bent over in obeisance, and showed the big man their bottoms, I just do not understand first they praise him, then they insult him. The customs of the Western Sahibs are very strange indeed".

It is possible that this story is still being told today, especially on April 14th, The New Year's Day of both Tamils and Sinhalese, this is homecoming day, when every man living away from his village makes every effort to get home, with their bellies full, and the toddy flowing freely, the old sages tell their stories to the young, and of the Soldiers day of indignity.

Stan Buster Brown 6103161 A Company.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT AND ITS FORBEARS 1848-1902

Movements of the Regiments

The 70th Regiment went to India in 1848, and remained fifteen years serving for most of the period around Peshawar and on the North West Frontier. During the Mutiny the Regiment was variously engaged and disarmed two sepoy regiments. The Queen's 2nd Regiment was in South Africa between 1851 and 1857, engaged in the Kaffir War and the expedition across the Orange River. It remained in, and around the Cape, until 1860.

After the Second Sikh War, 1848-1849, the 31st left India for the UK but after only a brief sojourn at home it re-embarked for the Ionian Islands arriving in 1853, and remaining until the outbreak of the Crimean War.

By 1858, a second battalion had been added to The Queen's which saw service in the Ionian Islands, Nova Scotia and the West Indies. From 1865 until 1877 it was in the UK and then went out to India until 1885. The 31st joined Raglan's Army in the Crimea in 1855 and, in the siege of Sevastapol, took part in several of the assaults. After the withdrawal in 1856 it returned to Gibraltar and from there was sent to India and, via a stop at the Cape, arrived in 1858. In 1860, it joined the 1st Bn The Queen's in China where both regiments took part in the capture of the Taku Forts and Peking. The Queen's then went back to India where it remained until 1879, and then returned home. The 31st remained in China and was sent north to take part in the Taiping campaign. In 1862, it fought at Shanghai and subsequently took part in the assault on the great stockade at Nanshiang and the taking of the walled cities of Kadim, Tsinpoo, Tselin and Najaw. It returned home in 1863, via Malta.

In 1863, the 70th left India for New Zealand where it fought the ferocious Maoris in the war of 1863-1866 and then returned home. In 1871, it returned once more to India to fight in the Second Afghan War and was part of the Candahar Column and the Thull Khotiali Field Force. It left India in 1884. In 1881, Edward Cardwell, introduced reforms which resulted, inter alia, in the abolition of the centuries old regimental numbering system and introduced, in its stead, a County based structure with recruiting and training limited to County based Depots. As a result of the re-organisation the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 2nd Foot became the battalions of The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment and the 31st and 70th Foot became the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively of The East Surrey Regiment, all with new badges and appointments.

The 1st Bn The Queen's served in Malta and Gibraltar between 1867 and 1876, when they returned home. The Battalion re-embarked for Malta in 1884, and a year later went on to India where it was to remain until 1891. The 2nd Bn The Queen's fought in the Burmah War of 1886-8 taking part in many fierce fights around dacoit stockades. It returned to India and served there until 1894 when it returned home. It subsequently went out to South Africa where it fought at Colenso, Ladysmith, Spion Kop and many other actions. In 1891, the 1st Battalion left India bound for Malta but returned to fight in the Tirah, Mohmand and Malakand campaigns until 1894.

The 1st Bn The East Surreys returned to Gibraltar in 1884 and from there went on to India where it remained until 1903. The 2nd Battalion was moved from India to Egypt in September 1884. Four months later it took part in the operations of the Suakin Field Force, fighting the Mahdist Dervishes at Kasheen and Tamai. This battalion returned home in September 1885, was back in Malta in 1893, and home again by 1895. It then went to the Cape and fought in the Boer War notably at Colenso, Ladysmith and Diamond Hill besides many other engagements. Private, later Sergeant, Curtis was awarded the VC for bringing his wounded Commanding Officer in under severe fire.

Dress

In 1843, the last of the bell-topped shakos was replaced with a cylindrical pattern with a front and back peak. Known as the "Albert" it had a Crowned circular plate for Other Ranks but a new style elaborate Crown and Star plate for the Officers. In 1845, Sergeants' sashes were made plain crimson worsted and white linen summer trousers replaced the existing lavender blue garments. Two years later, these were also withdrawn, and replaced with deep indigo blue. Oxford mixture, all but black, trousers were retained for the cold months. In 1848, laced pocket slashes in the coat and skirts were abolished.

In 1855, a new pattern shako replaced the 'Albert'. Although basically the same shape it had a deeper back and was tapered towards the crown. The overall effect was sharply tilted forward which prompted its popular name, the "French" shako. For the first time Infantry Officers were given rank distinctions in the form of gold lace bands around the top of the headdress in a style resembling the Austrian infantry. Colonels and Lt Colonels had two rows of lace and Majors one. At the same time the tight infantry coats were replaced by tunics. The first pattern was ugly and lasted only one year. Double-breasted, it had slashed cuffs and skirt pockets and the Officers had rank distinctions on the collars. It was followed by a smarter, shorter-skirted and single-breasted tunic with similar cuffs, pockets and collar badges. In 1861, the "French" shako, which had proved uncomfortable, was replaced by a plainer, smaller cap with a flat peak. It retained the French forward tilted style and was covered with blue cloth, visibly stitched to the cork carcass, which gave it the popular name, the "Quilted" shako. The new plate was a Crown and Star for all ranks.

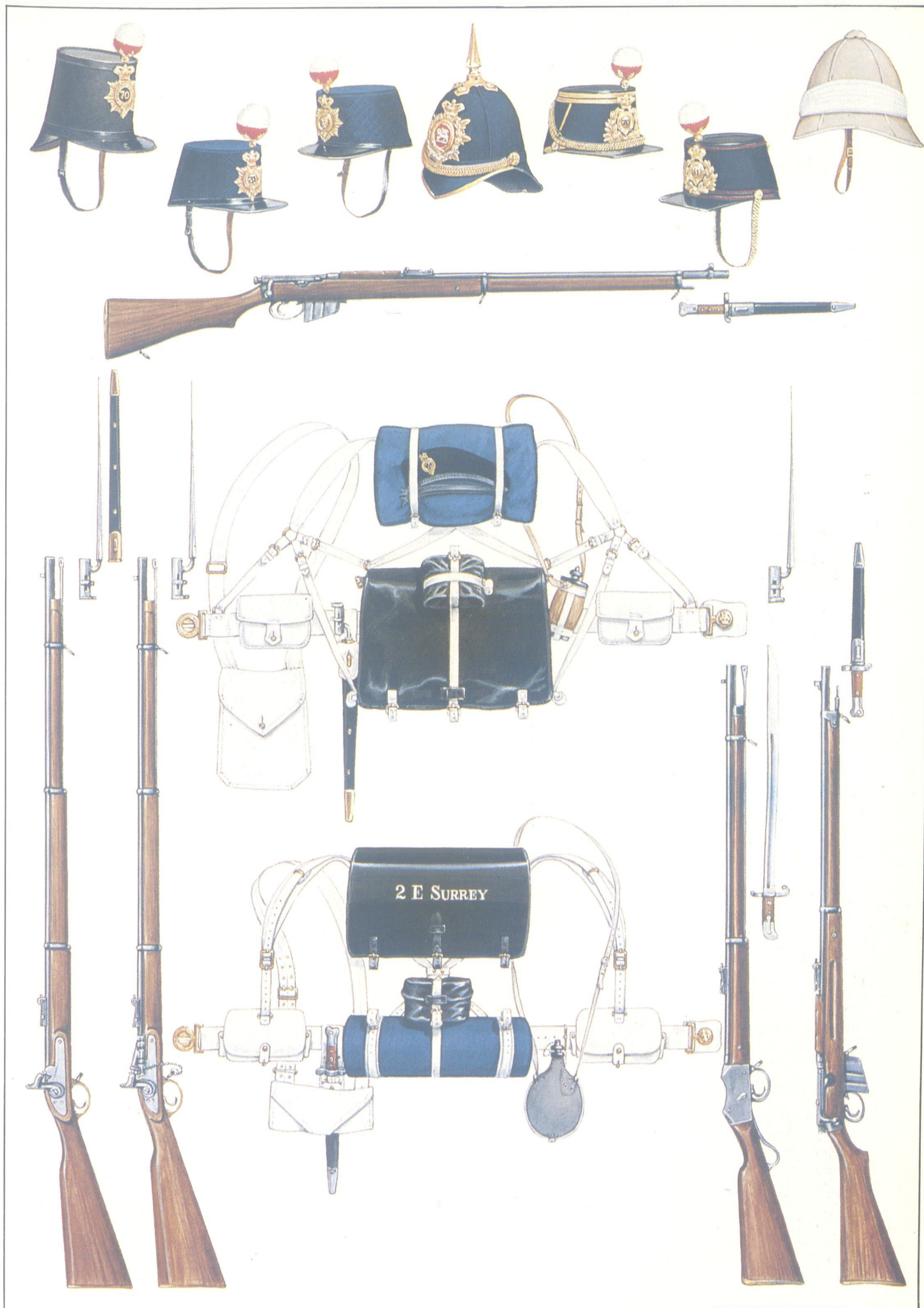
In 1868 the elaborate slashed cuffs and pockets in the skirts were abolished and the tunics were provided with plainer, pointed cuffs. Officers' cuffs were embellished with gold lace and looped gold tracing braid which differed from rank to rank. Other Ranks cuffs had a white braid edging with an inner band of white lace. Sergeants' chevrons changed from plain white to gold lace and their sashes were henceforth worn over the right shoulder. In 1870, the broad white cuff lace was discarded in favour of the remaining white braid being looped in a trefoil knot. In 1871, the Corporals' and Privates' tunics were made scarlet and the "Quilted" shako was replaced by the last British Infantry shako. It was similar in shape and style but somewhat lower and had a smooth blue cloth surface. The Officers' pattern had gold lace around the top and bottom edges and gold braiding up the sides and the centre back. NCOs and Other Ranks had a distinctive red and black braid on their caps. The new shako plate comprised a Crown over a Garter enclosing the regimental number, all enclosed by a wreath of laurel. In 1874 Other Ranks had the first issue of brass collar badges.

In 1878, the last of the infantry shakos was replaced by the home service blue cloth spiked helmet. Its design was principally inspired by the Prussian infantry headdress but also tended to follow the shape of the white foreign service cloth covered helmet already in universal use by battalions serving in India and elsewhere. The peaks were rounded for NCOs and men but pointed for Officers, who also had a gilt spine up the back to the spike base. All ranks had chin chains which could be hooked up. The plates were of the Crown and Star pattern and had regimental numbers until 1881, but thereafter the new County badges and titles. The foreign service helmet was dyed khaki for active service and a dome was supplied in lieu of the full dress spike. The NCOs and men had the glengarry for undress and the Officers adopted the same cap in 1877. In 1880 an alternative, straight sided droop peaked, forage cap was introduced for Officers and Staff Sergeants which replaced the old "cheescutter" flat peaked pattern. In 1894, a new style blue folding forage cap, in the Austrian style, was introduced for Officers and it was also adopted by the men shortly after.

Even prior to Cardwell's reforms it had been decided to alter the position of Officers' rank badges. After 1880, they were no longer worn on the collar but on twisted gold shoulder cords



Top from left to right: Officer's shako plate, 1856, Officer's helmet plate, 1885; Other Rank's helmet plate 1881; Other Rank's shako plate, 1861 and, below centred, an Other Rank's shako plate, 1868. Centre left: Two Officers forage caps of 1885 and 1876 with an Other Rank's glengarry of 1875. Centre right: Two Officer's forage caps of 1885 and 1895 and an Other Rank's field service cap of 1895. Centre bottom: An Other Rank's 'Kilmarnock' forage cap, of a grenadier company, 1855. A bugle and cord, 1900. The three figures show, in the centre, a Sergeant of the Battalion Company, 31st Regiment, Crimea 1854. Bottom left: is a Company Officer, Suakin, 70th Regiment, 1885. Bottom right: A Private of the Queen's, South Africa, 1900.



Top from left to right: Company Officer's shako, 1856; Company Officer's shako and an Other Rank's shako, 1861; Officer's home service pattern helmet, 1878; Company Officer's shako and Other Rank's shako, 1868; The foreign service helmet introduced about 1870. Under the headress is a Lee Enfield, 1895 pattern. From left to right: Lee Enfield, 1853 pattern; Snyder, 1866 pattern; Martini-Henry, 1874 pattern including Sergeant's yatagan blade bayonet; Lee Metford, 1888 pattern. Centre: At the top the 1871 Valise Equipment. Bottom, The 1888, Slade Wallis Equipment.

and at about the same time embroidered collar badges were introduced. Under the reforms the old traditional regimental facing colours were abolished except for Royal regiments, and henceforth English Regiments had white collars and cuffs. Tunics were also simplified. Round, so-called "jampot", cuffs replaced the pointed pattern with the trefoil braid ornament, and the backs had two buttons at the waist and two white braids down the back seams from the waist to the bottom edge. Officers retained their pointed, laced and braided cuffs, but the backs of their tunics were similar to the NCOs and men. Other Ranks had scarlet shoulder straps with white embroidered titles.

Khaki drill service dress had been introduced during the Great Mutiny and was now universally worn for most purposes other than Review Order in India. It was authorised for all hot stations in 1896. This was the uniform initially worn during the Boer War but was later replaced by a more substantial khaki serge and the slouch hat gradually replaced the khaki covered foreign service helmet. By 1902, the full dress tunics were again amended. The so-called "Prussian" back came into use. The central back vent was edged with white braid and between it and the two back seams were slashed pockets, each edged with white braid and provided with buttons. At the same time the Officers' cuffs were simplified, much of the elaborate braiding was removed in favour of a universal design, as worn previously by the Lieutenants. Other Ranks exchanged their "jampot" cuffs for a pointed style. These scarlet tunics were those worn until 1914 the only exception being the introduction of facing colour shoulder straps just before the outbreak of war. In undress the Officers wore the flat topped, peaked, forage cap and a blue frock coat, Other Ranks wore the peakless Brodrick cap between 1902 and 1905 when the flat topped forage cap was universally prescribed.

In 1902, an Army Order prescribed the use of khaki serge service dress which would be worn on all occasions other than Review Order in the United Kingdom and temperate stations. In hot stations khaki drill continued to be worn with the new wide brimmed Wolseley helmet and a white drill uniform was provided for ceremonial occasions.

ARMS

By 1842, most flintlock weapons had been replaced by percussion muskets and presently Infantry equipment was modernised. The long established method of cross-belted equipment was replaced by a single shoulder belt, supporting the cartridge pouch, and a waistbelt with a locket clasp which supported the bayonet in a frog.

In 1866, the Enfield, the last of the muzzle loading rifles, was replaced by the Snider, the first of the British breech loading weapons.

Between 1888 and 1892, the Infantry were armed with either the Mark I or Mark II Lee-Metford. In 1895 the long Lee Enfield was introduced, seven years later the matchless short Lee Enfield (the S M L E), with several marks, became the standard infantry rifle.

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

The RISQUONS-TOUT Action - Belgium May 25th 1940.

The Secretary has recently been in correspondence with the Secretary of the Risquons-Tout Memorial Committee in Belgium. For some time now the people of Risquons-Tout have been trying to obtain a MK 1 Bren gun carrier to restore and have it erected as a permanent memorial to three gallant soldiers of The 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

MOUSCRON is a medium-sized Belgian town (Pop: 35,000) located in the north-west of the country on the border with France. Mouscron is situated about 15 miles south of YPRES and 20 miles east of the French city of LILLE.

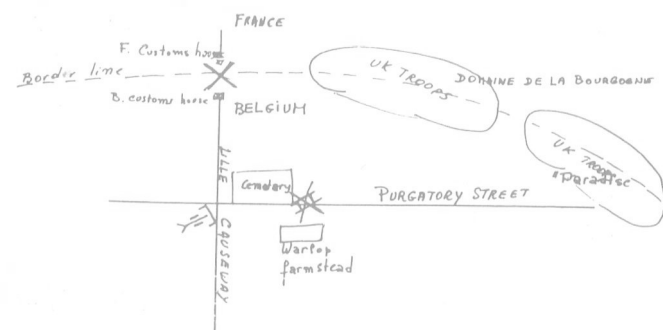
THE RISQUONS-TOUT, is a name given to one of the many Mouscron parishes.

Historical background:

Shortly after the invasion of Belgium (May 10th 1940) BEF units took up positions along the Franco-Belgian border. Some of these units were deployed at the Risquons-Tout, on either side of the border line. Troops were billeted in farmhouses or manned bunkers built for the Belgian Army a few months previously. On May 20th and 21st, as a fierce battle was being fought in the TOURNAI area (15 miles south of Mouscron) an important convoy of lorries and bren-carriers was sent to reinforce the system.

The British High Command feared a German breakthrough and had road-blocks established along all major highways. On May 22nd it was decided to blow up a portion of the Lille Causeway between the two customs houses. The blast seriously damaged at least ten houses, which had been previously vacated.

The first clash with the enemy occurred on May 24th when heavy German shelling hit and damaged the Warlop farmstead.



The Action.

On the 25th May 1940 at approximately 08.30 hrs in the morning a section of German infantry occupied the crossroads at the Lille Causeway and Purgatory Street. Shortly after, a bren gun carrier with three British private soldiers of the 1/6th East Surreys arrived on the scene. The bren gun carrier immediately attacked the German force taking them by surprise. Some of the Germans managed to find shelter on the other side of the cobbled road. Reinforcements for the Germans arrived with an Officer and six Feldgrau armed with a light anti-tank gun which they quickly positioned for action. The Bren gun carrier having inflicted casualties on its first attack, had retired up the road and then made a second attack with their light machine guns firing at the new position. The German anti-tank gunners let the carrier approach to approx two hundred metres and scored a direct hit killing the driver. The carrier was destroyed and the two machine gunners found shelter in a clump of trees nearby. One of them was shot shortly afterwards. A total of twelve men British and German lost their lives in this skirmish, the driver of the carrier Private Brian Warring was 21 years of age, and Private Horace Roberts aged 19 were both from the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. These two soldiers were first of all buried at the Risquons-Tout cemetery, their bodies were later transferred to the Hervellee Military Cemetery where they rest today.

SO THERE WE WERE

1690 The Queen's were in Ireland where King James II and King William III were in conflict. When William arrived in the Emerald Isle he was greeted by the Duke of Schomberg who drove out from Carrickfergus attended by Major-General Kirke and other officers of the Regiment.

1710 At Berwick, preparing for an expedition to Canada, the Queen's were stated to be 250 below establishment. They were ordered to recruit men "by beat of drum or otherwise so as to complete the establishment as speedily as possible". Captain James Abercrombie was in trouble with the law over a duel with Mr Robert Nevil with whom he "later became reconciled". As a result of England and Holland being at war with France and Spain, the 31st Regiment were campaigning in the Mediterranean where Lieutenants Sheppard and Harwood and 2nd Lieutenant Millner died.

1740 After a period of peace, the Army was again preparing for war on the Continent. The 31st, commanded by Colonel Handsayd, seemed to be overburdened with aged and long serving officers. The Colonel himself had thirty-five years service and Lieutenant Colonel Beckwith had served for forty-five years and had been one of the original officers of the Regiment when it was raised as Villier's Marines. William Drummond, one of the Captains, was an even older soldier as his first commission dated from 1686. James Baird, the junior Captain, had eighteen years service and many of the lieutenants were of even longer standing.

The Queen's on garrison duty at Gibraltar and Minorca, were suffering badly from sickness and many men died. The situation was made worse by the fact that a medicine chest being sent out to them was captured by a Spanish privateer so for six months they were without medicine.

1780 The Queen's were encamped in Hyde Park in June heavily committed to restoring order during the notorious and religiously inflamed Gordon Riots. Assisted by the Surrey Militia, it is recorded that they "saved the metropolis of the empire from pillage and fire" thus setting a precedent for their successors to follow two hundred years later in Northern Ireland. The 70th Regiment, engaged in the American War of Independence, sent a small force from New York to form a base at Portsmouth on the James River. This force, chiefly composed of American Loyalists and other irregulars, was commanded by Brigadier-General Benedict Arnold who had recently deserted from the American Army and returned to his British allegiance.

1800 The 70th were ordered from Gibraltar to the West Indies. The Headquarters and six other companies duly arrived at Trinidad but the remaining four companies had to put into Lisbon harbour when their ship sprung a leak at sea. They were then returned to Jersey and the remainder of the Regiment were recalled from Trinidad to join them (probably with no regrets).

The Queen's seem to have been on the move in England as at times they were, either wholly or in part, at Ashford (Kent), Romsey, Honiton, Chard, Creckerne and Shaftesbury. In the same year they changed their head-dress from cocked hats to shakoes.

1820 Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Jordan, The Queen's were inspected at Eve Leary Barracks, Demerara on 8th August by Major-General John Murray. Although reported as satisfactory, the privates were said to be a very indifferent body of men, "many of them undersized and almost all of those who came out to this Army with the Regiment so worn down by the effects of climate and disease as to be rendered unfit for active operations".

The 31st were still in Manchester where they were engaged in maintaining order in the disturbed times which followed the Peterloo Massacre of the previous year. In June, before departing for Sunderland, they received appreciative letters from the municipal authorities of both Manchester and Salford for their work.

1860 The 31st were in China and at the battle of Tang-Koo their sharpshooters were effective silencing an enemy rocket battery which was firing from high reeds on the bank of the Peiko river.

The Queen's also in China, successfully attacked and overwhelmed the Taku Forts and advanced to Peking where they found the French already in occupation. It was from the Summer Palace that the Regiment acquired the Peking Vase which is now a highly prized regimental treasure in the museum at Clondan.

1900 Saw The Queen's in the South African War where they fought at Tugela River, Spion Kop, Monte Christo (which they captured in a bayonet attack) and Ladysmith. On 12th April they were joined by a Volunteer Battalion commanded by Captain de la Mare, the first time that Volunteers had been called on to fight alongside the Regulars. Before leaving South Africa at the end of the year the Field Marshall, Commander in Chief, desired Lieutenant Colonel F.H. Fairclough, "to convey his thanks to all ranks under his command for the good work they had performed on the lines of communication during the present war, work which Lord Robert states he knew from his own experience was monotonous and apparently thankless, tho' at the same time most important and responsible".

Often fighting in the same territory as the Queen's, were The East Surreys. At Bastion Hill, during the Spion Kop operations, F company of the 2nd Battalion were much exposed and all the officers were hit. Lieutenant Colonel Harris and Captain Packman had bullets through their uniforms and Lieutenant Porch, who had received a head injury in earlier action at Tugela River, was severely wounded in the leg. Again they had their Volunteer Battalions fighting alongside them and, writing of the Volunteer Service Company, Major H.W. Pearse, Commanding the 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment said, "Its conduct, during its six months' duty out here, has been excellent. Officers, Non-Commissioned and men have one and all shown a most soldier like spirit. They have always been anxious to take their full share of the work and from the very beginning I was able to feel perfect confidence in them and put them in responsible positions. When they took part in the operations in Northern Natal and in the action at Allcman's Nek (Major Benson tells me) their conduct could not have been improved on....."

1920 The Queen's were in India and acted at Philibhit "in aid of the civil power". The General Officer Commanding later received an appreciative letter from the Commissioner of the Rohilcand who said, ".....I must thank you for the prompt way in which you sent them (the troops) off to our assistance here..... The coming of the troops was immensely appreciated by the bulk of the population, who, owing to their presence, were able to sleep safely in their beds on Friday night". While the Queen's were struggling to keep the peace in India, the East Surreys were similarly engaged in Ireland where, not for the first or last time, the people were deeply involved in seething trouble and rebellion. At the end of the year embarkation was made for Palestine via Southampton.

1940 The Queen's after heavy fighting in France, were eventually evacuated via Dunkirk. The Naval Commander in Chief wrote, "The bearing, good order and discipline of the Queen's Royal Regiment on its return from Dunkirk was an example and inspiration to us of the Royal Navy". Also returned from France, the East Surreys found themselves mainly engaged in coastal defence work, particularly in the south of England. Disaster struck at Bournemouth in November when fifteen men were killed by a parachute mine which fell on D Company Headquarters.

1960 By now The Queen's and The East Surreys were amalgamated and forming The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, inheriting great traditions of the past from their ancestors and preparing to hand them on to their successors of the future.



FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

THE BRITISH BATTALION

Text of a signal received from 1 Queen's in December 1989 who were then in N. Ireland:- "From CO and all ranks. Will drink to British Bn on 20 Dec 89 in the officers mess. We remember with pride the gallant stand by our forebears 2nd Bn East Surrey Regiment and 1st Leicesters at Kampar. We commemorate the leadership of Lt Col Morrison MC and the Bns fortitude during the years of captivity."

VIC LILLEY writes: to ask that we publish an apology to all his mates for not being at Bassingbourn last year. Vic has been unwell but is now on the road to recovery and God willing will be at the Reunion this year.

F. ROBERTS writes:

A vivid memory of mine is at the surrender of the 51st Highland Div to which we were attached, of the Cpl bugler playing our unfamiliar bugle call. I was within 10ft of him and he threw the bugle to the ground afterwards.

We were then marched via cattle trucks and barges to Poland where I spent 5 years in numerous camps, the last one being at Auschwitz. I would particularly like to hear from any other of my comrades who shared the same experience.

G. R. LEFERRE writes:

Thank you very much for the two Newsletters which I received on Wednesday, as I am convalescing after an operation I was able to sit down and read them both from cover to cover and found them of great interest.

When I was in Germany I served in the MMG Platoon, Support Company and in 'B' Coy and in Malaya, I first served in 'C' and 'D' companies. I joined the old comrades association at Bandan in Johore, but lost my card when a box I had a lot of personal stuff in was flooded during the monsoons, it was some time in 1955 I think.

As you can see I have enclosed a cheque for 6.60 as my subscription to the newsletter, lapel badge and Regimental Assoc in case you cannot find my records as it was so long ago.

LES MITCHELL writes from Wellingborough, Northants:-

Thank you for all the details of the Association and the Newsletters, before closing I read with interest the article in

the November 89 Newsletter No 46, written by a Mr A Joslin:- who stated he was one of the intake from the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry which joined the 1/7th Queen's at Milborne Port in 1939. It so happens I was the corporal who met them at Milborne Port station, and I will never forget that march to Milborne Port Village. I formed them up outside the station, and after making the roll call, I gave the order to move off, they didn't move off - they took off and left me standing! That was the first and last time I ever tried to keep pace with the Light Infantry, and by the time we reached Milborne Port, I had just enough breath to bring them to a halt, I wonder if he remembers me. 'Happy Memories'. -

E. G. HUTCHINGS writes:

I am writing to thank you for the Newsletter which you kindly sent me, it was so nice to read and have all the news from the Regiment after so many years of being out of touch, the last time was at Trieste after our crossing of the Po. I finished at the riding school where we had a number of horses for officers and other ranks. I wondered if anyone remembers the place, the only officer I can remember is Lt Crowe MC.

I would so love to come to a reunion one day, it would be difficult as I am confined to a wheelchair these days.

Mr L. KING Writes:

Many thanks for the November edition of the Newsletter, it was a great thrill for me, to see the photo of Ted Corpes on the back page. He was my sergeant, when I was called up in 1939 at the East Surrey Depot in Kingston.

I was wondering if it would be possible for me to have his address, so I could write to him.

K. H. BARBER writes:

Thank you for the Newsletters, what a roll call they presented to me. I started out a National Serviceman with the East Surrey Regiment in 1951.

Sorry to hear about Jack Cox, my QM at the time I also read of Lt Col Hannaford, sounds like my old Company Commander of SP Coy.

After my two years mainly in Libya and Egypt I found myself posted to 6th Queen's (Bermondsey) for three years compulsory TA service.

RSM Atkins was spot on with his description of this unit and I signed up with them as a regular TA man.

Over the years through amalgamation I came to know many members of both Queens and Surreys and of course we became 3 Queens Surreys. Also I got to know those grand gentlemen of 2/4th Queens and paraded with them to lay up colours at Croydon.

I left the TA in 1968 when it became the TAVR as by then I was getting a bit over the hill.

RSM Boorer told me I was a mug to leave on completion of my National Service, he was probably right, but on the other hand I would have missed out on another great experience the TA gave me in meeting such a great team.

G. W. DIMOND writes:

Since Xmas 88 I have been "under doctors orders" slight heart attack! I am at last beginning to feel myself again, a lot of thanks being due to my dear wife, and her nursing. As we are both 76 years of age, this is no small achievement, is it? And in August we celebrate our 55 years of marriage, not bad eh?

We often talk of our social evenings etc. held at the 6th Surreys drill hall in Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey, before and after the 39 war, happy days, great and sincere company too!

My number 6138674 came to me in July 1929, when I cycled over to Hersham from Cobham, to join up.

I forget the Sgts name, but as I was only 16 yrs old then (1929) he suggested that I say I am 17, and take the "Kings" 1/-. This I did, and I have never regretted it. The TA did so much for my outlook on life, and my wisdom! cor, how about that, eh? I live only about half a mile from the only TA Annual camp site in the forest that I attended in 1930. It rained here for two weeks. The second week our chaps were taken in the local's houses to get out of the awful weather. Many old timers here remember it well, including one of 85 yrs, who had a waiters job in the officer's mess. He loved every minute of it.

Ex Sgt W MARTIN writes from 8 Memorial Homes, Castle Lane West, Bournemouth BH8 9TP.

Through the kindness of Mr Frank Woodsford who looks after our welfare I have received the two Association newsletters you forwarded for me. These were most interesting to me as several articles covered my service with the Queens from Salerno to Anzio where I was seriously injured. Also another article described the boys in early 1940 at Caterham where I joined the 2/6th Battalion after spending four months at the Royal Berks line I.T.C at Blandford. We went from Caterham to France as LOC troops and returned after the Dunkirk evacuation to take up a position for training and defence on the Isle of Sheppey, then Faversham and Ashford areas. Whilst in Kent I went to Canterbury Barracks on a Junior Leaders course, then to the "Rookery" at Dorking for a small arms course. Finally I went on a Battle Training Course at Loch Ailort in Scotland. We then moved to the Ipswich area where we spent some time training before going abroad in Aug 1942.

After a short stop over in India we joined "Paiforce" and was at Kirkuk for a short time before joining what is probably the longest approach march in history to join the 8th Army at Enfidaville.

After the campaign in N Africa was finished we were General Montgomerys guard in Malta and again at his TAC HQ in Sicily.

After the hard fighting of the Italian Campaign from Salerno, across the Volturno and Monte Cammino. Lastly I saw service before the Cassino Massif until the division was transferred to Anzio where I was wounded and evacuated home finally to be discharged in Dec 1944.

I hope the foregoing is interesting for your records and once again thanks for the Newsletter. My own personal details are 5338561 Rank Sgt 2/6 Queens Royal Regt. (West Surrey)

THE ROMNEY, HYTHE AND DYMCHURCH LIGHT RAILWAY COMPANY

Did you serve in 2/5th Queen's during the war, and were you stationed in or near Dymchurch? If you did the following extract of a letter to the Secretary will be of interest to you.

During the Second World War the RH&DR was requisitioned by the war Department for use as a military railway. In 1940 the 2/5th moved into Dymchurch and made use of this quite unique railway and it's armoured train.

As part of the Battle of Britain celebrations in September 1990 we are proposing to recreate the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Light (Military) Railway - including if possible the building of a replica armoured train. As part of the planned celebration we would like to contact soldiers that were involved with the railway during the war and invite them to travel on a special train being run on Sunday September 16th.

With this in mind I wonder if it would be possible to mention this appeal in the next copy of the Regimental Association newsletter. I am sure if enough 'old soldiers' can be found it will be a splendid event."

Anyone who served write to the Secretary and he will arrange for your letters to be passed on.

R N PARKER MM writes:

I have read with great sadness of the passing of Gary Lockwood ex RSM, holder of the DCM.

I felt doubly sad to learn, too late that he was at the Queen Alexandra Home at Worthing, just a few miles from my home at Preston Park in Brighton. Had I known I could have visited him.

I recall so well my first impressions of Gary Lockwood, way back in 1939, when as one of the first among the 'Belisha Boys' I was conscripted and reported to Stoughton Barracks at Guildford, slightly apprehensive at the thought of what might lie ahead, yet eager for a change in my somewhat humdrum, albeit happy 'lifestyle' !

Gary Lockwood, then a sergeant, was one of those regular army soldiers given the formidable task of training a 'Squad' of men, totally raw recruits and all from different walks of life, many leaving comfortable homes with over protective parents. I consider myself one of those lucky enough to have been posted to his command.

His presence on the parade ground, was to most of us quite awe inspiring, but nevertheless he commanded well deserved and unstinted admiration from us all. I found him to be the absolute professional soldier, with a full share of human qualities.

The mere fact that the product of his efforts ended mainly in the ranks of the supporting infantry of the famous 7th Armoured Division, must reflect his achievements and above all his dedication to duty.

Farewell Sarge !

S. BODFISH writes from Midsomer Norton:-

My attention is drawn to the excellent article by 'RCT' in the November Newsletter. I feel I must correct some information in the article in question.

The band of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment certainly did not play the battalion out of Sobraon Barracks in 1939.

The band was disbanded before the outbreak of war and Bandmaster Harriot went to Kingston with the boys from whence he recruited conscripted civilian musicians to form another band.

The original bandsmen became stretcher bearers, the stretcher bearers in RCT's company were Bandsmen Moore, Windmill, Ellis and Banks. Three bandsmen served with the battalion for the entire war they were Bill Atewell, Laurence Oram, and Fred Court. Members of the band received an impressive amount of decorations and I am pleased to list them.

RSM Howarth MBE
CSM Atewell DCM
Sgt L Oram MM
L/Cpl Fleet MM

Pte Gosling MM
Bandsman Whinder MM
Bandsman Cockram BEM

Three bandsmen were killed in action Cpl D Crooks, L/c Tyler and Bandsman Nolan. Two other members of the band were recommended for the MM. at the battle of Cassino modesty forbids me naming the other who was recommended for a mention in despatches.

R.C.T. who has been unwell accepts S. Bodfish's account and we have now established that it was the Corps of Drums who played the Battalion out of Sobraon Barracks in 1939. R.C.T hopes to contact S. Bodfish shortly as by a strange coincidence, he and his brother were born where S. Bodfish lives.

Editor.

J. FOGERTY writes:

It was with great surprise and sheer happiness when I saw the photo in the November issue of the Newsletter showing Sgt Corpes, admittedly in an electric wheelchair, but alive, I'm afraid that during the war I was informed that he had been killed, the last time I saw him was in June 1940.

I owe a tremendous amount to him as he was my platoon Sgt No 2 Platoon E Company at the Depot, Kingston.

I was in the boxing team with another of the platoon Arthur Wheeler, he taught us a few tricks, both at boxing and the art of keeping alive. I tried to model myself on him, and could not have done too bad, finishing up with the crown and laurel wreath on my arm, for all his help given to me on starting my life in The Surreys.

I would like to say a big Thank You "Sarge".

F. WATSON writes: enclosing a copy of a reprinted Daily Telegraph 7th August 1945 :- I am enclosing a newspaper cutting which I read last week from a reprinted copy of The Daily Telegraph 7th August 1945. This obviously is the 1st Bn The Queens as I remember it so well, when this was going on I was with six others from the Battalion on a Burmese boat at Pegu with the Battalion's kit. After the Kohima Battle C S M Simmons recommended me for a post in the canteen at Shillong and I was transferred to R Coy staying until my demob from Bangkok - March 1946.

Having said all this I was very pleased to read the article on Bangkok which was very good - in fact I could elaborate on it much more - but I had better not.

I have some very happy memories of Joe Simmons both as a CSM (and a Sgt) when he first joined us, and later as RSM, he kicked me out of the Sgts Mess one night (under the influence) and came to my bunk at the back of the canteen to see it I was alright next morning and had a mug of tea with me. This was at Shillong. He also found one or two pairs of ladies high heeled shoes under beds at the Racecourse at Bangkok - he was making sure they weren't on Coy rations! The only persons I have seen since demob are Pte Pershain (ex orderly room) and RSM Jordan ex R Coy.

Again my sincere thanks and I look forward to further copies of the Newsletters.

MRS ELEANOR CORPES writes:

We do thank you so much for sending the photos, and for the letter from one of my husbands platoon.

As you can imagine this made his day! so I rang Mr John Fogerty (SSAFA rep) and we had a lovely chat and a few laughs. All this helps my husbands' ego (so to speak)! He is most grateful for the chair and of course me too! We have been able to get out together on good days, whereas in the wheel push chair, I was unable to push him up the hills, we are surrounded here with them.

Enclosed you will find cuttings from an old Regimental journal which I had tucked away. One of my beloved brother dressed up with four others in the Aldershot Tattoo and one taken at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe Kent. My husband just behind the shield and cups and my brother two to the left of him. This was my brother killed in N. Africa. He was in Fyzabad and Sudan and hence the troop ship cuttings! My husband has just received another letter from another fellow from his platoon at the Depot Kingston, who has a similar complaint, poor chap. It is quite exciting really.

I hope you understand this writing, I too have a hand problem. Thank you so much again.

DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION: C Burrows writes to let Dunkirk Veterans know that their Association is holding a National Parade in Aldershot on July 18th 1990.

P READ of 68 Monarch Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 3 DF writes:

I note in the Newsletter, that a Mr George Dibley was at Stoughton Barracks, my brother was there at the same time

and at Albany I O W and Allahabad, he was killed at Razmak in 1940. My mother has a shield, with all his buttons on in a shape of a cross, that says from all ranks of the Drums. Thank you for the Roll of Honour, yes that was my brothers regimental number. I would love to hear from anyone who was with him at the time (1st Queen's), also anyone who was with me in the 1/6th Queen's, I was a regimental cook.

W. J. WEBB writes:

I enclose cheque in payment of another years subscription for the Newsletter.

It is a great publication and a credit to all concerned in producing it.

Even better this last one as it has a photo of me in it!!

HENRY LEWIS writes from Ontario Canada,

When my wife and I visited the UK in June it was our intention to drop in on you. However due to the weekly national rail strikes our schedule was somewhat upset and we did not make it this time. However we tentatively plan to visit the UK again in 2 years time.

The reason for the visit was the reunion of some of the almost ten thousand Jewish children, who were rescued from Hitler's clutches in 1939 because of the generosity of a lot of people in Britain and I was one of them. Almost one thousand survivors and spouses attended the reunion which was held at the Harrow Leisure Centre late in June. While in the UK we logged over two thousand miles using a Britrail Pass and visited relatives and friends in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

While writing this letter I should like to mention, that anyone who worked in the UK or served in H.M. Forces for a combined total of at least 10 years, may be entitled to a partial British Retirement Pension. This fact is not too well publicized, especially outside the UK. Women receive the pension at age 60 and men at age 65. Applications should be sent to D.H.S.S., Overseas Branch at Newcastle on Tyne.

Best Regards to all



PAY ATTENTION

CAN YOU HELP?

The daughter of L/Cpl J Bagg DCM MM, 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment is asking readers if they can remember a WILFRED PICKLES BBC TV show, some thirty years ago, when the band of The East Surreys played in honour of the men of the 8th Bn. L/Cpl Bagg appeared on the show and it is hoped that a reader may be able to remember the approximate date of the show. The BBC have promised to make a video of the show for Mrs Somerville (subject to it still being in their archives). Mrs Somerville wishes to pass on this video, if she can, to L/Cpl Bagg's great-grandchildren to honour his memory.

L/Cpl Bagg was a very brave and courageous soldier serving in a Bn which had distinguished itself many times during the First World War.

He was awarded the Military Medal on the night of 30th September/1st October 1916 at Thiepval. A Bar was awarded for a further act of gallantry at Cherisy near Arras on 3rd May 1917.

He was awarded yet another Bar at Peolcappelle in the Ypres Salient on 12th October 1917. This award was subsequently cancelled and the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal was substituted on the personal orders of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

H. Berry who joined 1/6th Surreys in Italy as a member of a re-inforcement draft from The Royal Warwicks is trying to contact some of his pals who he served with in Italy. Mr Berry who was a Sergeant lost an eye in Italy and sadly is now confined to his house. Any member who remembers him is asked to write or phone him. His address is :- 16 Barnes Court, St. Nicholas Street, Coventry, West Mids, CV1 4NB
Tele: 0203 - 227033.

Stan Blay of 6 School Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1QJ (0483- 578294) has been trying to contact two friends who he served with during the War. Private A. E. Woodhouse of 2/7 Queens who he thinks lived in the Colchester area, and Cpl Philpot of 2/6 Queens who lived in Kent. Any member who may be able to help is asked to contact Stan Blay direct.

F. Roberts 6143511 who served in 2/6th East Surrey's C Company is anxious to make contact with any of his old mates. Please contact him on 01-360-8792 or write to:- 18 Gatwood Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1AS.

Mr A Mornement is trying to contact any officer or soldier who knew his Father Major Peter Mornement who served with the 1st and 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Major Mornement served in Fyzabad (1937), Shanghai (1938), North Africa and at Anzio. Anybody who can help please contact Mr Mornement, Robin Lodge, Farm Lane, Ashted KT21 1LJ.

Mr R. Dimsdale of 69 Ruskin Avenue, Wrenthorpe Wakefield W. Yorks WF1 2BG, is asking for help in tracing members who served with his father Sgt T. E. Dimsdale. Sgt Dimsdale served with The Queens in China, India, Palestine, Egypt and Ceylon. He also served at the I.T.C. at Maidstone.

Mr P Cooney is asking for details of an NCO in The East Surreys, J. Debnay was a leading member of the Corps of Drums before the war. Any reader who can help please contact the secretary.

**THANK
YOU!**



EXPERIENCES OF A FAR EAST PRISONER OF WAR

'Extracts from a letter written by Lt J D Carter, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, to his father on 1 September 1945.'

Well, the first thing of any importance was my being wounded. This occurred at a place called Kampar on January 2nd 1942. I was hit in five places by a small mortar bomb. I was sent back to Singapore to a base hospital and was marked down as due for evacuation to India, but owing to lack of organisation and the early capitulation this did not materialise. Our hospital, together with all the patients, was captured by the Japanese two days before the main force laid down its arms, and so I started this long period of incarceration.

The first order given by the Japanese was for all British and Australian troops to concentrate on the east side of Singapore

Island, and there I was taken and remained in hospital until the end of March. Then I returned to my unit which was stationed in some former coolie lines and where we were quite comfortable. Apart from the very poor rations which consisted of about 95% rice, we were very cheerful and optimistic about the duration of the war, the majority of people being convinced that we should be free within six months to a year.

Things carried on fairly smoothly, although we were always pretty hungry, until the Japanese produced forms which they required us to sign, and by which we agreed not to escape; and if we did, and were subsequently caught, then they were entitled to shoot us. We refused as a body to have anything to do with this. So the Japanese, in their true Asiatic manner, which later we got to know so well, decided to force us. All the troops in the area, numbering about 17,000, were ordered to concentrate in a set of barracks, which in peace time was constructed to house about 700 men. We carried out these orders to our very great discomfort and grave risk of disease breaking out. After three days the Japanese threatened to move all the sick in the large hospital in the barracks as well. After this, our Commander felt that we had offered sufficient resistance, and we had to give in. This was known as the Selarang Incident after the name of the barracks, and happened in September. Well, after this we realised that we weren't dealing with a nation prepared to comply with the principles of International Law governing the treatment of prisoners, but with a set of barbarians who were completely ruthless, and prepared to use any means in order to gain their own ends.

The next thing was the big trek up to Thailand, which was accomplished without incident, although we travelled on the railway in very crowded conditions. There was a lot of speculation as to why we were going up, but once arrived, we were not left long in doubt. Our task was to build a railway linking up Thailand with Burma, a distance of about 200 miles, most of which was through uncharted jungle. A body of Australians started from the Burma end, whilst the British, and later on the Dutch, began in Thailand.

Food and conditions of work at the beginning were reasonable, according to what we thought were Japanese standards, but as soon as the railway started to get away from the bases, then rations and treatment deteriorated. Up to December 1942 officers had not been required to do any manual work, their duties consisting of organising the camps and supervising the work, but at this time the officers were issued with an ultimatum that they would work on the railway as labourers. This was contrary to International Convention and so we resisted this order, but finally had to submit after armed guards had been placed over us, instructed to load and then await the order to fire. We weren't prepared to die in resisting the Japanese over this as we felt that it was of so little consequence to the war effort as a whole that our people would not consider us guilty of a disloyal action, in view of the coercion used by the enemy.

Well, I started off like the rest and carried on quite effectively until March 1943 when I had some trouble with my right leg on the old wound scar. I was sent back to one of the rear camps on the railway, and there I spent the next 18 months doing various camp duties, either on the messing or the medical side of the administration. This business with my leg prevented my going further up-country, and therefore I did not experience some of the worst treatment of the Japanese, who behaved like savages, further up the line. It was in the second half of 1942 that most of the casualties occurred owing to the poor food, extremely long working hours and callous treatment generally which resulted in about 10,000 deaths which later was increased, and I believe the final figure is somewhere about 16,000. I don't want to go into details here of what took place, but suffice it to say that the men's spirit was never broken; and when the work was eventually completed and the Japanese began to relax their relentless oppression, those who were left soon recovered their cheerfulness, although their health was, in a lot of cases, permanently impaired.

These were the really black days when civilisation seemed to be hundreds of years away and we felt that our present existence was going on for ever and that we should never return to England. Well, 1944 was a much better year as all the construction work had been completed. Only maintenance parties were required on the railway and the death rate was not so high. At the same time we were hearing about the campaign in Italy and eagerly awaiting news of a landing in France.

The first half of 1944 was a period of recuperation after the sustained privations and hardships of the previous year, and in June things started to move again when we heard that drafts were to be sent to Japan. These were essentially working parties: only one officer per 100 men was sent, and I was not included. We later heard very sad news about these parties, certain of which were torpedoed and a large number drowned. Naturally we were all rather apprehensive as to what the Japanese intended to do with us, and towards the end of 1944 it became clear that they had abandoned the idea of sending further parties to Japan owing to the insecurity of their lines of communication. In a general re-shuffling in October I was sent to another camp. This particular camp was close to an extremely important military target, namely a steel bridge carrying the railway over one of the large rivers of Thailand. Our first evening in the camp was marked by the dramatic arrival of 21 four-engine bomber planes which attacked the bridge, but unfortunately four misdirected bombs landed in the camp and killed 19 Other Ranks. Well, after that we applied to the Japanese to move us away to a less vulnerable position, but it wasn't until February 1945 that we were moved away.

This coincided with the announcement of a new policy by the Japanese of separating the officers from the men, and we thought that this would also mean a change of attitude in their treatment of us: but not a bit of it. We found in this new camp that we had a most unpleasant camp commander who delighted in humiliating us whenever possible, and imposed on us a lot of petty restrictions which were entirely unnecessary. Whilst I was at the camp adjoining the steel bridge, my right leg flared up and became very painful. When I saw the surgeon in the camp, an Australian who was very good to me, he said that he would open it up and try and put it right. I had a spinal anaesthetic and he successfully extracted a small piece of metal. In three weeks everything had healed up, and I have had no more trouble since from this leg.

Well, once in the officers' camp we settled down to wait for the end. Then in June 1945 we were suddenly warned that we should be moving to another camp 80 miles north east of Bangkok, and an advance party was sent off to start its construction. I arrived in the new camp in July, immediately after the advance party, and we were all very busily employed in making the huts when the end came. On August 15 I was in a party carrying bamboo from a dump three miles outside the camp when the Thais started to make signs to us, and we realised that something was happening. Our guards took very little interest in the work and we returned to camp early. There we learnt of further significant behaviour by the Japanese. We were all very excited and full of speculations, and the following day our hopes were at last realised when the Japanese commander admitted to the capitulation.

We had for so long visualised what our feelings would be when the end came that when it did actually come, after the initial rejoicing and emotional singing of the National Anthem, a feeling of anti-climax set in. There were no incidents at all: we just carried on with the ordinary camp routine, although the building work was stopped, and awaited the arrival of our own people.

On September 2nd I arrived at Bangkok Airport and the next day was flown to Rangoon. It is marvellous to be back again amongst our own people who are showing us every care and attention. Last night I could hardly sleep as I felt so happy to be in a comfortable bed again with cool clean sheets. Our next move is uncertain, but we are assured that we shall be home in England with as little delay as possible.

BANGKOK 1946

After an interval of some 45 years and following a chance meeting with a friend, I found myself making contact again with the Regiment. I recently joined the Association and was delighted to receive a copy of the Newsletter.

My delight was increased when, in issue 46, I read the long and fascinating article by Major Strand concerning the activities of the 1st Battalion in Bangkok during 1946. His account of the life and times there brought back memories, many half forgotten, particularly his references to CSM Simmons who I served under during that time. CSM Simmons was undoubtedly the most impressive soldier I encountered during my five years service. A professional he certainly was. His bearing and manner often struck terror into the hearts of those who incurred his displeasure!

I well remember our first meeting. As we climbed down from the truck that had brought us from the airport, we were dressed in the 'greens' that had been issued to us at the transit camp in Rangoon after our transfer from the 1/6 Battalion at Hovingham in Yorkshire. The dress included one of those floppy hats so beloved of some of the youth of today. On seeing these hats, CSM Simmons enquired, as only CSM's can, as to the reason we were adorned in such strange headgear. We replied, in the meekest of tones that privates reserved for such occasions that we had been issued with them. His reply: "Well get them off, only generals wear those here" has stayed with me down the years. It was not long before we were proudly wearing the bush hats that were such a distinctive feature of the Queens in Bangkok.

Major Strand's recollections of guarding the Japanese prisoners was interesting and I remember how CSM Simmons' treatment of them was severe but fair. It was a rule, whether his or from 'on high' I'm not sure, that every prisoner must salute a Queens soldier of whatever rank every time they passed and the salute had to be returned. He rigidly enforced this rule and woe betide anyone he saw disobeying it.

For days on end they were carrying heavy ammunition boxes from one end of the camp to the other - and then returning them.

I was but a humble member of the MT section at that time and have unearthed a picture of some of us during an off duty moment.



Where are they now? MT Platoon 1 Queens Bangkok 1946. Photo sent in by D Challis

I shall look forward to receiving further issues of the Newsletter - as a printer now retired I congratulate all concerned on the excellence of the publication - and hope to be at Bassingbourn on July 8th.

DWC

A collector/dealer, told me that he had for sale a Second World War, Military Medal group to Pte. Fido, 2/6 Queen's. While the two of us made exchange arrangements, I looked through the Regimental Newsletters to see if I could find any mention concerning 2/6th Queen's or Pte. Fido. In the issue No 43. May, 1983, there are two articles, and at the end of the second came what I was looking for Pte. Fido, Medical Orderly awarded the M.M. for Hill 210, Salerno. Now that I had read the articles, I bought the book, "Salerno Remembered". Again on pages 48 and 164, there was Pte. A. Fido Medical Orderly M.M. for Hill 210. But by this time I had received the group of Medals, Military Medal (named), 1939-1945, Africa, Italy Stars, Defence, and War Medals (Un-named). With the group was some photocopies of a Map of P.O.W. camps in Germany. A page of British P.O.Ws. in Germany. Pte. A. Fido was P.O.W. No 229586 at Stalag IV D/Z, which is shown on the map as being East of the River Elbe, North of Dresden, and East of Leipzig.

But most important was photocopies of the Supplement to the London Gazette. Thursday, 12th August, 1943. page 3721 states award for Middle East then on page 3723, Military Medal awards, there are ten names to The Queen's Royal Regiment, one being 5630675. Pte. A Fido.

So I wrote off to M.O.D. Army Records Office to find out if Pte. A Fido had won the M.M. for North Africa and/or Salerno, or better still won a Bar to his Military Medal for Salerno, Italy.

The answer came back from Records that the only Pte. A. Fido they knew of was awarded the M.M. for Safri near Enfidaville, Tunisia. On 9th May, 1943, at great personal risk he went forward under heavy mortar and small arms fire to render first aid to a seriously wounded soldier in a forward slope slit trench of "D" Coy. That was all they could tell me under M.O.D. Rules.

Next I wrote to the Imperial War Museum about a map of Enfidaville, for all the maps in the W.W.II. books show Enfidaville as a black dot. I also asked about P.O.W. camp Stalag IV D/Z. Back came a letter, order form for the map, and a photo-copy of a Red Cross & St. John map of P.O.W. camps in Germany, but this one has Stalag IV D/Z to the west of the River Elbe, and South of Leipzig, South-West of Dresden. The letter stated that Stalag IV D/Z was located near the town of Annaburg in the German-Czech border region, they also supplied me with the address of the International Red Cross in Switzerland.

Off went another letter, this time to the Red Cross in Geneva, but as time went by I knew I was not going to get any luck from the I.C.R.C., and after many weeks I received a letter from the British Red Cross, it stated what I had expected that the I.C.R.C. did not give out any information.



Well that is about as far as I can go for now, or as Esther Rantzen of B.B.C. TV. "That's Life" would say, "Unless some-one out there knows any more about this?"

J.G.

IN THE MAGINOT LINE

This is not the place to go into the pros and cons of the Maginot Line, but to describe briefly the first time that the 1st Bn the East Surrey Regiment "went into action", since the end of World War One.

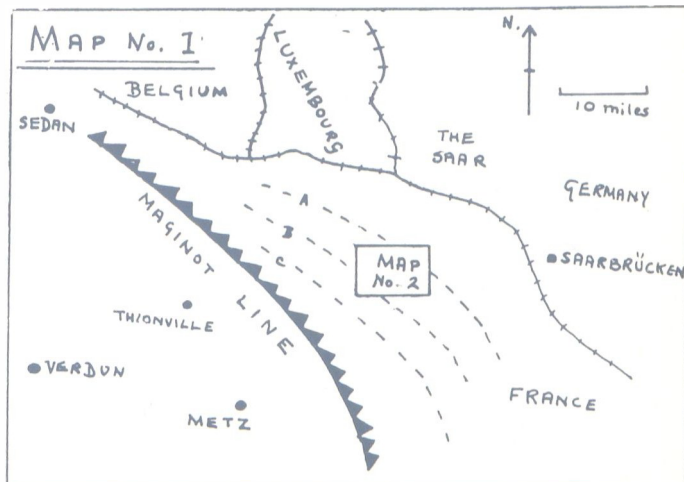
The Maginot Line should have been a line of impassable forts stretching along the French frontier from Switzerland to the North Sea. Had this been so the course of World War Two may have been changed, but the Line ended far short (south of Sedan) because the Belgians naturally did not wish to be on the wrong side of it. The gap left was to be filled with the French Field armies, plus a handful of B.E.F. divisions. The Maginot Line was impregnable when one considers the 1939/40 weapons available, and the Germans sensibly never intended to take it on as part of their invasion plans. When in May 1940 "the balloon went up", the French divisions, and B.E.F., massed on the Belgian frontier rushed forward, and in due course the Germans broke through around Sedan, thus allowing their panzers to sweep on to Calais and Dunkirk. The Germans put some pressure on the Northern parts of the Maginot Line - but no serious attacks - merely to keep the French garrisons on the alert, and prevent them being moved to stem the German advance.

A few months earlier (March 1940) certain units of the B.E.F. were given "experience" of frontline warfare by being sent for a short spell to Lorraine in front of the Maginot Line, to a small sector south of Luxembourg and opposite the Saar.

A long dreary "blackout" train journey took us from our billets in Tourcoign and Roubaix to Metz, (before 1918 a fortified frontier town, Alsace and Lorraine having been returned to France after their loss to Prussia in 1870). In Metz we were billeted in a rather dilapidated barracks, the Caserne de Ney.

After a few days here we went by M.T. eastwards into the vast depopulated area between the Maginot Line and the frontier, maybe 30 miles wide. These troops in advance of the Line were known as interval troops. At the beginning of the war this area had been rapidly evacuated, the villagers leaving behind their cattle, cats and dogs, washing on the Line and even the houses still furnished. When we were there, crockery was still on the tables and abandoned pets still wandering around. The inhabitants thought there would be another Munich scare in which case they would only be away a few days so they only took one suitcase with them.

Short of the frontier the French had established 3 lines of defensive positions from which, if need be, they could retire to the Line itself. The front line (F.D.L's) was known as the Ligne de Contact (see map, A), then a few miles back came the Ligne De Recueil (B) and behind that the Ligne d'Arret (C). (The lights of Luxembourg, still being neutral, were clearly visible from these positions.)



I can recall little now except our stay in the Ligne de Contact.

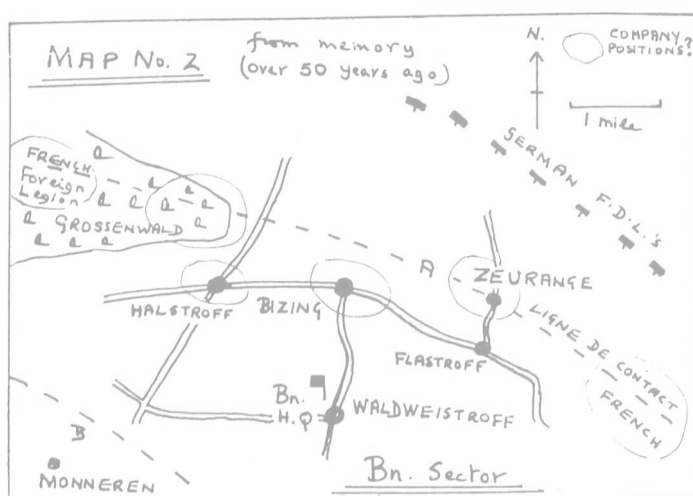
As Signals Officer I was in the deserted village of Waldweistroff with Bn.HQ. Our F.D.L.'s on the left were in the Grossenwald (C Coy?) then the small village of Bising, and on the right slightly forward the village of Zeurange. Just before our arrival I believe a Platoon (D.C.L.I?) had been attacked here and lost some men. I spent some time in the Grossenwald position. Coy HQ, due to the mud, was built up with timber and sandbags, and surrounded with wirenetting to prevent stick grenades being thrown in it was a dark, dank soggy place and not too hygienic, having been occupied by various units for many months. To the left of the Grossenwald position the French Foreign Legion occupied the front line and I remember that their C.O. was a large baldheaded Pole who could have come straight out of a film.

Patrolling was our chief occupation and Major "Wix" Armstrong identified some German bodies which had been shot by a patrol from 2/L.F. (That patrol commander nicknamed "Poacher" Hudson was awarded an M.C. and Croix de Guerre-presumably the first M.C. in the campaign).

2/Lt Charles Lamb (B Coy), returning from a patrol was shot at by one of our sentries, who missed except that the ricocheting bullet broke up and a portion pierced his cheek. He was evacuated, and in May was standing in his service dress and Sam Brown outside the hospital at Abbeville when the German panzers arrived, and promptly put him "in the bag".

Lt. Graeme Dickson (recently posted to 1st Bn. from 1/6 Surreys T.A.), on patrol, shot some pigs and found an old French rifle: after the war he presented it to the Regimental Museum in Kingston. In the 50's it was removed by the police, as it was supposed still to be capable of being fired!

The highlight of our visit was a conducted tour of one of the Maginot Forts (Welches Fort). It was rather like a large battleship, sunk deep in the ground with only the gun turrets showing. These could be raised and lowered as required. This great underground fortress was connected by underground railways to those nearby, and also to the hospitals, ammunition stores etc which were also underground. In front were iron anti-tank obstacles, acres of mine-fields and barbed wire. All most impressive and in some ways reassuring. During this visit we were all presented with the Maginot Line badge, which had written on it those famous words "On ne passe pas" which Marshal Pétain had immortalised at Verdun in the First World War.



Memories fade, but in due course the battalion returned to the Tourcoign area. We had seen a little of what World War 1 would have been like in a very quiet sector, but it was of no value whatsoever when in May we were to experience the full force of the new "Blitzkrieg" warfare as we were forced back from Brussels to Dunkirk.

R.C.T.

SOLDIER AND ADMINISTRATOR

William Sorrell, who was born in 1775, the son of Major General W A Sorrell, had two successful careers. In 1790 he was appointed an ensign in the 31st Regiment, and six years later he took part in the unsuccessful attack on the stronghold of La Vigie in St Lucia. Sorrell was severely wounded in the action, but was promoted captain in the place of a company commander who was killed. The Regiment, sadly depleted by disease, returned home from the West Indies in the summer of 1797. Sorrell took part with the 31st in the inconclusive campaign of 1799 in Northern Holland. The next year he served with the Regiment in some minor attacks on Spanish Naval ports.

Promoted major in 1804, he took part in the training of Sir John Moore's Light Brigade at Shornecliffe. Then, after 12 years at Regimental duty, Sorrell was posted to the Cape of Good Hope in 1807 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was Deputy Adjutant General of the British Forces there until 1811. The next year he transferred to the 46th Regiment, but resigned from the Army in 1813.

Colonel Sorrell was now a man in his forties with considerable military experience. In 1816 he was appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land now Tasmania, and reached there a year later. On arrival, Sorrell found the administration corrupt, inefficient and bordering on breakdown. Bands of escaped convicts, often assisted by settlers, were almost in open revolt against authority. The defeat of these bushrangers was Sorrell's first priority. Under his direction stern, often harsh, measures were applied. Military operations rounded up these gangs and most of their members were hanged in public. He then turned his attention to the administration of sound government under reliable officials. Land grants were reorganised, convict barracks built, a court of Criminal Judicature established and police forces expanded. Under Sorrell's rule, commerce and agriculture flourished and law and order were restored.

William Sorrell had proved himself a brave and efficient soldier and an able colonial governor, but unfortunately his morals left much to be desired. He had married the daughter of a Lieutenant General and had seven children, but in 1807 he obtained a separation from his wife. While serving in the Cape of Good Hope Colonel Sorrell had an affair with the wife of a brother officer, Lieutenant Kemp. She lived with him at Government House at Hobart, much to the indignation of the settlers, and over the years bore him several children.

In 1824 Sorrell was recalled, but he was able to hand over to his successor a well-run and orderly colony. On his return to England Sorrell was well received at the Colonial Office, but his reputation had been undermined by his immoral conduct. In spite of his good work as Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land, Sorrell received no award and he was not employed again. He died in 1848 at the age of 73. There is much of interest in Sorrell's life recorded in the Australian Dictionary of Biography and in 'The Fatal Shore' by Robert Hughes.

PGEH

GIBRALTAR 1765

There appears to have been a good deal of laxity in the wearing of uniform in times past. The following extracts are from the Gibraltar Garrison Orders 1765:

"No officer or soldier on duty is to carry an umbrella.

"The general to his great surprise met an officer coming from Spain with a large straw hat. . . The General forbids such indecency, and will not allow Port Liberty to any officer dressed in an unmilitary manner."

"No person whatever is to be suffered to go on the Line Wall or ramparts in a nightgown, nightcap or binyan on any pretence whatever, etc."

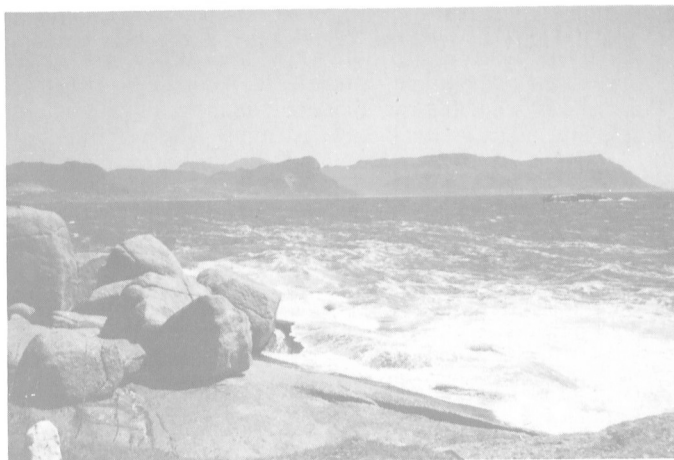
HMS BIRKENHEAD MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Whilst on holiday recently in South Africa I happened to read in the local newspaper that a memorial service was to be held at Danger Point to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of HMS Birkenhead in 1852. I knew our Ambassador in South Africa Sir Robin Renwick, from my time in the Foreign Office and fortuitously meeting him at a dinner party I said that I would like to attend.

I had remembered sufficient of my regimental history to know that a detachment of the 2nd Foot had been on board the ship. From subsequent research at the Capetown reference library I learnt that HMS Birkenhead was carrying 638 passengers from Cork to Algoa Bay when she struck a reef off Danger Point at 0200 hours on 26th February 1852 and sank within twenty minutes. 445 persons perished but amongst those saved were the seven women and thirteen children on board. Eyewitness accounts tell of the supreme discipline and bravery on the part of the troops mustered on the deck. Following the despatch of the women and children in the only two serviceable lifeboats the order had been given by the Captain for everyone else to jump overboard. Lieut Colonel Seton, the officer commanding troops realised that were the soldiers to do so they would swamp the boats carrying the women and children and ordered "I implore you not to do this thing (jump overboard) and I ask you to stand fast". This they did and their courage and sacrifice is now immortalised in the "Birkenhead Drill" of women and children first.

My wife and I motored the 120 miles from Capetown to Danger Point and its lighthouse where the memorial service was to be held.

The site of the wreck is only a few hundred yards out to sea and on this blustery day ones attention was drawn to the angry and forbidding waves surging over the rocks on which HMS Birkenhead had foundered. Detachments of the South African Navy and Transvaal Scottish Regiments were drawn up in front of the Lighthouse. The pipe band of the latter regiment and the band of Prince Alfreds' Guard played during the service. It was attended by HM Ambassador, Sir Robin Renwick and Mr Pik Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, together with senior naval and army officers and those living in South Africa having connections with regimental drafts on board at the time. The service was conducted by the Revd Marshall, a broad Scot who gave a stirring address.



There were many wreaths and I laid one on behalf of the Regiment. Subsequently they were taken by helicopter and dropped in the sea above the last resting place of HMS Birkenhead. The wreck itself is safeguarded as a war grave. Although I know there were political objections to regimental representatives attending from the United Kingdom I am pleased we were present at this impressive memorial service. Amongst those present were the Mullin family. Their forbears Patrick and Bridget Mullin survived the shipwreck though neither knew at the time that each had done so. Patrick Mullin called at a farm in the East Cape some seven years later and quite by chance was reunited with his wife - they produced five more children to add to the two who survived the shipwreck.

PAWGD.

A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER

For years successions of Army wives and girl friends have "followed the flag" and their loved ones to various corners of the earth but few can have shown the persistence and determination of Cockney-bred Phoebe Hessell who in 1728, at the age of fifteen, fell in love with Sam Golding, a private in the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment of Foot.

Later in the same year Sam went abroad with his Regiment to the West Indies but, determined not to lose him, the redoubtable and resourceful Phoebe cut her hair short, dressed in men's clothes and, after what must have been a very nominal medical examination, enlisted in the 5th (Northumberland Fusiliers) Foot who were then under orders to follow the 2nd to Jamaica. Some time was to elapse, however, before Phoebe's Regiment and that of her boy friend were to meet and it was eventually at Gibraltar that the loving couple were re-united. It was not for long because soon afterwards Sam was invalided home after being wounded in a skirmish with the Spaniards. Undaunted, Phoebe fought on with the 5th (keeping her sex somehow secret) until she too was discharged and returned home to wed the faithful Sam with whom she lived quietly until his death some twenty years later.

Determined not to remain a widow, she soon married William Hessell, a Brighton fisherman whose wife she remained until he died in 1792. Continuing to live among the fisher folk, she eventually died at the ripe old age of 108 in 1821 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Nicholas, Brighton where details of her long and remarkable life were recorded on her tombstone.

R.F.



Regimental Deaths

Barker -On 23rd December 1989, George William Barker, aged 78 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Bonner-Hounsome -On 11th December 1989 Private William Bonner- Hounsome, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Boyer -On 3rd January 1990, Private Percy Boyer, aged 80 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Bramble -On 14th December 1989, Private Thomas Bertram Bramble MM, aged 70 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Bramble was a pre-war Territorial with the 1/5th Queen's. After Dunkirk he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and served with the unit when they were part of 22 Column of The Chindits. He was awarded the Military Medal for his work as a stretcher bearer.

Brooker -In February 1990, Private William Brooker, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Carter -On 7th February 1990, Lieutenant J.D. Carter, aged 74 years, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Jack Carter joined the Battalion at Alor Star in August 1941 and was wounded at the Battle of Kampar in January 1942. He was a patient in the Queen Alexandra Hospital at Singapore when the Japanese troops ran amok and bayoneted about 170 of our walking wounded. Jack Carter sent his father an account of his experiences as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, and, with the family's permission, excerpts are printed in this Newsletter.

Cottingham -On 20th January 1990, Sergeant Charles Cottingham, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Ford -On 15th September 1989, Captain Hewitt Percy Ford, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

French -On 18th January 1990, Private Charles Henry French, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Gavin -In April 1989, Sergeant Denis Gavin, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Hams -Frank Arthur Steven Hams, aged 70 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Hawkins - On 27th December 1989, Private Ted Hawkins, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Hayward -On 9th December 1989, Sergeant Leslie 'Lofty' Hayward, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Henning -On 3rd October 1989, Corporal James Albert Edward Henning, aged 90 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Holland -On 24th March 1988, Colour Sergeant F.H.R. Holland, aged 86 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Joslin -On 3rd March 1990, WOII Albert Ernest Crewe Joslin, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Leonard -Sergeant Granville Patrick Leonard MM, aged 70 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Magee -On 25th December 1989, Colonel Francis Arthur Herbert Magee, aged 86 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

McCoy -On 14th December 1989, Captain Joseph McCoy,

aged 87 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Captain McCoy lived for many years in Nevada, USA.

Mitchell -On 9th April 1990, Major James Mitchell, aged 75 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Major Mitchell served for many years with The Royal West African Frontier Force. He served as a Company Commander with 1 Queens in Iserlohn in 1951 - 1953. He was mentioned in despatches in 1945.

Pratt -On 16th February 1990, Private Frederick Charles Pratt, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the MT Section, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Rex -On 9th November 1989, Private Leslie Rex, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sharp -On 29th December 1989, Lieutenant Colonel (Q.M.) Samuel William John Sharp, aged 84 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Steeles -On 1st December 1989, WOII William Arthur Steeles, aged 62 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Swain -On 10th November 1989, Major Frederick Walter Swain, aged 81 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Tomkins -On 8th April 1990, WOII Henry William Tomkins, aged 79 years, The East Surrey Regiment, and Intelligence Corps. WOII Tomkins was a pre-war Territorial, enlisting at Clapham Junction in 1928. He joined the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment and later served with The 1st Battalion before being transferred in 1940 to The Intelligence Corps.

Wheeler -On 1st February 1990, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Wheeler CBE CIE, aged 92 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler was formerly Director of the Central Asia Research Centre. He was an expert in Middle Eastern Affairs and was a qualified interpreter in six languages. He was severely wounded at Passchendaele, and contracted typhoid whilst recovering from his wounds. He was transferred to The Intelligence Corps. He was the author of three highly perceptive books, and thirty years ago, forecast that the breakup of the Soviet Empire would begin in the South - West corner of Russia. In 1946 he was seconded to The Foreign Office.

Wing -On 16th March 1989, Cyril Theodore Humphrey Wing, aged 92 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Zeigler -In March 1990, Captain Charles Alan Zeigler, aged 80 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Families

Acton -On 5th February 1990, Mrs Ruth Margaret Acton, widow of Lieutenant Colonel E.L.L. Acton MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

English -On 21st January 1990, Mrs Phyllis Irene (Phyl) English, beloved wife of Major R.W. English, The East Surrey Regiment.

Glover -On 9th November 1989, Mrs Flora Victoria Glover, widow of Captain F.P. (Jimmie) Glover MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

Metcalf -On 1st December 1989, Mrs Natalie Eleanor (Buddy) Metcalf, widow of Major General J.F. Metcalf CBE.

Obituaries

Lieutenant General Sir William Stratton, KCB, CVO, CBE, DSO

Lieutenant General Sir William Stratton, who commanded 169 (Queen's) Brigade in Italy from September 1944 to June 1945, Died on the 25th November, 1989, at the age of 86. He was born on the 15th October, 1903 and was educated at Dulwich and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1924 and after the war became a Colonel Commandant of the Corps.

Shortly before the war, he was a student at The Staff College, Camberley, and attended German Army Manoeuvres in the month before hostilities broke out. In its Obituary on 2nd December, the "Times" pointed out that what he was witnessing at divisional level was a rehearsal of the invasion of Poland. His talents were readily recognised and rose from Major to Brigadier in less than three years, being awarded the CBE in 1943. In the same year, he became Brigadier General Staff (BGS) Eighth Army and received the CVO from the King in Italy in June 1944 for special services to His Majesty. He then embarked on an extensive tour of the Fifth and Eighth Armies' forward positions where he was widely known as the "Brigade Commander in Waiting".

From the Regiment's point of view, it was extremely fortunate that he was appointed to command the 169 (Queen's) Brigade in 56 (London) Division during the Gothic Line Battles in September 1944. He exercised a wise and strong Command which resulted in the Brigade greatly enhancing its high reputation and achieving all the tasks it was set until winter brought the advance to a halt on the line of the River Senio.

The Spring offensive in 1945 saw the Brigade carry out a famous amphibious right hook across Lake Comacchio which, together with the forcing of the Argenta Gap, led to the headlong flight of the German Army and its destruction along the River Po. The Brigade then continued to lead the Division across the Po and to the eventual capture of Venice. For his services during these crucial months of the War, General Stratton was awarded the DSO.

He left the Queen's Brigade in June 1945 to become Chief of Staff to Eighth Army (British Troops Austria) in the rank of Major General.

His other post War appointments included Chief of Staff at HQ BAOR, Commandant of the Joint Services Staff College, Head of the British Joint Services Mission at Washington, Commander British Forces Hong Kong and finally in 1957 Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff. He was Knighted with the KCB that year and retired in 1960.

Behind a somewhat stern and austere exterior, perhaps exaggerated by his height and bearing, Bill Stratton had a warm heart and a caring and understanding disposition, with a twinkle in his eye and a great sense of humour whether in command or in staff appointment, he was demonstrably a man to be trusted and he won the support and devotion of all who worked with him and throughout his service, he took a particular interest in the training of young officers and in their career development.

After his retirement, he made little secret of the fact that he regarded the best appointment that he had ever held as that of Commander 169 (Queen's) Brigade. He had great affection for all those who served in it and the feeling was utterly mutual. Little wonder that at the end of the war, he was made an Honorary Member of the Officers' Club of the Queen's Royal Regiment, an appointment which he greatly treasured.

In 1930, he married Noreen daughter of Dr F.H.B. Noble of Sittingbourne, Kent. To her go our deepest Sympathies.

M.E.M.M.

Brigadier H M A Hunter CVO DSO MBE

A record of our Commanding Officers in the 1939-45 War is being compiled in the Regimental Museum, and recently we have received from the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment a copy of the obituary of Brigadier Hunter which appeared in their Regimental journal. Michael Hunter was well known in both our Regiments, being the son of Brigadier H N A Hunter DSO, The Queen's Royal Regiment, and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from June 1944 to July 1945. The following Extracts are taken, with permission, from his obituary.

'He joined 2nd Wiltshires in 1933 and moved to the 1st Battalion in India a couple of years later. He attended the Staff College in 1942; then, as GS02 HQ 78 Infantry Division he went to North Africa and on to Italy. The award of the MBE in 1944 followed a tour as Company Commander in 5th Northampton.

An outstanding period for Michael Hunter was his command of 1st East Surreys, which resulted in him being awarded the DSO in December 1945, by which time he was AA&QMG HQ 4th Infantry Division. After two years in the Military Secretary's Branch Michael returned to 1st Wiltshires as Commanding Officer.

He ended his Army career as Defence Attache in Brussels, when he was appointed a CVO by the Queen and also was decorated by the King of the Belgians. He was Colonel of the Regiment from 1969 to 1976.'

Colonel F A H Magee

Colonel Magee, known in the Regiment as Maggie (and to his family and outside friends as Bobby) was a well-known personality in the Surreys. His ready wit, combined with an unusually rapid way of speaking, his enthusiasm, his high spirits and his outstanding sense of humour made him universally popular. He had an Irishman's love of riding, hunting and polo and was an accomplished horseman. He was a smart, energetic and professional soldier who set and demanded high standards.

Commissioned in 1923, he joined the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, then commanded by his cousin, Colonel Orpen-Palmer, and served at home and Gibraltar until 1938 when he sailed for the Far East as Adjutant. On the move of the battalion from Shanghai to Malaya in 1940, Maggie was appointed DAAG HQ Malaya Command. On the surrender of the British forces at Singapore he became a prisoner of war of the Japanese for 3½ years. Throughout these years he was sustained by his Christian faith and high principles. He was twice mentioned in despatches in 1946.

It was a measure of his remarkable resilience that within a year of his release he was appointed to command the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment in Greece. In 1950 he was made Commander of Nairobi Sub-Area. Two years later he returned home and became Commandant of the Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, retiring from the Regular Army in 1955.

Even after 32 years of Regular service, his connection with the Army did not stop. He retired to Yeovil, and was re-employed as a retired officer with 15 Training Battalion RASC at Houndstone for another three years. He then continued as the local secretary of SSAFA and entered into church and other local activities until he died at the age of 86. His was a full life and a good one.

Throughout his long service in the Regiment, Maggie was supported by his wife, Monica. She was a founder member of the East Surrey Regiment Ladies Committee in 1947, and contributed the Ladies Page to the Regimental Journal for the next two years. Our sympathies go to Monica and to Shirley, his daughter.

EAFH

Lieutenant Colonel SWJ Sharp MBE

Lieutenant Colonel Sam Sharp enlisted in the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1925. He served with the 2nd Battalion, in Palestine, Western Desert, Syria, Ceylon and Burma. He was RSM from 1941-1943 and was then commissioned as Lieutenant Quartermaster. He served briefly with the 1st Bn after the war and was at the Depot in Guildford from 1948-1951. He was Quartermaster for the beginning of the 1st Battalion's tour in Malaya. From 1954-1960 he was a Staff Quartermaster being promoted Lt Col in 1958. His last appointment was at the Regular Commissions Board, Westbury. He was Mentioned in Dispatches in 1939 whilst serving as a Platoon Sergeant Major in Palestine, he was again mentioned for all his work in April 1945 and was awarded the MBE in 1954.

He was an all round sportsman and represented the Regiment at Football, Hockey, Cricket, Water Polo, Cross Country, High Jump and Tennis.

LMBW

Sergeant J Humphries

The notice of John Humphries' death in the November Newsletter mentioned his service with 1st Middlesex in Korea. C Company of that battalion was largely formed from members of 1st Queen's from Iserlohn with a few others like myself (seconded from 1st Surreys). It was my good fortune to have Busty Humphries as my Platoon Sergeant. As Busty's nickname indicated, he was a large man whose ample jowl and well padded frame tended to conceal his physical and moral toughness, but only the most unobservant would have failed to notice the shrewdness and occasional hardness of his eye.

He had no formal training in leadership, nor did he need it. He understood soldiers and knew from his own insight and commonsense when to encourage and when to bully a bit, when to apply and when to ignore the strict letter of the military law. Perhaps most important, something about him discouraged the weaker vessels from finding easier options to the nastier jobs that came to hand. Much of his presence stemmed from his boisterous sense of humour. Busty could spot from a thousand yards the many absurdities and points of humour in military life, particularly the soldiers' human foibles, and bring them to brilliant life with a few well chosen words, mostly unprintable.

He was in some ways, as he was the first to admit, "a bit of a handful". He had great independence of spirit and when the system irked him, he was not averse to proclaiming the fact in High Billingsgate, often within earshot of the exalted perpetrator of the perceived offence. He would though have been the last to complain that his ultimate need to kick against the periodic lunacies of military life probably held him back from the promotion that his wider qualities merited.

His courage was enviable. However unpleasant the climate, the going or the opposition, he almost never seemed to acknowledge that events were other than part of normal life. One treasured recollection typifies him. The platoon was on a rather fraught daylight patrol to assess Chinese positions and came under mortar fire. One bomb seemed to land almost directly on him and he disappeared in a cloud of dirt and explosive. "He's had it", we thought. But the smoke cleared to reveal Busty, blackened, clothing and equipment extensively ripped, but still standing and unharmed. He shook an outraged fist in the direction of the Chinese. "One of you cuffers", he bellowed, "has got to buy me a new kit!". The platoon roared with laughter: Busty, not for the first time, had reduced tension and fear to a joke.

I last saw Busty many years later when, with Jimmy Kemp and my wife Brenda, I visited his pub at Iserlohn. We were royally welcomed and I was glad that Brenda was driving us home. His pub had become, in effect, the alternate WOs and Sergeants' Mess of a Guards battalion stationed nearby. It was

heartwarming to hear from the Guardsmen of their affection for Busty and the way that he enhanced their own large concept of service.

In all things that mattered, Busty Humphries was a credit to his Regiment and himself.

D.R.B.

WOII J Joslin.

"Joss" Joslin joined 1/7th Queen's in 1939 at Milbourne Fort and served in France and Belgium in 1940 with that battalion. He was later detailed to go as an instructor at the I.T.C. Chichester until going with a draft to join 1st Queen's.

He was in the actions at Kohima and the Burma oilfields. When the battalion reorganised on a two rifle company basis he was already a Colour-Sergeant. He became my platoon sergeant at WAW early in July 1945, and was a tower of strength during a most difficult and unpleasant time. When the battalion reorganised to a four rifle company basis and moved to Bangkok "Joss" received well deserved promotion to WOII.

Contact was lost until his letter was printed in the November Newsletter. Letters were exchanged and a meeting was being planned, although he was only partially sighted and could walk only a few yards. He died suddenly in hospital after a serious operation.

He was a keen member of the Burma Star Association. His branch secretary writes - "He was a very courageous man and never complained, except in a joking manner. He always retained the smart upright bearing which stamped him as an ex-Warrant Officer".

The funeral was organised by the Burma Star Association and the Royal British Legion with a bugler from the Regiment in attendance - to provide a fitting closing tribute.

Sincere sympathy was expressed to his widow Mrs. Rose Joslin, who said that a long letter from me arriving on the day he entered hospital had given him tremendous pleasure and encouragement. After 45 years I still remember him as he was, cheerful, reliable, calm and so very helpful at all times.

KWB

Mrs C Steeles writes:

Please could you arrange for this letter of thanks to be published in the Association Newsletter.

May we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all friends and comrades who attended the funeral in Worthing and Memorial service in Luton of WOII Bill Steeles.

Also our thanks to all of you who sent floral tributes, letters and cards of comfort and support.

Claudia Steeles, Sons and daughter

FORMATION OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

Under the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act of 1907, the Volunteer forces were abolished and replaced by the Territorial Force, which was organised on the same lines as the Regular Army.

After the Great War, the Territorial Force was reconstituted as the Territorial Army under Army Order 396 of 1921 which decreed:

'Territorial Army and Militia Act, 1921

From 1st October 1921, The Territorial Force will be known as the Territorial Army and the Special Reserve as the Militia.'

This date is incorrectly shown as 14th July 1921 in our booklet 'Territorial Battalions of the Regiments of Surrey and their successors.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1990

As this year marks the 50th Anniversary of Dunkirk in which the founding Regiments took part and from which many failed to return, and because our November Newsletter is not usually published until after Armistice Day I thought it appropriate, if unseasonal, to make a preliminary announcement of the arrangements for this year.

The Gardens of Remembrance at St. Margarets Church Westminster (organised by the Royal British Legion) will be opened on Thursday 8th November, normally by H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. All members of the Association carrying Association Membership cards or some other form of identification will be admitted into the Abbey Gardens provided they arrive well before 11.00am. The Queen's Regiment plot is immediately adjacent to those of its founding Regiments just inside the main gate. Those members who wish to plant a Cross of Remembrance may purchase one in the Garden from the British Legion, and Battalion OCA's may order them in advance from the Association Secretary. I hope that as many as possible will be present. Please wear medals and Regimental ties.

On Sunday 11th November 1990 members of the Association will attend services all over the country, but the Association has two main gatherings at Guildford (under arrangements of 5th Queen's OMA) and at Kingston (under arrangements Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment). All members of the Association are invited to attend whichever muster is nearest home.

At Kingston-upon-Thames please form up facing the War Memorial in Church Street 10.45am where the Association contingent will come under command of Colonel Peter Thompson OBE TD. The wreath laying party will be detailed by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association. After a short service at the War Memorial there will be a service in Kingston Parish Church after the conclusion of which the Association and the other Organisations will march past the Mayor of Kingston, the representative Deputy Lieutenant and the Chairman of the Association outside Guildhall. The parade is dismissed a short distance beyond Guildhall.

After the march past all are welcome to return to the Sergeants Mess at Portsmouth Road TA Drill Hall.

At Guildford Remembrance starts with a service in Holy Trinity Church with a one minute silence, and it would be helpful if any wishing to attend and requiring a seat in Church would let Ron May or Doug Mitchell of 5th Queen's OMA know well in advance. After the service the 5th Queen's OMA contingent will come under command of Lt. Col. Foster Herd TD DL and will march past the Mayor of Guildford who will take the salute opposite Holy Trinity. This parade will march to the Castle grounds where wreaths will be laid, and the exhortations read. Members usually then retire to a local pub; again, all are welcome.

On a sartorial note, Gentlemen, blue blazers or dark suits are preferred to anoraks, and blue berets are permissible provided they are worn regimentally i.e. with your Regimental badge directly above your left eye!

WEM

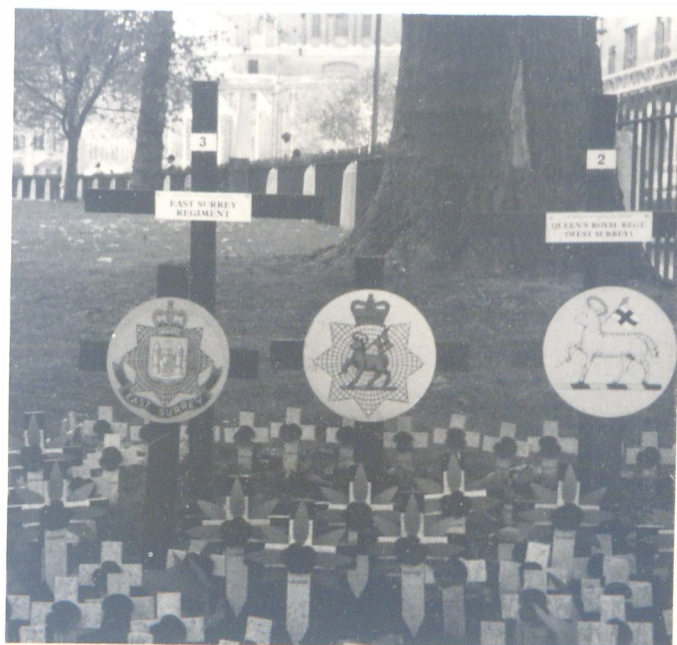
FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1989



Her Majesty The Queen Mother arriving for the service.

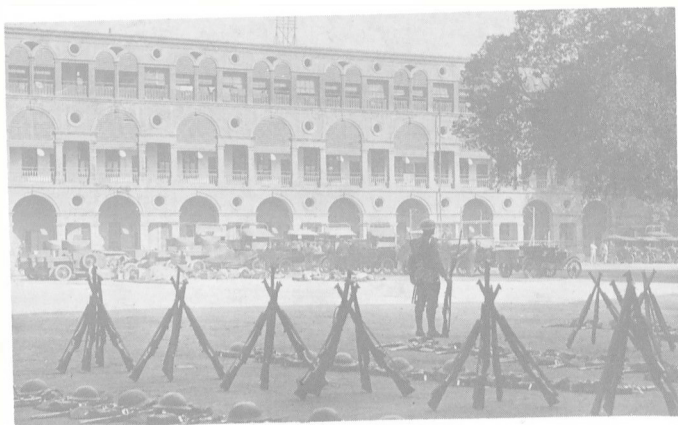


H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother before the prayers.

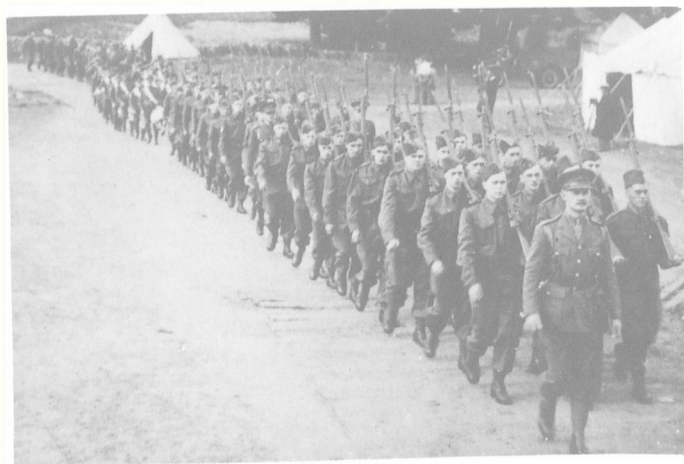


The Queen's Royal Surrey, Regiment Plot.

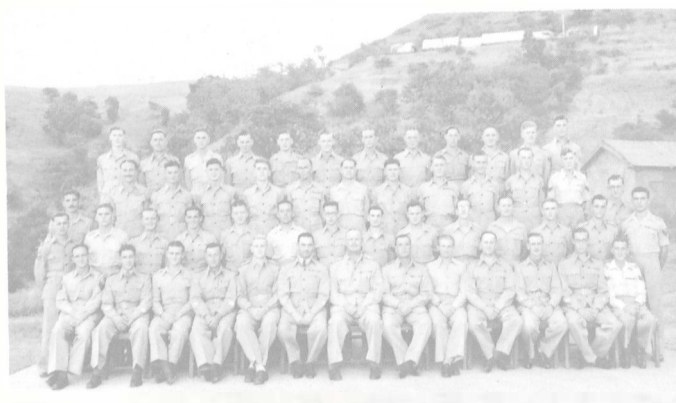
FROM THE PAST



1st Surreys 1922. Kasr-el-Nil Barracks Cairo, Egypt. On internal security duties following the arrest of the leader of the Egyptian Nationalist Party.



2/7th Bn The Queens Royal Regiment Falmer Camp, Brighton, August 1939.



W'O's Sgt. Mess 2nd Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment 1946

Spandau Prison Guard 1949



C Coy 1st Queen's dismounting guard. 1st June 1949. Sgt J Norman, Cpl K Yonwin, Cpl L Jessup.



C Coy 1st Queen's takes over the duties of Prison Guard, Berlin from the American Guard. 1st May 1949. Guard Commander 2nd Lt B B Upson.



Grand Shaft Barracks, Dover 1928

