

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

## THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



### Association Newsletter

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### EDITORIAL

Since the last issue various functions and ceremonies have taken place to honour or commemorate events. In May the townspeople of Mouscron remembered the gallantry of a small detachment of 1/6th Surreys and other regiments, by unveiling a memorial, a bren-gun carrier mounted on a plinth to mark their bravery and self sacrifice in 1940.

After the Annual Church Service at Guildford Cathedral and a stirring sermon by the Padre of the 1st Battalion, the Reverend Jimmy Morrison, Lt Col Foster Herd and his committee had laid on a small buffet for all members who asked to attend at Sandfield Terrace, to mark the 1/5th Queens and others who returned from Dunkirk in 1940.

An excellent turnout at Bassingbourn again this year by our members. Despite an extremely hot day all enjoyed themselves. In October, the President represented the Association at the unveiling of the Chindit War Memorial on the Embankment, London. The memorial was unveiled by The Duke of Edinburgh and afterwards the Chindit veterans marched past the Prince in single file, as they had marched in the jungle so many years ago.

Many readers will wonder how the changes announced by the Government will affect The Queen's Regiment. At the time of writing no firm decisions have been taken. Speculation and rumours abound as to what will happen. Those of us who have taken part in amalgamations and various reductions in the Army will know how sad and worrying this is for those serving and, in particular, for those officers involved in making decisions which will, whatever they decide, be debated by many for years to come.

The decisions will of course be published in this Newsletter when known.

Finally, a familiar figure will be missing from our Annual Reunion in London on November 2nd. I refer of course to Major Charles Cole, who for many years has travelled from his home in Cornwall to be present and take photos. He is slowly recovering from a stroke and I know that all members will wish him a speedy and full recovery. To him and you all I wish a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Les Wilson.

**Congratulations To:-**  
Major & Mrs Ronnie Fairbairn who celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 5th October 1990.

Mr Bill Bone 77 years old, and Miss Eva Jenkinson 89 years old, on their engagement. Mr Bone served in 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during the last war.

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I was pleased that so many members of the Association attended the Reunion at Bassingbourn last July. It is always a happy occasion, whatever the weather, and a great opportunity to renew friendships. It is hoped that this splendid support will continue.

These brief notes give me another opportunity to thank Colonel Les Wilson for all he does for us as members of the Association. Few realise the number of hours or amount of work he puts in, and he deserves all our thanks. Of particular note is the benevolence work in which he is involved, assisting ex-members of our Regiments who for one reason or another are in need. Last year we spent £37,027.00 of our funds in this way and more is available. Should any of you hear of anyone with a Regimental background in need of help, please let Les know.

Finally I record that together with Tommy Atkins and Tom Best, I recently attended the unveiling of the Chindit Memorial in London by HRH Prince Philip. It was a wonderful occasion, and the name of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, which took part in both Chindit Expeditions in Burma in 1943 and 1944, is proudly displayed on the memorial together with those of other units of the Force. It was a moving sight to see so many surviving Chindits, including Tommy Atkins and Tom Best, march past Prince Philip in single file - for that was the only way the Chindits could move through the jungles of Burma.

May I wish all members of the Association, and their families, a very happy Christmas.

Mike Doyle.



The President in a familiar pose



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



1990

20 December

### Details

#### BRITISH BATTALION DAY

1991

10 February

#### SOBRAON DAY

1 March

The Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Dinner (25th Anniversary)

23 March

Queen's Surreys Trustees and Association meetings CLANDON

23 April

#### YPRES DAY

2 May

Spring Meeting - The Golf Society, Richmond Golf Club

11 May

Annual Dinner - 5 OMA - Sandsfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from D. Mitchell.

16 May

#### ALBUHERA DAY

31 May

Presidents Reception - Clandon TBC

2 June

Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral

7 June

President's Reception - Clandon TBC

30 June

Annual Reunion Bassingbourn

3 July

Royal Marines Match - The Golf Society - North Hants, Fleet

9 September

#### SALERNO DAY

4 October

Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Luncheon - Clandon

11 October

The Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Cocktail Party

12 October

The Queen's Regiment WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner - Bassingbourn

17 October

Autumn Meeting The Golf Society - Woking Golf Club

1 November

Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club (TBC)

### A Foggy Day

Some members of 1 Surreys may recollect the day in February 1944 when the Battalion, mounted in 3 tonners supplied by 78 Division RASC, was on its way to take over positions on the banks of the River Rapido from the New Zealand Division and nearly arrived in Cassino Town.

The weather was very foggy and the journey seemed interminable. At times when the fog thinned one could see kilometer stones beside the road and it was a little disconcerting to see how close we were getting to Cassino Town. So it was with some relief when I saw the Brigade Commander roar past my vehicle in his jeep and drive towards the head of the column which he halted. Orders were soon passed down the column to us, unload the 3 tonners which, in addition to personnel and weapons, carried blankets rolled in bundles of ten on the basis of one per man, and march back along the road to where guides would meet us. With the orders came the information that we had passed our assembly area and if the fog lifted we would be in full view of German OPs in the vicinity of Monte Cassino Monastery. We were also informed that the road side verges were probably mined. The Battalion I believe broke all records in the speed of its debussing and moving off despite being very heavily laden. The 3 tonners could not be turned around owing to the suspected mining and their drivers likewise broke speed records in reverse gear.

In about half an hour the fog lifted, and we had our first view of the Monastery perched on its hill, which seemed so close one felt every movement was bound to be seen from there. Luckily for us we were by then under cover. The feeling of being observed remained throughout the time we were in positions near the Rapido or in the mountains around Monte Cassino and we learnt to keep under cover by day and only move at night or in fog.

GLAS

### Donations:-

The President and Trustees wish to thank V. Longley Esq., for his very generous donation to our funds and to all those members, who include "a little more to enable Newsletters and tickets for the reunion, to be despatched to those comrades who are not so well off.

### Best Wishes to:-

Major Ralph Ewort now recovering from major heart surgery and to his wife Adele who has also been in hospital recently.

Mrs Sheelah Ling now back home and recovering.



Major Peter Hill draws another winning ticket at the annual reunion



# THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

## The Battalions

The 1st Battalion in Tidworth has had a full summer of exercises and cadres, a visit by a party of cadets from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and has sent Queensmen to sea with our new affiliated ship, HMS Chatham. The 2nd Battalion in Minden has been equally busy, training with the Americans in Southern Germany, one company going to Canada and visits by ACF and CCF detachments. The 3rd Battalion has also welcomed groups of cadets to Cyprus and has found that, although a heavy schedule of duties is a regular part of life on the island, it still has time to enjoy the opportunities for sport which are available. Meanwhile our TA battalions have packed in a very full programme including, for 8th Queen's Fusiliers, their first overseas camp, in BAOR.

## Ceremonial Parades

On 21 May The 8th Queen's Fusiliers, under command of Lt Col Nick Brunt RRF, exercised the "Privilege" of marching through the City of London, a special honour held by our Regiment and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, both connected historically with the City. The Lord Mayor took the salute at the Mansion House and afterwards an official luncheon was given in the Guildhall for all those who had been on parade. Four weeks later on 24 June a contingent from the 1st Battalion exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Worthing in a joint parade with HMS Sussex, commanded by Lt Col Amedee Mieville, to celebrate the Centenary of the borough. After a reception in the Town Hall the 1st Battalion Corps of Drums and the Kohima (Volunteer) Band Beat Retreat in the town centre.

## The Queen's Regiment Book Of Remembrance

The Queen's Regiment Book of Remembrance, which includes names of members of the Regiment killed in Northern Ireland, has been placed in the Warriors' Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. It was dedicated by the Dean on 25 July in the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Mike Reynolds CB, and many past and present members of The Queen's Regiment and its forebear regiments.

## Sporting Achievements

The Regiment continues to dominate Infantry cricket. Having won the Army cup and both Infantry cups last season, the 1st Battalion has retained the Infantry (UK) and the Infantry (UK v BAOR) cups this year. 2nd Battalion teams have won the 10km Novices Competition at the Infantry Ski meeting, an International 7 a side Rugby Competition in Hanover and also both the BAOR and Army Small Bore Shooting. Meanwhile, with three individual winners, the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion came first in both the Mens' and Womens' events at the South East District TA Orienteering Championships and later won the UKLF TA Orienteering Championships in May. Our Regimental free fall team, 'The Flying Dragons' have continued their successes by winning one gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the National and Army Parachuting Championships this summer.

## Congratulations To Individuals

Congratulations are due to Col Gavin Bulloch MBE who is to be promoted to Brigadier when he takes up the appointment of DA Athens next February. This brings to six the number of serving one star officers from the Regiment. We were also delighted to hear that Lt Cols Mike Ball and Peter Cook have both been selected for promotion to Colonel in 1991 and that Brig Stuart Anderson OBE MC, who has recently left the Army, has been appointed the new Secretary of Kent County Cricket Club.

## First Quarter Century Of The Regiment

On 31 December 1991 the present Queen's Regiment will be 25 years old. The Officers' Club will mark this event with a Regimental Dinner in London on 1 March, and by the end of next year the anniversary will have been remembered in several other ways including, it is hoped, publication of a history of this first quarter century for the Regiment written by Maj Jonathan Riley. More information on this will be promulgated later.

## 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment

Having now been in the chair for some 6 months I felt it was time that I contributed to your excellent newsletter in person, particularly as the Battalion is due to move to Minden in Germany in January 1990 to take over from the 2nd Battalion.

Life in Tidworth has been extremely busy. We have had to run numerous cadres and courses to retrain large numbers of the Battalion for their role as part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force. These led into a series of Battalion and Brigade level exercises on Salisbury Plain during which we spent a lot of time in the traditional Infantry sport of digging trenches! However we also got the opportunity to both attack and defend the new complex which has been built between Chitterne and Tilshead to represent a German village. It is a quite excellent facility and allows extremely realistic urban warfare training to take place. Our exercise season was due to end with a NATO exercise in Schleswig Holstein in Northern Germany but sadly, because of the momentous changes in Eastern Europe and financial constraints, this was cancelled.

In between the exercises we managed to squeeze in a number of other events and activities. We carried out a joint Freedom Parade in Worthing with HMS SUSSEX, - to avoid any arguments over inter service seniority, I commanded the Parade with Guards and contingents from HMS SUSSEX and ourselves. The Regimental Colour was carried by Lieutenant S Brann. Many of you will have been at Bassingbourn in July for the windswept Annual Reunion. We provided the Escort, with the Queen's Colour being carried by Lieutenant J Clinch and the Regimental Colour by 2nd Lieutenant H Andree. Our Fire Support Company also provided many of the static displays. The Battalion is currently heavily involved in driver training courses for our mechanised role in Germany. Unfortunately we will not be getting Warrior, the Army's new Armoured Personnel Carrier, for some years and will instead be equipped with the original petrol driven AFV 432s.

We still manage to enjoy life and keep up the old traditions. The Glorious First of June was celebrated by the Battalion with potted sports and a barbecue for all ranks and their families. Sadly, the weather prevented the Regimental Free Fall Team, The Flying Dragons, from dropping in but the event was still a great success. The Kirkies Company Competition has been won this year by B (Holland) Company and the first event of next year's competition, the Boxing, has already taken place. A number of soldiers managed to get away on a sailing trip from Portsmouth to Gibraltar and over 150 attended our adventure training camp in Penhale, Cornwall. The Battalion's cricket side has had another good season and won the Infantry Cup. Several members of the team played at Infantry and Army level with Lieutenant Rumbelow and Private Storey playing for the Combined Services. Our links with the Navy continue. As well as the annual cricket match against HMS Nelson we now have a reciprocal sports day with them and have had two groups of soldiers aboard HMS CHATHAM, the latest ship to be affiliated to the Queen's Regiment.

Sadly the Quebec Band has moved to Cyprus to join the 3rd Battalion. However the Drums Platoon have stepped firmly into the gap. They have performed at numerous events over the last 6 months including the Freedom Parade at Worthing, the Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn and the Queens Surreys Officer's Club lunch at Clandon Park. They have also appeared on television and at the Commissioning Ceremony of HMS CHATHAM.

Although understrength, the Battalion is in extremely good heart. We are looking forward to our posting to Germany and the challenges and opportunities that it offers. We will be running a ski hut during the winter season and our biathlon team has already started training. We will be sending most people to Canada in August next year for mechanised training on the plains of Alberta. So there is plenty to offer and this is being reflected in our manning strength which is actually increasing. Fifteen men have re-enlisted so far this year and we



*HMS CHATHAM*

have had enquiries from a number of others. The future shape and size of the Army is not in our hands but the Battalion is ready for whatever is in store. We are extremely grateful to the Queen's Surreys for their continuing support and interest and hope that we will be able to arrange a visit by the Trustees to us, as we have done in Tidworth, once we get to Germany.

ACM

#### 5 Old Members Association, Guildford

On the evening of Saturday, 12th May, in an atmosphere of nostalgia, 180 members attended the 5th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members' Association All Ranks Reunion Dinner. They came from near and far, the "distance record" holders being two stalwarts from Australia. All were recalling the 50th anniversary of the great escape from Dunkirk.

Welcoming everyone the Chairman, Lt. Col. F. B. Herd, said he was pleased to see so many present and he hoped that all would support the function as long as they could. He took pleasure in welcoming the honoured guests who included the Mayor of Guildford, Mrs. Mary Lloyd-Jones, who was attending one of her first functions in her mayoral year, Major General Mike Reynolds, Colonel The Queen's Regiment, Brigadier Mike Doyle, President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, together with Colonel W. McConnell and Lt. Col. Les Wilson.



The Colonel of the Regiment said that a gathering of this number of members, after so many years, gave great satisfaction to the organisers. He also gave a resume of the state and activities of the regular and territorial battalions of the Regiment, and the recruitment programme and wished the Association the best of luck in future years.



Another photo of The Mayor with Doug Mitchell and other members of 5 O.M.A.

#### Cathedral Service And 50th Dunkirk Anniversary

The Annual Cathedral Service of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association on the 10th June was well attended by members of The 5th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members' Association who also assisted in taking the collection. After the Service the usual 'get together' took place in the Refectory Bar.

Later, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Battalion's return from the beaches of Dunkirk, over 200 members and wives participated in a very pleasant Buffet Lunch at Sandfield Drill Hall, organised by the Secretary, Doug Mitchell and his committee.

The Chairman, Lt. Col. Foster Herd, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He continued by thanking Lt. Col. Les Wilson, Secretary of the Association, for his assistance and for arranging the photographic display which had been set up by Mrs. Daphne Hill of the Museum committee. Thanks were also extended to the OC "A" Company for the use of the Drill Hall, to Captain Brian Scripps and his staff for their general arrangements and to the caterers.



Above:- A group taken outside the Cathedral after the Annual service

Left:- The Mayor of Guildford with The Colonel of The Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Foster Herd with other guests.

## 1/7th Queens (Southwark) Association

Eighteen Members and wives attended the annual Peace and Liberation celebrations. The Saturday evening were all invited to a dinner hosted by the Council and graced by the Burgomaster F. Willocky and other members of the board of Aldermen, also attended by the Belgian Patriotic Association and the 1st British Armoured Division. The Sunday morning began by all delegations assembled for Mass and from the church we marched to the town Memorial where wreaths were laid thence on to the Queens Memorial in Romain De Vidkspark for wreath laying, also to the Polish Memorial and taken by coaches to Belsele, a very impressive ceremony at the memorial to commemorate those members of the Belgian Resistance who were just prior to the liberation, killed on the 5.9.44 by the Germans. An honour guard was provided by the Belgian Army and Navy. The appropriate National Anthems were played and sung at each Memorial. On returning to the Town Hall for a reception which was given by the Burgomaster and Aldermen. We were then taken by coach to a venue for a luncheon given by the Patriotic and Secret Army. In the evening watched by thousands of people was the launching of the Hot Air Balloons and a wonderful firework display.

On Monday a coach trip was arranged by the Patriotic and Secret Army, it was a warm and sunny day and to Haslett Theme Park in the morning, we were then entertained to a luncheon at the Police Academy H.Q. The afternoon was spent in the town for shopping and sightseeing. On the return a stop was arranged where we had a convivial evening with our friends, chatting and enjoying the refreshments from the Bar.

Our gratitude to the Burgomaster and the Patriotic Associations for their generous hospitality and particularly to the Commandant R. Van Den Bergh of the Patriotic Association and his Associates for making the arrangements for a memorable and successful weekend.

L. U

## Mini-Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

On the Glorious First of June, Del Gardner held a small reunion at the Royal British Legion. Sadly a number of our old soldiers living in the Suffolk - Norfolk area were unable to attend at the last moment, despite this, those who did attend enjoyed themselves and 'put the world to rights' 'over a pint or ten'. Del hopes to arrange another reunion in 1991 so all those living in the Anglia region do try and go along and meet other friends who have settled in the area.

## Cricket Match 2nd June

No, not the annual match between the Royal Navy and The Regiment, this time, between Old Queen's Surrey's and Croydon Post Office. As a result of a lot of hard work and organisation on the part of Wally Charman and Eddie Willcox, the match resulted in a draw. We are told that Wally Charman actually wrote to all the members in the Croydon area and surprise surprise, Eddie Willcox just happens to be the Sports Chairman at the Warlingham Sports Ground and managed to acquire the ground at no cost!

The team was captained by Mick Taylor who lost the toss so the Queen's Surreys batted first and made 107 all out with Pete Johnson top scorer with 24 not out.

The Post Office played well and forced a draw. The day was a huge success and the teams would like to express their thanks to the organisers and Mrs Valerie Willcox for laying on the refreshments. Above all, a big thank you to Wally Charman for organising the match.

## Letter From America

I write with news from the Canadian West Coast where we have recently been privileged to receive not one but two visits within three months from the Secretary General of the British Commonwealth Ex - Services League and President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt Assoc, Brig Mike Doyle.

As many of your readers will know, Michael went through a trying time with his knees two years ago and I was particularly pleased that I was able to persuade him to renew his activities in areas not previously attempted since the operation. The Brigadier scorned the offer of a golf cart during a round at the scenic Victoria Golf Club in late March, striding manfully around the course. I later learnt that his experience encouraged his participation in the Golf Spring meeting shortly afterwards.

His second visit in June was more businesslike since he was attending the Royal Canadian Legion's annual conference in Vancouver. However, we were able to meet at the end of the final day, when I had been invited to take the Brigadier to HQ Vancouver District Officers Mess for Happy Hour - a Canadian tradition, as you probably know. The Mess is located most delightfully on the waterfront in False Creek in the heart of Vancouver.

It was very heartening yet again to witness the Brigadier's response to the challenge when the attractive Capt Cynthia Carstairs invited him on to the floor for a bit of bee - bop. He didn't flinch and, as you can see from the photograph, gave a jolly good impression of enjoying himself - even though he was probably in quite a lot of pain.



The President 'cheek to cheek'.

By the way, thank you very much for the mention and photo of myself on the inside front page of the last Newsletter - it prompted a very nice letter recently from Gen. David Lloyd Owen and another from Peter Roupell who is visiting us in September with his wife Cherry. We look forward very much to seeing them.

Something else I was fascinated by in the Newsletter was the article by R.F. Headed "Another soldier/policeman". We have in Victoria a B.C. Supreme Court Judge, Judge Monty Tyrwhitt Drake, a delightful man whose son took over from me some years ago as President of the local cricket association. I have passed a copy of the article to the family for their interest.

By coincidence, Gen David Lloyd Owen's near neighbour in Norfolk was the grandmother of other friends of mine here and Gen David sent his best wishes to the Homer boys here in his letter.

S J P

## “Emergency Sahib”

Stoughton Barracks in Guildford, was formerly the Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment. There, records were kept, basic recruit training was carried out, young officers began their commissioned service and men of all ranks passed through according to the ever-changing circumstances of war.

Unlike some such places, considered to be so transitory as to be of little importance, the Queen's Depot was a vital place. Discipline was strict, and properly so, because no Regiment can succeed without it. As the 2nd of Foot it was made clear to us that we were no ordinary English Line Regiment, but were the oldest and without doubt the greatest. The 1st of Foot had to be older, but they were The Royal Scots - from another country!

King of discipline in the Depot was RSM Tasker. Like my old school Drum-Major Etches, he was short, stocky and steel-eyed. The Queen's seemed to breed senior warrant officers like that. On the parade ground, RSM Tasker was lord of anything that moved - at least below the rank of two-pip Lieutenants. That included any hapless new 2nd Lieutenant who might stray unknowing on to the hallowed ground. “Sir! Beggin' your pardon Sir,” he would croak, having marched up to the offending subaltern and put up an immaculate salute, “it is the custom in the best Regiments and definitely in THIS Regiment, that NOBODY walks across the parade ground”.

Until we had learnt the drill to his satisfaction, he would have us round the back of a hut, out of sight of the recruits, practising how to return the salute properly. “Salutes is a two-way courtesy. If I see any of you tapping your ‘at with your swagger stick, or a-scratching your eyebrow like the Wavy Navy, you’ll wish you’d joined the ‘ome Guard”!

Regimental pride has always been of enormous importance in the British Army, and still is, despite the ravages of amalgamation. It was even - I might say particularly - true for wartime soldiers. We were given a comprehensive and inspiring picture of the Regiment's history. I knew some of it from the OTC at school, but in the Depot, there were old soldiers around still telling tales of Mons, Ypres and the Somme.

We learnt about the Regiment's fighting prowess back to its formation to the Great War. Everyone soon realised that the “Queen” was neither Queen Elizabeth (now, of course, the Queen Mother), nor even the old Queen Mary, our Colonel-in-Chief, but Queen Catherine of Braganza, the Infanta of Portugal, who was taken in marriage by King Charles II. It was he who originally commissioned the raising of ‘The Queen's’ primarily to defend Tangier, which came into his possession as part of the marriage treaty.

Those of us who were passing through the Depot looked forward, I am sure, to joining an active Battalion so that this expectation could be realised. As my time drew near, I wondered how I would fit in. If I went to one of the Territorial Battalions, all six of which had been in action against the might of the German Army in France or Belgium and had escaped with dignity from Dunkirk, how green I would be in comparison. How could I a raw, just-out-of-the-egg, one-pip wonder, hope to command the respect of men who had suffered such tribulations in a monumental withdrawal - the most potentially demoralising of all operations in war. At the time they were reorganising and were deployed to guard the coasts of Sussex and Kent.

Still more did I quail at the thought of going straight out to one of the two regular battalions - in the unlikely event of having such greatness thrust upon me. The whiteness of my knees would surely pale in the company of the 2nd Battalion, who had only left Palestine the year before to join the 4th Indian Division in the Western Desert.

The 1st Battalion were actually in the North-West Frontier of India, stationed at Razmak in Waziristan, engaged in old-style

mountain warfare against the notorious Faqir of Ipi, then at the height of his prestige and power. That would be even more a lamb to the slaughter. The idea was exhilarating, but I knew that in practice I was nowhere near ready for it.

There was in existence another battalion of which I had never heard. This one served the dual purpose of retaining for an indefinite period officers and men who had completed their Depot training, yet were not immediately required as reinforcements elsewhere; and of filling a gap in the shore defences of the North-East coast, since we were by no means out of danger of a German invasion. The 13th (Holding) Battalion of the Queen's was based in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and that was where I was posted early in the summer of 1941.

Hull, where the train deposited me, was a grim place. The city and dockland had no more been spared the Luftwaffe bombing raids than had any other major port in England, and the extensive damage wherever you looked was a sorry sight. The Battalion was deployed over the flat countryside to the north of the Humber from Patrington to Beverley, a fine old market town. Down the straight stretch of coastline from Hornsea to Withernsea, and beyond to Spurn Head, 21 miles downriver from Hull.

Spurn Head was a narrow hook of land curving into the mouth of the Humber, about three miles long and in some places at high tide, only a few yards wide, through which ran a narrow lane. At the end of this it splayed into an area big enough for a few boatmen's houses, a lighthouse and some wartime fortifications. These included a well dug-in Royal Artillery Anti-Aircraft Battery sited to shoot up enemy bombers as they approached Hull and an infantry platoon to protect the guns from sea-borne attack. The Company I joined had Spurn Point in its area, so I had just about time to get used to being an actual platoon commander and to get to know my NCOs and men, when it was our turn to come up from reserve to take over this responsibility.

The area was defended from the safety of a few strategically placed pillboxes which looked southwards across the river to Grimsby and eastwards over a vast expanse of North Sea. There were huts for those off-duty to brew-up or sleep in.

The officer I took over from said, “Wait till you see the armaments the Germans are in for a laugh!”

Sure enough, in one of the concrete strongholds I found two ancient Lewis guns with their flat, round magazines on top like cans of film.

“Bet you've never seen one of those,” he said. We had played about with an old one at school, so my stock went up when I spotted that one of them was - incredibly - a wooden dummy.

The corporal in charge grinned at me, “Don't worry, sir. if Hitler shows up 'ere, we'll wait till we can see the whites of 'is eycs, then we'll pop outside and hit 'im over the 'ead wiv it!”

Thanks be to God the dummy weapon was never put to that test. The woodworm would never have stood it.

Apart from that shock, I could hardly believe the sight of .303 ball ammunition and hand grenades stacked on the floor in rusty, sealed boxes. These were only to be opened on receipt of special orders, likely to arrive in the form of a code word over the wireless. We only had one of those back in the hut and that seldom spoke more than unintelligible crackling.

If one liked desolate isolation and could get hooked on bird watching, Spurn Head was just the place. We were lucky to be there at the best time of the year - I was not looking forward to the biting winds of January.

Also - there was no getting away from it - we could not help feeling somewhat vulnerable. I have the sort of imagination which insists on revealing calamities clearer than a gypsy's ball.

I could just see an invasion fleet of barges disembarking hundreds of German stormtroopers, armed to the teeth, right on our private beach, whilst a pincer movement cut the track behind us just as dive-bombing Stukas were blowing us all to small fragments. Very nasty. Nobody, least of all the Germans, could have guessed how thin the khaki line stretched around our shores at that time.

When back with the company in reserve, we were put through our paces with the usual training exercises. I could not help thinking that anyone landing in England - especially by parachute - would need to be an expert map-reader. Those of us townies who normally found their way about by hopping on the right bus or train had particular difficulty. Railway station names had been painted out, so on a journey by train, you never knew how far you had got. On arrival, you had to listen through the hiss of steam and squeaking of brakes for the secret to be let out by the local porter. Sometimes even he would not tell you. "I ain't saying where this is. I don't know you. You might be one of them fifth columns!"

All the signposts had been removed from crossroad and turnings, which made navigation most confusing. We often got hopelessly lost. Beverley was a medieval wool town with narrow streets and lovely old houses. I cannot now remember where we were coming from, or where we were supposed to be going to, but I know that on one night march, my platoon was at the end of a long column - perhaps two companies - and that whoever was in front did not know where he was going. There were about five main roads converging on Beverley, and we wound our way in and out of the town in the moonless black-out, round and round, miserably recognising the same landmarks several times over before eventually finding our way out in the right direction. Then, after what seemed hours of trudging, I remember the patterning of running feet and a breathless corporal running up beside me from the tail end. "Please, sir," he panted, "can we have an 'alt? The boys is browned off!" Although opposite in want, the request of Oliver Twist to Mr. Bumble had nothing to it in audacity. But we did stop before too long - and somehow managed to find the way back to camp just before dawn.

As time went by, I began to feel a certain frustration at the thought of having to spend all my war in Yorkshire. I liked the people, but winter was fast approaching and it was past holiday weather - already chilly at nights even with a greatcoat, buttoned up to the neck.

I need not have worried, for one day in November, I was summoned to Battalion HQ and shown into the office of the Commanding Officer - Lt. Col. 'Joe' Bathgate. I admit to having had some trepidation before this interview, as I had only met him to speak to once - on arrival. Soldierly and fierce of demeanour, clipped moustache bristling with tough efficiency, he was reputed to eat subalterns for breakfast. I could not think of having committed any obviously detected crime, but one never knew.

To my amazement and delight, he handed me a posting order and said, "Read that, Schlaefli, I am afraid we are going to lose you." - and then, "Get packed up, seven days' embarkation leave and you're off to India, lucky feller - good luck!"

It transpired that the threat of Japan coming into the war had caused frantic moves in high places to effect an immediate build-up of the Indian Army. Every major unit in the United Kingdom, as I remember, was ordered to produce two officers to be seconded from their parent regiments for as long as needed. Some were volunteers, some just happened to be available and a few were the misfits whose COs had the heaven-sent opportunity of despatching as far away as possible. I like to think I belonged to the first category, despite the Brigadier at OCTU. The need was so great that an actual volunteer could have been a Zulu, let alone a mere half-Swiss.

In the next few days, I went up to London to kit myself out for India. I bought a black tin trunk which, all these years later, I still use; camp equipment; light-weight tropical uniforms

which turned out to be quite unsuitable; and an enormous sun helmet which was to join dozens of others floating in the harbour at Bombay. Many of us were conned into purchasing such items, long since out of date.

But who cared about that? I know that I joined the ship at Liverpool on 4th December, 1941, feeling - by no means for the first or last time - that the war had done me a good turn.

RS

#### Officers' Club Luncheon

There were ninety five officers and ladies at the annual luncheon at Clandon Park on Friday 5th October. It was, again, a most enjoyable occasion, and the club is indebted to the Secretary, Lt Colonel Les Wilson, for all his organisation and hard work.

The event started with a reception in the salon, as usual, but before lunch there was a colourful surprise in store. The Corps of Drums from the First Battalion was present in full dress, and gave an impressive display. Because the weather was bad this display was indoors but, flexible as ever, the Drummers took this in their stride and the dining room was filled with the stunning sound of drum and fife. We are much indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Mieville for sparing the drums from their busy programme at Tidworth.

The President of the Association, Brigadier Mike Doyle, in his address after lunch, welcomed our guests and mentioned that the Colonel of the Regiment was sorry to miss the luncheon, but, at that very moment, was attending a meeting at which the future structure of the Army was being discussed. We await the results at the time of writing.

After lunch another new feature, Mr Chris Allen the Administrator at Clandon, had kindly arranged for the house to be open for those who wished to view it. A thoughtful gesture, and an opportunity which was taken by most.

The Queen's Surreys Museum was also open for private viewing and so, all in all, it was a day full of interest and colour! A friendly, successful day.

J B R



Members watching the Corps of Drums

Our Acknowledgement to the Surrey Advertiser for permission to print the picture on page four.

## Malay(sia) and Singapore Revisited

Working in the electronics industry I am aware of the growth of South East Asia and that much of that growth has taken place in Singapore and the Malay Peninsular. However I was not quite prepared for what I saw.

I work for a U.S. based organisation with manufacturing locations in the UK, Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as California and so have travelled extensively, in Europe especially Germany where it was I got my first overseas posting to Iserlohn while serving with 'A' Coy 1 Queen's. We are all aware of the change in that country since the battalion moved home in Oct/Nov 1953. I have been to California many times, I've visited Hong Kong and Taiwan but I had never been able to fulfil a major ambition of revisiting Malaya or Singapore where I served with the battalion from Jan 54 to Dec 55.

Earlier this year I was offered a new position with my Company to work in Manila, Philippines, for a couple of years. Going with that job is responsibility of a contractor based in Ipoh Malaysia. Before accepting the job my wife and I went over to Manila for a fact finding mission calling into Ipoh on the way home and we arranged for a couple of days vacation in Singapore as well.

Thus we took off from Manila Airport on route to KL (Kuala Lumpur to the uninitiated) one Sunday in April of this year. Now Manila is an experience, very heavily industrialised, noisy, dirty and very heavy traffic which seems to have only two simple rules.

- 1) If you are on this side of the road you go in one direction, if you are on the other side you go in the opposite.
- 2) If you want to do anything else you just honk the horn and do it.

The people are lovely, very friendly and outgoing and make up for all this. However it was with this pattern in our mind we landed in K.L. By this time I was already beginning to feel at home, I could even understand some of the words they were saying in Malay, the air hostess in National Dress with their smiles and charm brought memories flooding back.

My arrival back to Malaysia was so different to the 19 days on board the Troopship M.V. Georgic from Southampton to Singapore. This time it was business class on Malaysian Airways and that is luxury. Once landed my fears of finding another Manila were soon gone, no matter what is said about British Colonial rule it left a sound basis for a well organised, well run and disciplined society, Malaysia (and Singapore) built on that basis and is a pleasure to see.

Collecting the baggage, clearing immigration then customs was so smooth, pleasant and quick, perhaps the most upsetting issue are the notices everywhere making it quite clear that the penalty for drug smuggling is death. Not that should worry anybody but the perpetrators of such a crime.

Out of the Airport the traffic flowed freely, picking up a taxi to Down Town (I'm never sure what that means) KL was so quick. The Mata Mata (Police) were well in control, I was a bit disappointed to see the traditional style headgear had been replaced with the normal cap.

The taxi driver spoke good English so we exchanged a few pleasantries driving thru' the rain in the dark night along a modern expressway passing many Multinational factories all with the names lit up in Neon signs. Names like N.E.C., Cannon, National Semiconductors and good old Guinness. My very first taste of dark bitter liquid was in BMH K.L. recovering from Malaysia. arriving at the Hotel it was good to see the constant hands out expecting a tip experienced in most countries was absent, in fact notices in the Hotel forbid the practice.

Our stay was only over night catching a flight to Ipoh at 0745hrs and so we had little time to see much except perhaps a super modern shopping precinct and looking at road signs I did notice one Templar. Presumably after Sir Gerald Templar who, we all that served out there with 1 Queens will remember, had a fair bit to do with suppressing the Communist uprising eventually leading to Malaya's Independence. Incidentally I was reminded during my visit that hostilities only ended officially early this year with Chin Peng the leader of the Malay Peoples Liberation army flying in from mainland China to sign the documents

The flight from K.L. to Ipoh was made in a Boeing 737, again a bit different from the last time I did the same trip in 1955 from B M H to Tana Rata the convalescent centre in the Cameron Highlands once I had recovered from Malaria, then it was from RAF KL (same airport) to RAF Ipoh (still the same airport albeit quite a bit more comfort) in an RAF Valetta.

We spent one whole day and night in Ipoh, of course the first priority was business but we did manage to get a tour of the town before going to our Hotel. Our guide pointed out many of the more interesting sights, the school used by the Japanese army as HQ 1942-45, the cafe most frequented by soldiers before independence and the old Planters Club complete with the Billiard Room and Cricket Pitch on the Padang. Still very Colonial in appearance and very selective but open to all races.

We left Ipoh early next day for Singapore via KL again, this time we arrived mid morning and had a 3 hour stop-over where we could see the city thru' the glass fronted departure lounge all the high rise apartments, hotels and offices.

The most impressive building being the Mosque. Maybe nostalgia, having been away for 34 years and returning to a country where I spent over two years making a lot of friends and losing one or two, where I changed from a kid to an adult. Where I remember the hard times of jungle bashing to the fun we had after patrol when we took a free day and evening going into the nearest biggest town, Malaca (now Malaka), KL itself or Singapore, relaxing, having a few beers, visiting an air conditioned cinema, having a meal in a local cafe chatting up the waitress and more if the inclination took you and she was willing. Chasing each other through the streets in trishaws. But to me Malaysia seems my favourite country. I have made a promise that as time allows I will return for a longer stay visiting our old haunts like Tampirs, Kajang, Bahan, Mt Ophir and wherever I can remember. Actually I did make a diary of events during my two years in Malaya which I retained so I will be able to refer to the places recorded there so I should not have any difficulties. Any issues I consider interesting will be sent to the Newsletter for publishing.

On to Singapore, what can I say, where can I start? What a place, what changes.

Arriving at Changi Airport, the very same one that I left from in 1955 when it was still RAF Changi, I thought I would be able to recognise one or two places on route to the hotel. No chance, I think about 70% of the roads and buildings have been demolished and redeveloped clean, tall multi storey flats, offices and hotels everywhere with expressways and six lane highways, fabulous shopping centres all connected by pedestrian foot-bridges, flowers, plants and trees abound. The island has to be the cleanest place in the world. This to my wife was the best place she has seen, to me, again maybe nostalgia, but it had lost its charm, it was perhaps too sophisticated, too well organised.

The final day was spent for my benefit with my poor wife just following me around walking almost continually for five hours listening to me saying over and over again "it wasn't like this before" or "I can't believe the changes" as I tried to relate to the Singapore of the mid fifties. I did find Raffles, albeit in a state of total reconstruction, I also found some of the old municipal buildings where they used to be. I found and took photographs of one of the Hindu Temples and St Andrews Cathedral. When I got home I compared these photos with the ones I had of the same place taken in 1955 and coincidentally

almost the same angles. The major difference is that in 1955 the Cathedral stood out dwarfing all the surrounding buildings while now it is overshadowed by the office, shops or hotel blocks around it.

We took a taxi to Chinatown, would you believe a carefully preserved area of several blocks of the old city. This is what I remember, the cafe's, the smelly dried fish, meats and herbs hanging up for sale. The noise, the bustle even the trishaws. But nothing stands still even here changes have taken place, the trishaw boys offer to pose with you for souvenir photo's or a very expensive but short ride around the block. We even had one ask us to ride in his as it was complete with fitted stereo radio. Gone too are the abacus replaced by the calculator to work out the bargains. My final indulgence was a plate of nasi goring and several cans of Tiger Beer.

For all the changes, I can assure you the beer is still great, the food excellent and the girls are still as attractive perhaps even more so with the modern dress and just a bit fuller in shape after a couple of decades of good living.

Anybody lucky enough to find their way out there will find that, airfare excluded, it is very good value, it is very clean, friendly and one of the most law abiding, making it a pleasure to walk around. I thoroughly recommend it if you can.

R.E.

### Early Territorial Days

In May, 1911, when I joined the 5th Queen's, the Territorial Force, as it was then named, was little more than three years old. The Territorial Battalion had replaced the former 2nd Volunteer Battalion, which had had its being and sustenance in and from the same geographical area, largely agricultural and of villages and small country towns, of West Surrey as the new formation. A valuable nucleus of officers and N.C.O's (including incidentally most of the drum and fife band) continued their service into the new unit. There were eight companies, "A" at Reigate, "B" at Camberley, "C" and "D" and Headquarters at Guildford, "E" at Farnham, "F" at Godalming, "G" at Dorking and "H" at Woking.

Each company had its local Drill Hall, with a sergeant instructor, usually a pensioned N.C.O. from The Queen's Regiment, as permanent staff. The Adjutant at Headquarters was a serving regular officer, usually but not always from The Queen's Regiment. In 1911, the Adjutant was Captain G. V. Palmer of The South Wales Borderers; he was succeeded by Captain G. B. Parnell of The Queen's. The permanent staff Regimental Sergeant Major was a splendid ex-regular with 21 years service in the Regular Queen's, one E. J. W. Reader. When the 1914/18 War broke out, Parnell was recalled to the Regular Battalion (he and Palmer were both killed soon after in France) and Reader was commissioned as Quartermaster, a popular appointment with all ranks, and served as such with the unit throughout the war. He was replaced as RSM by another of the permanent staff, "Dodger" Green from Farnham, and when he left during the campaign in Mesopotamia his successor was a survivor from the Volunteers, one George Holt a solicitor's clerk in Guildford. The duties and appointment of Adjutant devolved upon a Territorial officer, Captain W. P. Spens of "E" Company. It was an inspired appointment. He was a highly efficient Adjutant (I know because I was his Orderly Room Sergeant), and went on to become Chief Justice in India, an M.P. and finally Lord Spens.

There were family ties in the Companies. The officers were frequently from local county and professional families. There was a quite strong social and family atmosphere throughout the battalion which gave a sense of cohesion amongst all ranks. A factor was that in the pre-1914 days public transport had not established the ascendancy it now has over our lives. The young, and not so young, men had more or less to find their

amusements after work in the town or village in which they lived. Hence the "Terriers" and the Drill Hall provided a social amenity for those who joined the Force and their friends who followed their example. The paid Annual Camp was a great attraction. Pride in the County Regiment was real and strong. Men were drawn together and the family relationship I have mentioned kept the Battalion together so that it was able to go into war as a compact and well-knit formation when the call came. This cohesion held throughout service in India and arduous years of active service in Mesopotamia. Death and wastage later brought dilution with drafts from other formations arriving as re-inforcements.

The Battalion was mobilized "in situ" during Annual Camp in 1914. It had had an exhausting, and for soft feet a blistering, route march from Bordon Camp in Hampshire to the Camp site on Salisbury Plain. Willy-nilly overnight we became full-time soldiers and that Annual Camp lasted for five years. The Drill Halls were immediately over-run by men who had served in the battalion demanding re-enlistment. They brought friends and so many applicants were forthcoming that the Battalion strength was brought up to establishment within days. Indeed, recruits came forward in sufficient numbers to provide the material for the formation of a second battalion in a comparatively short time.

Enlistment in the Territorials had been specifically linked to the obligation to serve in war time in the United Kingdom. To go on service overseas it was necessary for the individual to sign an undertaking to do so. Most serving members did so. Those who did not usually had good domestic reasons for not doing so.

I joined the 5th Queen's through being employed temporarily at Headquarters in the Orderly Room whilst I was awaiting appointment to a career post. I enjoyed it so much that I stayed on in the Regiment when I went to Farnborough to the Royal Aircraft Factory to take up my appointment, travelling to Guildford for drills and attending the Annual Camps for the sheer fun of it. Training, although efficient and enthusiastic, did not go far beyond drills, route marches and rifle shooting on the Army ranges (Ash and Bisley). It was a matter of pride that the 5th Queen's should be highly proficient at musketry, so as to maintain the prized reputation of the Regular Battalions in that military skill. There were occasional "field days" in the open country, usually in collaboration with other formations, consisting of manoeuvres and operations for preparing to fight another Boer War. There was little of the professionalism which marks the Territorial Army of to-day. There was little if any opportunity to go far beyond the Drill Hall and the Annual Camps. No courses, no attachments to regular formations, no trips abroad. The object was simply to provide a trained unit fit to take part in defending the country against armed enemies should the occasion arise, (some of us hoped that it would). In the event it was successful. The 5th Queen's was sufficiently well organized as a military unit to be sent to India, three months after mobilization, as part of the Home Counties Territorial Division, to relieve the Regular Army Garrison there to go on active service in France. And less than one year later to go into war as a fighting unit itself.

On a personal note. I was recalled immediately from the mobilized 5th Queen's to Farnborough where I was working in the Experimental Department of the Royal Aircraft Factory on work that was truly very important. However, my peace-time work in the Orderly Room at Guildford and in the Annual Camps was so useful in the rush hours I have mentioned that the War Office consented to release me for a few weeks to help the hard-pressed staff at Guildford. I was, wilfully, at sea en route to India, too far away for recall, when Farnborough demanded my return to duty there. Hence, my service as Orderly Room Sergeant of the 5th Queen's from 1914 to 1918 in India and Mesopotamia. And I am still proud at having done so.

## Nine Months September 1939 to 1940

On the evening of Friday, 1st September, 1939, when I arrived home, my wife told me that there had been an announcement, over the wireless, that all Territorials were to report to their Drill Hall. I said "I will just nip down to Sandfield Terrace to do so". She replied "Have your meal first or it will be cold!"

The next morning we were kitted out with those items of uniform of which we were deficient and I managed to get word to my wife to collect my "civvies", which she did on the Sunday afternoon. We managed to speak, briefly, to each other and pass the parcel over the railings. There had been a false air-raid warning soon after the declaration of war and she told me that my mother, who was staying with us temporarily, had rushed down to the semi-basement, put on her gas mask and was throwing buckets of water over a blanket covering the kitchen door. (That was the drill recommended in a Government pamphlet, and a newspaper, in the event of a gas attack).

On the Saturday afternoon we had been issued with a haversack ration consisting of corned beef sandwiches, a bar of chocolate and an apple, and in the afternoon were taken for a route march.

We did not stay long in Guildford but moved off to the Ashdown Forest area. Bn HQ was established at Chapelwood Manor, Nutley, whilst the Rifle Companies were in the neighbouring villages and small towns such as Uckfield. The Orderly Room staff consisted, at that time, of CQMS Cooke and Ptes Edwards, Dudley, Coveney and myself. (Coveney later was made Intelligence Sgt. and was fatally wounded near Oudenarde). One day, in Battalion Part 1 Orders, a Church Parade was ordered for the following Sunday (in full Battle Order!). It was conducted by Padre Brody, and a number of photographs were taken. We were puzzled by the fact of parading in full battle order. All was made clear later when my mother sent me an extract from "Picture Post" purporting to show "Our troops in France taking part in a Drumhead Church Service" and there was I in the front row! At that time I had been nowhere near France.

Before winter really set in we moved to Sherborne, Dorset. That was a very severe winter and rumours were rife. According to them the Quartermaster had a large number of topees in the stores., then, a little later, we were to assist the Finns against Russia and there were many fur lined coats held and someone had definitely seen them! Those rumours were apparently substantiated when the Carriers were sent off to a port to be loaded on to a ship, only to be unloaded immediately and returned to Sherborne. No one knew the intended destination of those carriers but it was said to be Finland. However, a move somewhere, was definitely confirmed when H M King George VI visited the Bn. We were drawn up on the station approach at Sherborne and he inspected us.

The following day the road party, comprising all the Bn. transport, including the Carrier Platoon, went off to the embarkation port, and two days later, on the 30th March a farewell dance was held in the Church Hall. Rather strangely there were very few troops.

Shortly before this I had passed the necessary Army Test for a Tradesman Clerk and therefore was receiving trade pay. Then I had been sent on a Cypher course, at the successful completion of which I was appointed Battalion Cypher Clerk. Three days after the farewell dance we set off in the early morning sunshine, via Salisbury, to Southampton, which we arrived at shortly after mid-day. We boarded the troopship "Duke of York" and proceeded into the harbour until about 1.30 a.m. the next morning. Later that morning we arrived and disembarked at Cherbourg. The quayside was practically deserted but we saw George Formby, who gave us a tune on his ukelele until he was stopped by an official. We then were "fell in" and marched several miles to have a meal and then

immediately marched back again. We arrived at Cherbourg Station, where we saw a notice saying "KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND YOUR BOWELS OPEN". We entrained and sat waiting to move off, so closely packed together on narrow wooden seats that we could hardly move at all, and there we stayed from 3 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following day. We arrived and detrained at a place called La Hutte. We then set off to march to St. Ouen-de-Mimbre. There Bn H.Q. and HQ Coy stayed whilst A and B Cos went on to St. Victeur and C and D Cos to Piace, whilst Brigade HQ was at Fresnay. Bn. HQ was situated in the Mairie, which was not too clean and smelt very stuffy. I tried to open a window and after much effort succeeded, whereby what seemed like hundreds of flies fell out - now I know where the flies go in the winter! We hardly had time to settle down when the rumours started to circulate once more - this time that we were to proceed to the South of France and embark for India! I had just finished sorting out my things when I was warned to be ready to move on an advance party the next morning and later was given a Movement Order for the next morning, the last town thereon being Marseilles and thought that it confirmed the rumour. In the event I went by way of the outskirts of Paris, crossed the River Seine and halted at Pacy-Sur-Euc for refreshment. Thence on to Pois and Marseilles (NOT the port) and eventually arriving at Mollien Vidame where we, the small party, were billeted in an old factory, which had been partially demolished by artillery in World War I. On 6th April we continued our journey via Amiens to Warlus on the River Somme. Back at St. Ouen-de-Mimbre the rest of the battalion were entertaining the occupants of the village by taking baths under the village pump whilst the females gathered round and giggled.

On 22nd April (Monday) 1/5th Queens relieved a battalion of The Black Watch at La Creche on the Belgian Frontier. Bn HQ was established in the local schoolroom and we were billeted in the barn of the farm nearby.

In a few days' time we were taken to Steenwerk for a bath and change of clothes at a Mobile Bath Unit in a disused brewery and the following day the Duke of Gloucester arrived to inspect "D" Coy, but all he did was to wander round looking at cookhouses and watch some training. That evening the Bn Dance Band and Concert Party gave an entertainment in the Village Hall at La Creche, which was very popular, especially as we had seen no sign of an ENSA party to that date. That omission was rectified three days later when a party from 1/5th Queens, including myself, were taken to Bethune to see an ENSA Concert, headed by "That well known B.B.C. comedian Skeets Martin!". Personally I had never heard of him. It was on that day (28th April) that we had our first experience of spies, when we saw a man, dressed as a French officer leave Berthof Farm, in neutral Belgium, behaving in a suspicious manner. He tried to cross the frontier unobserved and was captured by The 5th Bn Royal West Kents.

There was a scare about the possibility of parachute troops being dropped by the Germans, rumoured to be dressed as priests and nuns and all ranks were ordered to carry arms and ammunition when leaving billets.

On 3rd May the GOC-in-C., Lord Gort visited the Divisional Sector and inspected our defence posts. The next day 1/5th Queens moved to Nieppe to relieve 1/7th Queens who moved to Bovelle. We were relieved at La Creche by 2nd Buffs. Nieppe was very close to Armentieres which was the first time we had been near a large town since leaving England.

On 10th May Germany invaded Holland and Belgium. The first air raid that we experienced occurred at 0350hrs and continued intermittently all day. At 1500 hours we advanced into Belgium, supported by 5th Lancashire Fusiliers. We halted for a few hours at Coucou, just outside Menin and the transport was camouflaged and placed under some trees.

A squadron of Stukas came over and dive-bombed us. I was sitting on the running board of the truck and dived into a nearby ditch, landing on something soft, which at first I thought was a dead body. I was soon disillusioned when the "body" issued a string of expletives - it was the CSM who had beaten me to it. A bomb burst on the road only feet from me and rendered me completely deaf for a time. I never did completely recover my hearing 100% and to this day am slightly hard of hearing. Incendiary bombs had fallen on a farm where HQ Coy transport had been stationed. Fortunately the transport had been moved a few seconds before and escaped, but the farm was burned out. The Battalion quickly formed up and moved out via Courtrai, where we stayed the night. Spies were reported everywhere and it was said that one had been caught in the village making notes as a unit of the RA passed through. There was a report later that B Coy had captured some parachutists. There was much aerial activity.

On 16th May we moved about 5 miles to Langestraat on L'Escaut near Oudenarde Bn HQ was established in a farmhouse in the village. We were informed that the enemy was using our code names and calling over the radio, using them, and asking for our exact locations. We were glad that we had received a warning and did not fall for it. At 0400hrs on the morning of 17th May we received a message, which I decoded, to the effect that enemy armour had broken through and were heading in our direction. We stood to for the first time. As soon as it was light we left our packs, greatcoats, and any extraneous articles by the roadside to be picked up by the Battalion transport, which was moved back five or six miles to B Echelon. We were told that we could collect our possessions at a later date - we never saw them again. We had just received a belated delivery of mail, which included a birthday parcel for me (18th May was my 24th birthday). I emptied my parcel and put a tin of "pineapple chunks" in my ammunition pouch, in the hope that I should be able to eat at least that on my birthday, and that I could eat the small birthday cake and other goodies at a later date, but it was not to be. We immediately started digging in on a hill overlooking the river. As we dug the aerial activity increased. There were many refugees on the roads and units of troops, many of them French also began straggling through. It was obvious that British and Allied troops were withdrawing rapidly. All barges on the River Escaut were blown up with the idea of holding up the enemy. Three German planes passed over during the morning, obviously on a recce. It was not too long before we observed some enemy troops with horsedrawn artillery setting up on the opposite shore and observer balloons were put up.

Before long one of the officers, I forget whom, organised a rota for each one of us to go "over the top" and level off a portion of the parapet for ten minutes whilst the shells whistled around. That was the longest ten minutes I have ever endured, but it was good for morale. Eventually the barrage ceased and we counter-attacked over the hillside to a village called Petegham from which the enemy had been ejected by the Carrier platoon, led by Major The Lord Sysonby, complete with monocle, a pistol in one hand and a rifle in the other. The troops facing us were a unit of the SS (Deaths head) and they seemed mesmerised by the Prussian looking officer with his monocle and they retreated hurriedly. For his action Lord Sysonby received the DSO.

It did not take the enemy long to organise a counter attack on both flanks. The Belgian Division on our left and the French Division on our right were pushed back, 1/6th Queens were surrounded and our C Coy was in desperate straits.

We plunged into a wood, having received the order "Everyman for himself" (an order to be repeated at times in the future). We did not know where we were going nor where the rest of the Battalion were. We had no maps and no compasses and were staggering along like zombies, having had no sleep or substantial food for some time, so we just followed our instincts

to keep going in the direction that we thought was to the rear. We caught up with a battery of RA howitzers, firing over open sights and eventually arrived at the HQ of 133 Infantry Brigade (our own Brigade HQ) who were in reserve at Knocke. There we were gathered together (about 100 in all) and formed into a supernumerary Company in an orchard and we were given some food and a hot drink.

We had orders to take up defensive positions round the Brigade HQ perimeter. Apart from our rifles we had but one damaged Bren gun and 1000 rounds of ammunition between us. In the evening orders were given for us to begin a forced march back to the frontier. We formed up and set off along a road that was being shelled. The shelling became so bad that we were ordered to split up and make our way in small groups, independently. From there we were sent on about 16 kms to H.Q. 3rd Corps where we were accommodated for the night. The next morning, after having a drink of tea we continued on to where we were told our Battalion would be. When we arrived at our destination we found that 1/5th Queens had moved on a few hours before and we moved on to another stragglers camp at Brookstadt. There was much aerial activity by the Germans and we could see them bombing Armentieres in the distance. We bedded down on some straw for the night, having had nothing to eat or drink since leaving 3 Corps HQ and our emergency ration had long since been devoured.

On 27th May the Battalion took up a new position at Strazeele, where certain enemy elements were reported, including a number of tanks with artillery and infantry support. The next day, 28th May, we moved into the village of Strazeele itself. Strong enemy forces were reported to be fighting in Hazebruk, about one and a half kms away and the order was received that Strazeele that was to be defended "to the last man". We, the orderly room staff, were dug in in an orchard on the outskirts of the village whilst the rifle companies were engaged in a fierce battle nearby and the carrier platoon distinguished themselves and some of their wounded were coming back with tales of determined attacks by numerous enemy troops, far outnumbering ours. During the afternoon a heavy thunderstorm took place, with torrential rain, which caused our trench to collapse and we had to abandon it. Shortly afterwards the Germans made a determined attack and a number of tanks broke through. We had orders to defend the road running through the village. We took a position in an estaminet at the crossroads in the village centre where we stayed until our position became untenable and we withdrew to the neighbourhood of B Echelon and after a counter attack by the carriers, supported by infantry, the enemy was driven back. At about 2200hrs, the fighting having died down we crept into an empty barn to try to snatch a few hours sleep, but after just over an hour we were wakened and told that we were surrounded and had to get out as best we could.

We continued on our way, extremely hungry and very thirsty, when I remembered the tin sent to me for my birthday and which was still in my ammunition pouch. I said to a mate "How do you fancy some pineapple chunks?" He said "Don't tease" I replied "I'm not teasing" and produced the tin, which we opened with our bayonets. Then we had a nasty shock - it was a tin of baked beans and I was so disgusted that I just slung it away! Shortly after we came across an abandoned NAAFI truck which had been well and truly looted, but we searched it to see if we could find anything to eat or drink and were fortunate enough to find an opened tin of shredded beetroot and a bottle of Cinzano Bianco. We ate the beetroot, using our fingers as implements, and drank the Cinzano, which made us feel somewhat better, but rather inebriated. In the process of eating the beetroot I managed to drop some of the juice down the front of my battledress blouse.

In the early hours of the morning of 29th May we arrived at Mont Des Cats, on the summit of which there was a monastery and a wood and we laid in the wood for the remainder of the night to have an hour or so sleep. Shortly afterwards we

received the order to make our way, independently, down a sunken road and on to Dunkirk. We therefore set off, in small parties, in that direction. At first we stuck to the roads and soon arrived at a crossroads when someone in British army officer's uniform directed us to take the road to the right - in the direction of Bailleul. That appeared to us to be entirely the wrong direction so we ignored the instruction and took the road to the left. We eventually did arrive at Dunkirk, so it could have been that had we followed the instruction we would have landed "in the bag" instead! We are of the opinion that it was no British army officer but either a German or fifth columnist. The roads were crowded with refugees and abandoned transport and dead bodies, human and animal, and were frequently being machine gunned from the air. We therefore decided that it was best to make our way across fields. We soon came across a couple of our own officers and joined them in a forced march. We walked all day across potato, corn and hop fields until we stopped in the mid afternoon for about half an hour's rest at a farmhouse, where the officers had a conference and decided that journeying across country was too slow and that we had better split again into very small parties of one or two and try to make our way back by road once more. I came across some RA men just before reaching Poperinghe and we became involved in an air raid. Just before midnight I reached Dunkirk and crossed the bridge over the canal. When I reached the beach it reminded me of Blackpool on a Bank Holiday. There seemed to be simply thousands of troops on the beach and two or three ships which had been sunk just offshore, one of which was a hospital ship.

It was now 30th May and during the morning I joined a queue in the water and a few at a time were being taken off in small boats. Some of those small boats were ferrying men out to ships standing off, whilst others were proceeding back to England. Some REs were attempting to build a stage of abandoned transport.

By this time the beach was being shelled by artillery and bombed. There were huge fires raging at the docks with a pall of smoke from blazing oil dumps. A Beachmaster was forming everyone into groups of about fifty and giving them numbers. My group number was 21 A. When our number was called we must have been rather slow and group 21 B went ahead of us. We set off, behind that group, along the causeway in the direction of the Mole, when a mortar bomb landed right in the centre of Group 21 B, killing nine men and injuring about twentyfive. Had we been in the correct order that no doubt would have been us! When we reached the Mole we had to make short dashes until we reached the ladder, crawl singly across that, and then make a mad dash when the destroyer came alongside. Perfect discipline prevailed and there was no panic. I jumped and landed on the deck of HMS Vimy and soon was provided by the crew with a hunk of bread and cheese and a mug of hot sweet cocoa. That tasted like nectar. The voyage across was uneventful, though some depth charges were fired. We landed at Dover on The GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE and it was glorious so far as I was concerned. A train was waiting at Dover Harbour and I settled myself down and went to sleep.

Gradually the Battalion was reassembled from various parts of the country, and we then went as a unit to various places around on anti-invasion duties, from Tidworth to Dymchurch and other places in the South East then up to Castleford in Yorkshire, down to Gedney Marshes in Lincolnshire and Margate. One day a mortar demonstration was given on the beach. Contrary to instructions one of the unexploded bombs was put back into the mortar to be fired again and it exploded in the mortar, killing an officer and some of the other ranks and injuring others. We used to have a daily visit from a German aircraft just before dusk and sometimes some damage was done, and we used Dreamland as a mortuary. I left the Battalion there and went to Div HQ at Chaucer Barracks, Canterbury, as clerk to the Div Commander (Maj. Gen Sir Brian Horrocks). We were preparing the Division for N. Africa and Monty had just ordered all ranks to undertake forced marches before breakfast.



The Surreys reunion, Stan Jupe with his assistants and a table of 1/6th Surreys.



The Chindit Memorial and three members of 2 Queen's

## The Royal Surrey Regiments of Militia and their Colours

### Introduction

Tracing the history of this famous Corps is difficult, as early records are scanty. Of the three Surrey Battalions, the First could trace its descent from the FYRD of Saxon times, from the Trained Bands of the Tudors and the Stuart Militia. The earliest document in the Public Record Office relating to the Surrey County Force is an incomplete muster roll of 1522 (Henry VIII). In 1587 it was present, with 1900 all ranks, in the pre - Spanish Armada camp at Tilbury. Contingents furnished during Elizabeth I,s reign served overseas, under the Earl of Essex in France, at the relief of Calais, and at the capture of Cadiz. Under James I the Trained Bands were first re-organised as Militia. Frequent associations with Cromwell's "New Model" from 1645 - 1650 resulted in adoption of the red coat in place of the earlier green mentioned in a record of 1643. A preserved muster roll of 1697 shows the then Duke of Norfolk in command with 15 companies, averaging 150 strong, stationed at Croydon, Reigate, Guildford, Kingston and other Surrey towns.

It was the practice to 'dis-embody' Militia Regiments during periods of peace, and for nearly a century up to 1757 the Regiments in Surrey were practically untrained and unorganised, until an Act of Parliament of that year re-established the Force, responsibility for raising personnel being rested with Lords - Lieutenant. Uniforms consisted of cocked hat, long red coat with skirts hooked back to show white facings, red waist-coats and breeches with white gaiters. Colours were presented, on Great Union, one white bearing the arms of the Lord Lieutenant.

The militia served during the American War on home duties and was commended thus for its part in quelling the Gordon Riots of 1780: ... And for their deeds and conduct in modern times, our fathers have told us how during the Gordon Riots, when they, who should have protected the State and Commonwealth hesitated and looked coolly on, the Surrey Militia cleared with the bayonet the City bridges, and rolling back the flood of anarchy and rebellion, saved the metropolis and Empire from "Pillage and fire" (British Army Despatch)

Granted the title of 'Royal' in 1804, the Militia served for several years in Ireland until 1811 and performed a variety of duties during the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1815 large numbers of Surrey Militia recruits fought with the Guards and Line Regiments at Waterloo clothed in the uniform of their own Corps, which included sugar-loaf hats, red jackets white breeches and black gaiters. The advent of Napoleon III brought a massive increase in strength and the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia was raised at Kingston on Thames in 1853. With the introduction of the Territorial system in 1881, the 1st Royal Surrey Militia became the 3rd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, and its facings changed from Royal Blue to White. The 2nd Royal Surrey Militia became the 3rd Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment and the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia the 4th (extra Reserve) Bn. The East Surreys.

In 1908 the former Militia battalions assumed the additional title of 'Special Reserve', and they were disbanded in 1919.

(Sources: "History, East Surrey Regt", Vol 2. Col H W Pearce and Brig Gen. Sloman, (1925 Medici Society). "Historical Records of the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia" (Capt J Davis, 1877, Marcus Ward & Co).

### 1st Royal Surrey Militia Colours

Early warrants seemed to fix the facings of the Surrey Militia as white (until given the appellation 'Royal' in 1804) and Regimental Colours were normally the same colour as the facings. The first recorded issue of Colours was in 1757, made, it is thought of silk. One, the Great Union (less St Patrick's Saltire), one white bearing the arms of the Lord Lieutenant, Richard, 3rd Baron Onslow, the owner of Clandon Park. As

these have presumably long since vanished, their designs must be largely conjectural - it is not known, for instance, if the provisions of the 1747 and 1751 "Clothing" warrants were applied to Militia Colours. For example, Colonels were forbidden to put their "arms, crests, advices or livery" on Regular Battalion Colours. In the case of the 1st Royal Surrey Militia was there a small Union in the upper canton of the Second Colour? I have assumed that there was, and that the sizes followed those of the Contemporary Line Regiments, six foot six inches by six foot two inches.

Likewise, I think it likely that the Sovereigns' Cypher was borne on the First Colour.

The only other Stand of Colours recorded as presented to the 1st Royal Surrey Militia were those by the Countess of Lovelace at Aldershot in 1884, and these were possibly carried up to the disembodiment of the Regiment in 1919.

### 2nd Royal Surrey Militia Colours

It is extremely frustrating that Captain J. Davis' excellent history of this Regiment, published in 1877, makes no mention of a Stand of Colours now kept at the Queen's Surreys regimental museum at Clandon Park.

The identification with the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia is made clear by a label affixed to what are really tattered fragments, which admonishes - "do not unroll". The reason for this command is made clear when inspection reveals that these six foot Colours are paint - on - silk, and pieces fall off as the pikes are raised from their resting places in the attic. When the writer inspected the Regimental Colour some years ago, enough was seen to encourage the belief that the design followed closely that of a Stand issued to the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia in 1854, and which now hangs in Kingston on Thames parish church. The Colour background is of Royal Blue, the name of the Regiment in a red circle outlined in gold, surrounding the Royal Cypher "VR". It is understood that the Regimental Colour has since been permanently un-rolled and that some restoration has taken place. This Colour and its companion Queen's Colour were presumably retired in 1854, as new Colours were presented on 19th May of that year by Viscountess Cranley at Guildford (the day after the Kingston Stand was presented to the 3rd Battalion). The Regimental history gives a quaint description of the ceremony - prior to this, 'Colonel The Earl of Lovelace gave a series of 'splendid entertainments' at his mansion at Horley Towers. The officers did like-wise at their 'mess' at the White Hart Hotel! After the warning bugle at two o'clock orders were given that "no person was to be admitted through the gate without a card from the Reverend W. Bennett". Dress was forage caps, arms and accoutrements, and the parade was witnessed by a large assemblage of the 'elite' of the neighbourhood.

I have not, so far, been able to establish if these Colours still exist, or if they were carried by the 3rd, (Special Reserve) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, up to August 1919, when this Battalion was absorbed into First Queen's - the Regimental History makes no mention of this, the effective end of the existence of the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia. The Battalion had spent the Great War as a UK - based draft - finding and training unit.

### 3rd Royal Surrey Militia

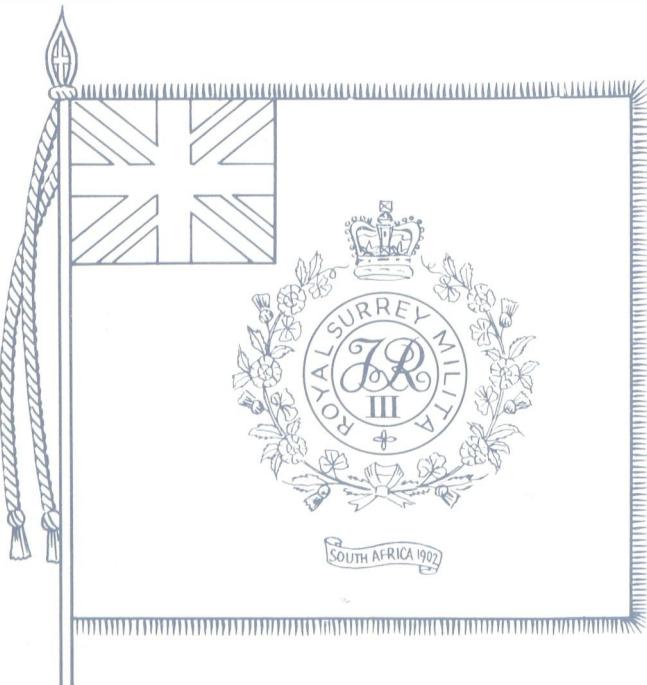
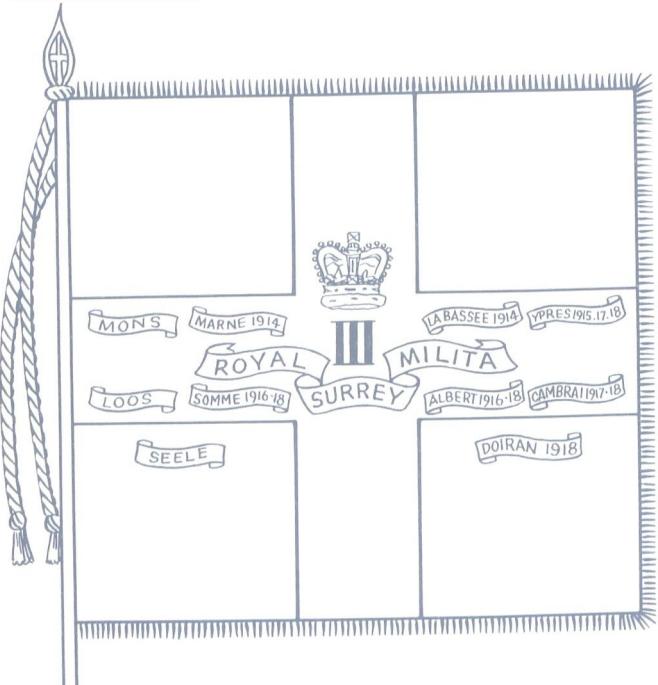
Raised in 1852, this Regiment became the 4th Bn. The East Surreys, in 1881, and saw active service in South Africa in 1902. As an Extra 'Reserve' Battalion it was responsible for training and dispatching 4,732 re-inforcements to mainly East Surrey Battalions on the Western Front, 1914-18. It was disbanded in 1919.

Two stands of Colours are in existence - one of the larger size, presented in 1854 and laid up in 1877; these hang very high up in the tower of All Saints' Church, Kingston upon Thames, near

the Regimental Chapel of The East Surrey Regiment. Photographed rather unsuccessfully, by this writer at the risk of life and limb, they appear to be in excellent condition for their 134 years.

The three foot nine inches x three foot Stand which succeeded these Colours was presented on 6th July, 1877 by HRH Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck.

As the Queen's Colour bears ten World War One Battle Honours it is presumed that the 4th Surreys carried them up to 1919. They are kept (but not displayed) in the Queen's Surrey's museum at Clandon Park, the Queen's Colour showing some signs of wear, and pikes are not attached. Excellent photographs were taken of the beautiful Royal Blue Regimental, which is in fine condition.



THE SAXON FYRD

*"The Saxon "Fyrd" was the pre - conquest English Militia when the King had the right to call on all free men for military service."*

### The Risquons-tout Memorial

On Saturday, 26th May, the townspeople of Risquons-Tout, Ville de Mouscron, paid tribute to officers and men of the B.E.F. who were killed between the 25th and 27th May, 1940 in an action which embodied qualities of courage and self sacrifice of the highest degrees.

Soldiers holding defensive positions in the area, which is on the Franco - Belgian border, during the retreat to Dunkirk were members of five regiments, namely:- The East Surrey Regiment, The Buffs, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, The Lancashire Fusiliers and The Middlesex Regiment. A determined attack on the enemy by a bren-gun carrier, manned by three privates from The East Surrey Regiment, was at first successful but the vehicle was later knocked out by an anti-tank gun and its occupants killed. Other troops continued to fight gallantly but they were eventually overwhelmed, many being wounded and twelve being killed. Of the latter, six were identified as being from the East Surreys, namely:- Major Roland Frederick Duncombe Anderson, WO11 Horace Gibson, Pte. Edward Scott Bailey, Pte. Charles Frederick Langley, Pte. Horace Douglas Roberts and Pte. Brian John Waring. There were other unidentified casualties who were also believed to belong to the Regiment.

At the recent memorial service a bren-gun carrier (symbolic of the high point of the historic action) was unveiled by M. Detremmerie, the local Mayor, jointly with Mr James, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan (Mouscron's twin town). Major P. Watton, R.M.P., representing the British Army, unveiled a plaque to the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Representatives of other military and civic organisations, including the Central Band of the Royal British Legion, also took part and at the end of the day it was felt that the heroes of the past had been properly and fittingly honoured and remembered.



The bren gun carrier memorial

### The Royal British Legion Band

As part of its programme of engagements during a visit to Belgium to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation, the Central Band of The Royal British Legion gave one of its popular 'Show Band' presentations in Mouscron. Playing to a packed house the band received a standing ovation at the end of what the local compere described as one of the most professional and entertaining shows ever seen in the town,

Earlier in the day the band headed the march through the town culminating in a moving ceremony at the Memorial to commemorate those British soldiers who died at that spot in May 1940, during a desperate and courageous rear guard action.

Comprised mainly of ex service musicians, the band has a continuous history going back to 1944 when it was formed at the Epsom (West Street) Branch from ex-members of the band of the 56th (East Surrey) Battalion, Home Guard moving to Norbury Branch, its present base, in 1964.

## 2/6th Surreys Return To Normandy

The 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, St Valery Association returned to Normandy on a 50th Anniversary visit between the 8th and 13th June.

The party of 50 members, wives, widows, and friends, together with a reporter from the Surrey Comet, left Richmond in the early hours on our last Association organised pilgrimage to the 1940 battlefields. After a brief stop in Dieppe, we arrived without incident at our Hotel in Rouen. Although our Officers and their ladies, had been invited that evening, to a dinner given by the 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club for the Citizens of St Valery, we were unable to accept owing to the time factor.

The programme for the Commemoration of the Battle of St Valery, arranged by the St Valery Town Council was efficiently carried out, the principal items being the ceremonies at the Highland Division Memorial on the East Cliff, at which we were represented by the laying of a wreath and providing the only Royal British Legion Standard, on which Charlie Bobart our Bearer, was complimented by Lt Gen Lang. Later a wreath was laid in the Military Cemetery, and letters of greeting and plaques from the Mayors of Richmond and Kingston left for Dr Jacques Couture, Mayor of St Valery. We then moved on to Veules-les-Roses for similar ceremonies, after which we returned to our hotel in Rouen.

The next day we took part in the opening ceremonies at Forges-les-Eaux of an Exhibition commemorating the Resistance Forces, P's.O.W. and Deportees to German Concentration Camps. In the exhibition hall was a showcase the contents of which were supplied by Chas. Bobart covering his five years in France and Germany.

We then moved on to Aumale with the object of looking round the rebuilt town, however we made an unexpected contact with a Frenchman who told us where the first soldiers to be killed in the war were buried. This seemed unlikely so we went to the church, lost in the countryside at Morvilliers Saint Saturnin and found two graves, one unknown and the other of Major J. S. Cassels MC., The Royal Sussex Regiment, 21st May 1940. Age 42. The local story said they were shot by the Germans and buried at the roadside, later they were moved to their present resting place by villagers. It is interesting to learn even now, that when we were hurriedly taking up positions at Le Translay/Gamaches on the same day in 1940, the Germans had, presumably AFV patrols, 30km to the south of us. This is consistent with the writer's experience of returning to Bois Robert from a patrol and seeing a couple of AFV's cross the road some 400 yards ahead.

That evening we returned to Forges-les-Eaux for dinner, to which we had invited the Mayor and President of the Museum, and presented the former with letters of greeting and plaques of the town crests from the respective councils, and to the latter, a plaque of the regimental badge for display in the museum. In return the Mayor presented the writer with a bronze medallion which will be given to the Regimental Museum, together with an album of photographs taken during the pilgrimage.

On the third day we went as far as Frevent, N.E. of Abbeville, and in the Abbeville Community Cemetery noted the graves of the following Surreys, killed during the First World War

Pte Harry Herbert Wilkinson	8.9.16
Pte C. Finn MM	5.10.16
Lt W. C. Metcalfe	18.8.16
2/Lt Hallam William Pegg	3.7.16

In the vast cemetery there were doubtless many other Surrey casualties.

At each of the graves we visited, a short service of remembrance was held.

On the Tuesday we went to Veules-les-Roses with the intention of meeting the Mayor as on our last visit in 1987, however on enquiry at the Mairie every one was too busy to see us, we suspect because St Valery had taken over their thunder on the previous Saturday.

We then moved on to Bois Robert where we were received by the Le Gendre Family with their customary hospitality, the son having taken over the chateau and the older folk moved into a smaller house in the village. A wreath was left with them to use as they saw fit after photographs were taken outside the chateau of all our party with the family.

Our next and final stop, was at Beaunay; the site of our last defensive positions. Following the death of her husband, Mme Wemaere had not confirmed our visit to the chateau, but we learned from the local priest, she had given permission for us to visit our 1940 positions in the grounds if we wished. Instead we arranged a service in conjunction with the priest at the grave of M. Andree Wemaere who served with the Free French Forces. On the way to Beaunay from Bois Robert we drove through some of the most delightful parts of rural Normandy, stopping at the hamlets of St Ouen le Mauger and Draqueville, where some of our casualties are buried.

On 13th June we returned home, breaking our journey at Dieppe for a visit to the hypermarket, and reached Richmond after an uneventful journey.

Our sincere thanks must go to the members who were responsible for the exploratory work in locating the graves of our casualties; to Chas. Bobart for his organisation and liaison work resulting in a memorable pilgrimage; and last but not least to the Regimental Association for their financial assistance in purchasing the wreaths laid at the principal memorials.

List of 2/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment (TA) casualties.

6143864	Pte R. H. Farmer.	Quincampoix.
6145481	Pte G. E. Richardson.	Llannoy-Cuilliere.
6143512	Pte W. S. W. Nock.	Criquiers.
6138024	Pte W. Belson.	St Riquier.
6137344	L/Cpl T. V. Riddington.	Frevent.
6144734	CQMS J. H. K. Gilbert.	Abbeville Community.
6141719	Cpl G. Wells.	St Oden le Mauger.
6143059	Pte A. E. Riley.	Draqueville.

N.F.T.



Members of the St. Valery Association.



The Silver Drums of The East Surrey Regiment displayed at Clandon Park, by kind permission of Lt Col A C Mieville, Commanding 1st Queen's

#### 'Wix' and the Dukes

Those of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment who served in India before the War will have vivid memories of the Adjutant, Major C D Armstrong MC. Appointed to command the 1/6th Battalion in 1940, 'Wix', as he was generally known, served with distinction in France and Belgium, and was awarded the DSO for his leadership.

Lieut Colonel Armstrong assumed command of the 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on 9th January 1943, and his three months as their Commanding Officer are recorded in their Regimental History. The following extracts, reproduced with permission from the History of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, will remind old Surreys of an outstanding fighting soldier.

'On 9th January 1943, Lieut Colonel C D Armstrong DSO MC (East Surreys) assumed command of the 1st Battalion. The Battalion embarked for North Africa on 26th February and arrived at Bone on 11th March. On 13th March they took over a portion of the line.'

Active patrolling was maintained all along the Battalion front without result, but local patrolling in front of C Company's area during this period resulted in a number of casualties from anti-personnel mines. Lieut Colonel Armstrong was very enthusiastic about patrolling. He was tireless in his efforts to make the Battalion excel in this work, and held 'inquests' after all patrols; these, though not always popular, were of the greatest value. The Commanding Officer was almost fanatical in his loathing of the Germans and was quite fearless. He revelled in patrolling and was out every night, often alone and sometimes with one man.

On 5th April the Commanding Officer decided that the Germans had become much too active in the vicinity. He selected a patrol of about platoon strength, men being drawn from each company. It was to be carried out in daylight, and it was possible to get a full view of the ground from the Battalion area. Amongst those who arrived to watch the action was the Brigadier. The Commanding Officer had been ordered not to take part in the action, but nevertheless he went. The attack was highly successful. The Germans in the farm were taken completely by surprise and about 25 were killed and three captured, not a shot being fired by the enemy before the patrol entered the farm.

Unfortunately, when withdrawing via a wadi running through the intervening ground, the patrol came under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire, and casualties were caused. The Commanding Officer, who had throughout shown a complete disregard for his own safety, received a nasty wound in the wrist and had to be evacuated.'

#### Regimental Blood

Family traditions in the Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment are personified in the names shown here. A recent survey in 1 Queen's shows that the family tradition lives on. Members may see some they recognise.

LT. COL. C.G.F. CHARTER'S grandfather was in the East Surreys, dying at the Battle of the Somme, and MAJOR J.V. ASHTON'S father was in the East Surreys during the Second World War.

Going further back with ancestry is MAJOR N.P.L. KEYES whose Great Great Grandfather, Lt. COL. CHARLES F HEAD was in the 2nd Foot from 1813-1846, and whose father was in the 2nd Queen's from 1938-40.

MAJOR J. P. RILEY had a trio of ancestors in the Queen's, the first of whom mustered from 1700-1714, followed later by a Great Uncle who served from 1915-1919, and a Father-in-Law from 1940-1948.

2nd Lt. M.G. TRUMAN'S father was in the Queen's from 1963-1984 and his uncle is the present Colonel of the Regiment.

W02 F. W. LEWIS has a brother and brother-in-law serving in 1 Queen's while C.Sgt. G. A. JONES has a son and son-in-law similarly serving.

C.Sgt. A. R. HAYES and SGT. R. SMITH both had brothers in 1 Queen's, the former from 1972-1976 and the latter from 1981-1988. SGT. S.M.E. BROMIGE'S father served in the East Surreys, the Queen's Royal Surreys and 1 Queen's from 1948-1970, and incidentally a fine rifle shot, while his uncle served in the Queen's in the 1950s. CPL. D. B. ELSE has a brother still serving in the Queen's, as has LCPL. M. STRINGER and PTE. M.S. ALTREE. Another First World ancestor was the grandfather of CPL. J. K. G. BELSHAM.

Brotherly tradition in 1 Queen's has been preserved by LCPL. D. A. BEVIN, whose brother served from 1981-1988, and PTE. A. E. RIDLEY whose brother served in the 1980s.

PTE. G. STONE has a brother serving in 1 Queen's, together with a cousin, and his uncle served in the East Surreys in the 1950s.

The Queen's father/son tradition is followed by LCPL. A. P. BLYTH whose father served in 1 Queen's from 1960-1978, PTE. D. J. BUDGEN whose father was R.S.M. in 1 Queen's from 1970-1975. PTE. S. DILLON'S father served in the East Surreys in the Second World War.

Uncles feature frequently. LCPL. MAYHEW'S uncle served in the Queen's as did PTE. S. TREWINNARD'S in 2 Queen's. PTE. R. M. G. VILLIER'S uncle is still serving in the regiment and his grandfather was also in the Queen's from 1914-1918. PTE. S. M. EMERY'S uncle is still serving with 1 QUEEN'S.

Grandfathers are not to be disregarded. PTE. NORRIS'S grandfather served in the Queen's in the First World War as did PTE. J. W. ANGIER'S in the East Surreys.

PTE. E. P. PUGH-WOOD'S father-in-law served in the Queen's from 1938-1950.

Such relationships show that the Regiments, in their various forms, have, over the years, developed true "family spirit".

## The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and its Forebears 1902-1918

### Stations of the Regiments before the 1914-18 war

The 1st Battalion The Queen's had been in India since the Tirah and Malakand campaigns but left to spend a year in the Aden Protectorate, in 1909. It then returned to the UK and remained until the outbreak of War. The 2nd Battalion had returned home from South Africa in 1904 and remained in the UK until 1910 when it was sent out to Gibraltar and thence to Bermuda. It then returned to South Africa and remained until 1914.

For 19 years the 1st Surreys had been in India but, in 1903 was relieved by the 2nd Battalion which had been in South Africa. The 1st Battalion then proceeded to the UK where it received new Colours from Lord Roberts. In 1905, four old Sikh Colours were restored to the Battalion, to become treasured possessions. In 1905, it went to Jersey, returning to Plymouth in 1908 and going to Dublin in 1912. It remained in Ireland until war broke out. The 2nd Battalion remained in India, seeing some service in Burmah, until November 1914 when it returned home.

### Dress before the 1914-18 War

Service dress had been introduced for all general duties, other than ceremonial and walking out, by two General Orders of 1902. For officers the jackets were khaki and had closed collars, five button single-breasted fronts, patched, box pleated pockets and detachable shoulder straps trimmed with distinctive  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide scarlet braid. Badges of rank were initially vertical drab braids extending up the sleeves but an additional order of the same year abolished this unsightly system in favour of a much neater design with cuff flaps, braid rings and cuff crowns and Stars.

In 1904, detachable shoulder straps were replaced by twisted drab white shoulder cords and by 1907, sewn-on shoulder straps were introduced. Tight fitting collars were worn until 1913 when officers' tunics were provided with open, step collars showing and ties. From 1902 officers had khaki cloth peaked caps to wear with this uniform.

Other ranks had khaki tunics with folded down close collars patched pleated pockets at chest level and set in pockets in the skirts.

The Infantry had red cloth titles with white lettering at the top of each sleeve.

Officers wore either knickerbocker breeches with puttees and brown ankle boots or cord riding breeches with brown riding boots or strapped gaiters. The men had tapered khaki trousers, ankle boots and puttees.

During the Boer War the foreign service khaki cloth covered helmets had been largely replaced by slouch hats. With the War finished the slouch hat continued to be worn for every day use with khaki service dress by battalions in the UK and the blue folding field service cap was reserved for walking out with the full dress tunic. In 1902/3 the slouch hat and the folding cap were replaced by the Brodrick cap. The Brodrick was dark blue for all but the Royal Regiments who had semi-circular scarlet patches for all regiments, red for Royal Regiments and gold braid trimming for senior NCOs. It also had a khaki drill cover with a peak. Generally unpopular the Brodrick was replaced in 1905/6 by a peaked cap of similar style and shape to the undress cap worn by officers since 1902. It had a patent leather peak and chin strap and was dark blue. Royal Regiments had a scarlet cap band. In summer both officers and men had white covers to the flat tops of the caps. Khaki cloth caps with wire stiffened crowns, cloth peaks and brown leather chin straps were not issued for the NCOs and men until 1909.

NCOs and men had grey collarless shirts for wear with service dress and for winter months a khaki knitted pullover was

provided. The scarlet full dress tunic, approved in 1902, with pointed cuffs and slashed pockets and pipings in the rear of the skirts, was worn (with the spiked Home Service pattern blue cloth helmet for ceremonial duties) until 1914. In 1913, the scarlet shoulder straps were replaced by facing coloured straps.

### Reorganisation of Infantry Battalions in 1913

Infantry battalions were reorganised in 1913 and thereafter had an HQ Company and four rifle companies. Each company could be divided into two half companies or four platoons and each platoon into four sections. Support companies had 2 maxims and Light Trench Mortars and there were Signal, Pioneer, Bearer and Provost Sections. The battalion had a paper strength of about 1000 Officers and men and a fighting strength of approximately 800.

### The Regular battalions of The Queen's in the 1914-18 War

The 1st Queen's landed in France in August 1914 and formed part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division. The 2nd Queen's joined the BEF in September 1914 and joined the 22nd Brigade of the 7th Division. The scale of casualties in these two crack battalions was horrific. By the first week in November 1914 there were only 32 survivors out of a total of 998 all ranks who disembarked and the 2nd battalion which had a complement of over 1000 Officers and men had suffered 676 casualties. From then on it was the Territorial Battalions and the men of the Kitchener Army and the New Army of conscripts who maintained the glorious traditions of the Regiment.

The 1st Battalion fought at Mons, on the Marne and the Aisne, Ypres, the Aubers Ridge, Loos on the Somme, Festubert, The Hindenberg Line, Bellecourt, Broodseinde, Passchendaele and Arras and countless smaller engagements. When it came out of action in November 1918 there were only 17 men left of all ranks who had landed in August 1914.

The 2nd Battalion suffered equally heavy casualties at Ypres, Aubers Ridge, Festubert and Loos. It fought on the Somme and in 1917 was sent with the 7th Division to Italy where it added Piave and Vittorio Veneto to its battle honours.

### Territorial battalions of The Queen's

Among the several other battalions of the Queen's were the 1/4th and 1/5th of the Home Counties Division which served in India and the 2/4th which, as part of the 53rd Division, fought at Gallipoli, Gaza and reached Jerusalem in 1917. This battalion then returned to France to fight on the Marne and join in the final offensive. The 3/4th went to France in 1917 and in its first engagement lost nearly half its strength. It was disbanded in 1918.

The 1/5th went from India to Mesopotamia and the 6th, raised in 1914, went to France in 1915 and fought at Loos, the Somme, Arras and Cambrai.

### Service battalions of The Queen's

The 7th also went to France in 1915. It suffered appalling casualties on the Somme and at Ypres and Amiens. The 8th also lost heavily on the Western Front and lost men on the Somme and in the Third Battle of Ypres, the 10th and 11th were both with the 41st Division in 1916 and were decimated at Fleurbaix. They fought at Messines and in the third Ypres. The Division was then sent to Italy but returned to France to join the final confrontations.

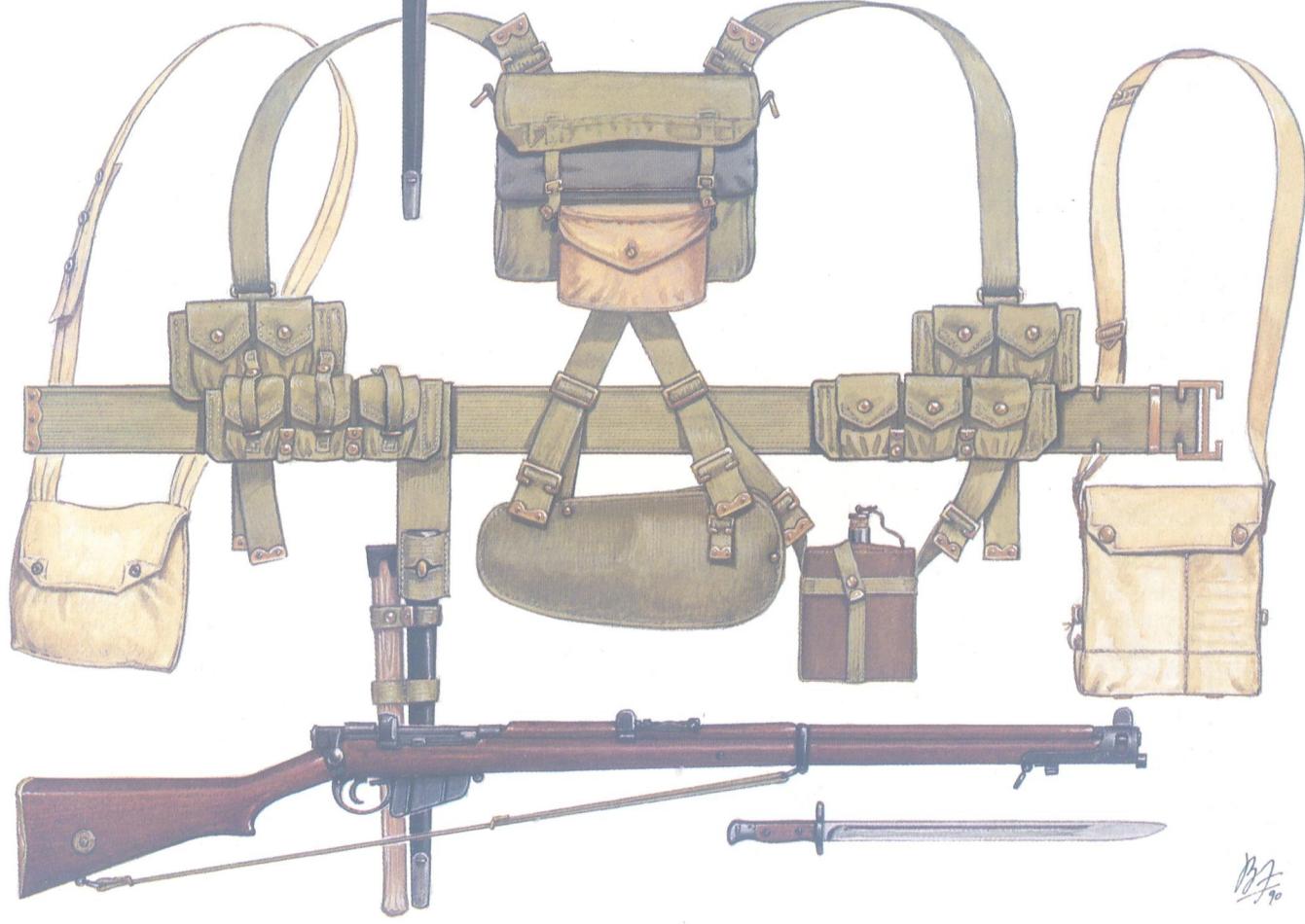
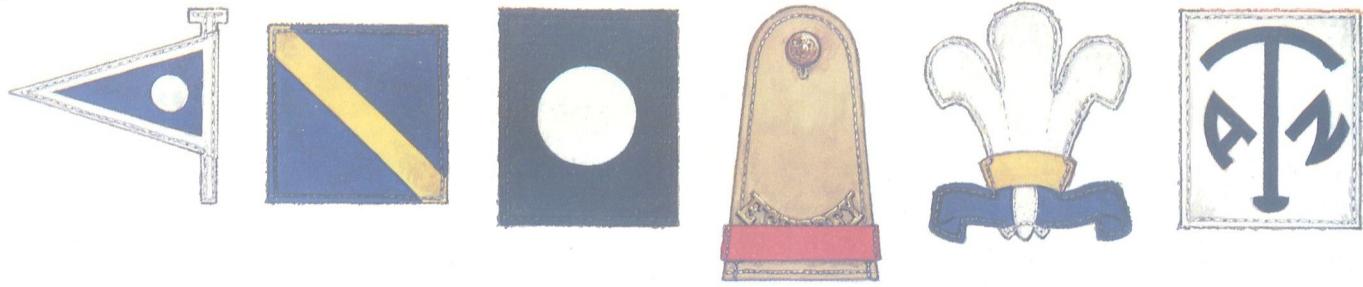
### Victoria Crosses and Casualties of The Queen's

The Queen's raised some thirty one units during the War and lost 8000 Officers and men. It gained 5 Victoria Crosses, LCpl Keyworth (1/24th County of London Queen's), Lt. Col Borton (2/22nd County of London Queen's), LCpl Sayer (8th Queen's), Lt. Col Bushell (7th Queen's) and Pte Harvey (1/22nd County of London Queen's). Lt. Col Freyberg (attached Royal Naval Division) and Capt. Robertson (operating with the Tank Corps) were also awarded the VC.



PF 190

Top, left to right: Other rank's FS cap badge, Queen's; Other Rank's shoulder strap and title, Queen's Officer's FS cap badge, Queen's Officer's FS cap badge, East Surrey's; Other Rank's shoulder strap and title, East Surrey's; Other Rank's FS cap badge, East Surrey's. Central figure: Corporal of the Queen's, service dress, 1916, 7th Division. Bottom left: Sergeant of the Queen's, walking out dress, 1913. Bottom right: Officer of the East Surrey's, service dress, 1916 with 'trench cap'. Headress Left side from the top: Blue FS cap, known as the 'Austrian cap'; Brodrick cap with Queen's cap badge, 1905; Forage cap with patent leather peak, 1906 with Queen's cap badge; Felt, or 'slouch hat' with East Surrey's cap badge, 1904. Right side from the top: Other Rank's khaki FS cap, 1905; Other Rank's Trench cap, 1915 (known as the 'gorblimey'); 1916 pattern soft FS cap; Steel helmet, 1916. Bottom: Early pattern felt 'P1' helmet and the later 'Small Box' respirator.



Top: A selection of Divisional signs, 1914-1918. Left to right, 1st Div., BEF; 5th Div., Western Front, 1918; 28th Div., 1918, 53rd Div., Mid East, 1918; 18th Div. 1916. Equipment: Top: Bandolier equipment, 1903, Bottom: Mills Web equipment, 1908 with 'PH' gas helmet bag on the left and the Small Box respirator case on the right. Rifle: Short Magazine Lee Enfield, Rifle No. 1, Mark III, 1907 with sword bayonet.

B.F.  
70

## The Regular battalions of The Surreys in the 1914-18 War

The 1st Battalion East Surreys joined the 14th Brigade of the 5th Division of the BEF and during the first few months of the War gained honours at Mons, Le Cateau, on the Marne and the Aisne. In the Spring of 1915 it achieved its finest feat of the War in the defence of Hill 60. During this action the Battalion gained 3 VCs, 2MCs and 7DCMs. On 10th April 1915 the 1st and 2nd Battalions of Surreys met for the first time since the old "31st" and "70th" had met on active service during the 18th century French Revolutionary Wars. It was a chance but happy encounter at Ypres and since that day the Regiment has celebrated "Ypres Day". The 1st Battalion served in France during the entire War except for a short spell in Italy from 1917 to Spring 1918. After the Armistice it went to Russia, operating along the Murmansk Railway.

The 2nd Battalion, part of the 85th Brigade of the 28th Division was heavily engaged in the Ypres sector almost immediately after being moved up to the line for the first time in January 1915. Almost at once 'A' and 'C' Companies were all but annihilated and shortly 'B' and 'D' suffered almost as badly. After only five days of fighting barely 200 all ranks remained of the 1000 who had disembarked in France such a short time before. Two days later their Commanding Officer was also a casualty and command of the Battalion devolved on the senior of only two surviving Captains. When adequate reinforcements had arrived the Battalion fought on at Loos, the Hohenzollern Redoubt and in September 1915 won its VC. In October the 28th Division was withdrawn and was sent to Macedonia and then on the Salonika. In 1918 the Battalion was heavily engaged in the attack near Lake Doiran and three days after the Armistice was in Constantinople.

### Service battalions of The Surreys

Seven service battalions were raised as part of Kitchener's Army. The 10 and 11th were used for auxiliary and recruiting but the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th went to France. The 7th and 9th fought at Loos but the remainder joined the 1st on the Somme. On the 1st July 1916 'B' Company, 8th Surreys of the 18th Division gained immortality when they had the effrontery to dribble four footballs across No Mans Land during the attack on Montauban. They lost 446 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner that day but the Battalion won 2DSOs, 2MCs, 2DCMs and 9MMs in only a few hours and their objectives were secured. The same battalion fought at Passchendaele and the third battle of Ypres. Lt Col Irwin won the DSO and two bars. The 7th Battalion went on to fight on the Somme, at Albert and Arras and won its VC. The 12th Battalion fought with distinction at Ploegsteert Wood, on the Somme, at Messines and took part in the third Ypres. It then went out to Italy where it remained for four months before returning to the Western Front.

The 13th Battalion arrived in France to fight on the Somme and at Cambrai and Arras. It won its VC at Villers Plouich and the 9th Battalion gained a further VC at Lens by Cambrai in 1918.

### Territorial battalions of The Surreys

The 1/5th Battalion spent most of the War in India but, by 1917, as part of the 55th Brigade was part of the force which forced the Turks to surrender in Mesopotamia. The 1/6th which also served for some time in India, then served in the Aden Protectorate where it was engaged with roving Turkish Guerrilla bands.

### Victoria Crosses and Casualties of The Surreys

The East Surreys lost some 6000 Officers and men and had won seven Victoria Crosses.

Lt. Roupell, 2nd Lt. Geary and Pte Dwyer (1st Bn), Sgt. Cator (7th Bn), Cpl. Foster (13th Bn), Lt. Fleming-Sandes (2nd Bn), Pte. McNamara (9th Bn). It is interesting to record that not one of the Regimental VCs was won posthumously although McNamara was killed shortly after

## Dress in the 1914-18 War

The War inevitably resulted in many modifications and additions to the service dress as introduced in 1902. Officers took into use waterproof trenchcoats and short British Warm. Men on the Western Front began to take the wire stiffeners out of the crowns of their caps and in inclement weather wore balaclava helmets to keep their ears warm. Presently a softer version of the peaked cap, officially approving the soft crown and adding ear flaps which could be buttoned over the crown, were introduced for all ranks. Protective leather jerkins were issued, supplemented by heavy sheepskin or goatskin jerkins and coats. In 1916, steel shrapnel helmets were issued along with the first primitive gas masks. As the war progressed cheaper versions of the other ranks tunics appeared without pleats to the pockets or reinforcements over the shoulders. In the summer months serge shorts were worn instead of trousers. An elaborate system of formation signs developed and were worn on vehicles and on the upper sections of the tunic sleeves and in some cases on the backs of the collars or tunics. Canvas covers for the steel helmets were worn, in many cases painted or stencilled with formation signs. Waterproof thigh length leg coveralls were worn to combat the mud and water-logged trenches and for night raids helmets were discarded in favour of knitted caps. In the middle East the large brimmed Wolseley helmet was worn, equally decorated with unit signs and the heavy serge was replaced by khaki drill with shorts. In some orders of dress the shorts were worn with the grey shirts. Waterproof capes appeared to combat gas and for protection in wet weather.

## Equipment in the South African and 1914-18 Wars

The 1882 pattern "Slade Wallace" buff leather equipment was worn until the end of the Boer War but had proved unsatisfactory in many respects. It had proved heavy and badly balanced, uncomfortable and a poor ammunition carrier, resulting in many spillages. Consequently, with the war over and many battalions back home a search began for a suitable replacement. In the meantime several regiments had introduced a modification of the old cavalry bandolier system, in some cases mixed with the Slade Wallace. This arrangement was obviously unsatisfactory and in 1903 a new leather equipment, based on the bandolier pattern, was introduced. It was still considered a temporary stop gap and was finally replaced by the 1908 Mills webbing equipment which generally proved so successful it remained in use for the next 25 years. The only fundamental change during the 1914-1918 War was when it was found rounds were easily spilled from the lower left hand group of pouches when the soldier leant against the trench parapet to fire. As a result the press studs of that group were replaced by sliding straps with a stud on top.

In 1914, a leather pattern, a mixture of the Slade Wallace and Mills 1908 pattern, was made and issued to many of the Kitchener and New Army battalions. The pouches were similar to the Slade Wallace set but the leather belt had a snake clasp and the large and small packs were webbing.

## Weapons

In 1914, officers went to France armed with swords and pistols and the full Sam Browne leather equipment. This was soon adapted, swords were discarded, pistols were retained but on reduced Sam Browne belting and in many cases officers armed themselves with rifles and wore webbing equipment like the men.

Officers' pistols were either Webley Mark VI .455 revolvers or Webley-Scott .455 automatics. Men were armed with the Short, Magazine Lee Enfield .303, Mark III with sword bayonets. The Maxim machine gun was presently replaced by the .303 water-cooled Vickers Machine Gun. By May 1915 the number of guns per battalion was increased to four and after the first Ypres battle machine guns were taken from the battalions and organised at brigade level. The Machine Gun Corps was authorised by Royal Warrant of October 1915.



## FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

I was sorry to read of the passing of Alan Zeigler who if I remember rightly was Adjutant of the 2/6th Queen's when I was with them. The last time I saw him was of all places in Dublin in 1968. I bumped into him in O'Connell street and of course had a good natter.

Another interesting point was the article on Private Fido MM. I well remember him when he was in 'B' Coy.

Now I have a query for you - can you tell me if Ross Parker the songwriter (He wrote the WWII song "We'll meet again") was ever in the 2/6th Queen's. While stationed at Ham St - Kent in 1941, there was an officer who was always at the piano in HQ and I was told it was Lt Ross Parker, well known song writer. I never saw him again when we left Ham St and would be most interested to know if in fact it was Ross Parker, and also if he is alive today. I hope you have some news for me. Please keep up the quality of the Newsletters, us "old uns" look forward to them.

### R.F. Watson writes:-

It was with sorrow that I read of the death of Frederick Charles Pratt, I knew 'Curly' as he was affectionately known to all, when we were members of the Motor Cycle Platoon, stationed in the Foxhound kennels, between Faversham and Sittingbourne in the late summer, autumn of 1940, dashing round the countryside, after parachutes, stand to's, invasion scares. I rode a motor cycle combination and Curly was quite often my passenger on the dawn patrol out towards Sheppey, we were there at Xmas, and I remember sharing a chicken given us by the huntsman and kindly cooked by his wife, my lucky companions I recall were Wigmore, Preece and Sam Andrews? I think it was, I wonder where they all are now, I left the Queens on 17th Jan 1941, from there to join the 56 Recce Regt so of course I lost touch with them all, I would very much like to hear from anyone, who was at the kennels. I have attended several 2/7th Queen's functions but have never found anyone I knew.

Prior to being at the kennels I recall being billeted in an oasthouse, we had a mincemeat and covering positions in a plum orchard, we also at times had a road block on the railway bridge, that was at Dunkirk on the Faversham Canterbury road, whilst there we had a company photo taken outside the oasthouse, has anyone got one I could borrow for which I will of course pay.

My best wishes to you all.

### F W Simmons writes:-

I find the Newsletter very interesting reading. In the 1939-45 war, I actually started life in the Army as an Artillery man in 65th Regt LAA, 194 Battery. After going halfway around the world to get there, we eventually arrived in Egypt via the North Pole, Halifax, Cape Town, early in November 1941. The journey in the good PO Liner Stratheden taking about 9 to 10 weeks. From there we were hastily dispatched to Malta in time for the determined bid by the Luftwaffe to knock out this island, but starvation for us was the nearest they got to their target. From Malta we were sent to Italy to be broken up and that's where I landed up as an Infantry man in 1 Surreys and saw front line service with them from the Senio River right up to the end of hostilities in that area of the war.

The Surreys kept in touch with me after the war, but I have never heard a word from the Artillery with which I spent over three years out of my five and a half years service.

### J W Rutherford writes:-

Very many thanks once again for the excellent Newsletter. Each issue is eagerly awaited and devoured on receipt, so I need say no more by way of congratulations to all concerned. Roll on November!

Like Bill Webb, I was chuffed to see myself in the last issue at the 2/7th Reunion bar, though a little surprised to see my name begins with a 'C'. Never mind we don't want anyone on jankers at this late hour!

All the best to members.

*Editors Note, I am pleased to see that you remain alert and spotted our deliberate mistake!?*

### Rex Williams writes from Ontario Canada,

You may be interested - and amused - by a recent event here in Canada. The Military History Section of the Canadian Historical Association meets annually as part of the larger conference, and we make a point of having the annual dinner in the mess of the local regiment - wherever the meetings happen to be held.

This year, the meetings were held in Victoria, B.C., in the officers' mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. I found myself sitting opposite to Commander Hal Lawrence, RCN (retd). He was a graduate (is that the word) of H.M.S. Excellent (Whale Island), as was another guest, a Vice Admiral from the Royal Australian Navy, whose name we did not catch.

It so happened that the date of the dinner fell on a most appropriate day, so Commander Lawrence and I asked leave of the President to give the traditional Glorious First of June Toast. I am happy to report that the Toast was drunk with enthusiasm by the thirty or so military historians present - many of them members of Canadian units during the war.

Commander Lawrence spoke afterwards of his memories of H.M.S. Excellent, and he was well aware of the link with The Queen's Royal Regiment. The most amusing anecdote he gave was a recollection of a very formal parade, during which then Rear- Admiral Lord Mountbatten was severely rebuked by a Chief Gunner's Mate for "idle drill", it seems that the shout of "REPORT TO ME THAT REAR ADMIRAL" could be heard for miles.

I look forward to meeting Hal Lawrence again on future visits to Victoria, and I will pass on any other stories that he remembers.

### Les Moxon writes:-

That he was pleased to hear that the 5 Queen's O.M.A. Dinner was a success. Nearing his 83rd birthday, he comments that he is getting "doddery on his feet" but pays charming tribute to the way his wife looks after him.

Recalling life in a Prisoner of War Camp, Stalag 383, during the Second World War, he says that the 2 or 3,000 inmates were a mixed bunch and included some Australians and New Zealanders (of whom - 7 were Maoris). A fine group spirit prevailed. Rations and Red Cross food were pooled and one New Zealander cooked with an improvised oven which was made from flattened food tins. In a tribute to the Red Cross and St John organisations he says that survivors owed their lives to them.

Casting his mind even further back to the pre-war Territorial Army, he remembers the rush of recruits at the time that conscription was being introduced. The recruits were sworn in in batches of five. On going to Annual Camp many were in civilian clothes and wearing their own shoes.

When the Territorials reformed in 1947 Les Moxon was offered a commission in the Territorial Army but declined it. He preferred, instead, to take the post of Colour Sergeant, an appointment which has obviously remained memorable to him as has the rest of his associations with the Army and The Queen's. He was, as most of our readers know later commissioned and was the founder Secretary of 5 Old Members Association in Guildford.

### J. FLAGG writes:-

Interesting for me was the article on "The North West Frontier" (May 1990) as I was at Razmak with the 2nd Bn The Suffolk Regiment. I left Razmak in 1939, and I see the Queen's went there in 1940, (I wonder if they took over the duties at Razmak from the Suffolks?) Very nice reading, well done ARCM. Another lovely article "Tales from an Adjutant". The best one for me was "Buster Brown remembers". The wife and I had just got over a bad cold, and wasn't feeling too bright, I read Busters article on FFI having finished I let out a roar of laughter, wife says, what's up with you? so I explained all about FFI and read the article to her, as I said she wasn't feeling too good, and she let out a roar of laughter!

I wonder if the MO could be persuaded to tell the men on sick parade, to go away and read the Newsletter, that would make them feel better so come on all you old soldiers out there, lets have some tales to be told, must be printable!?

I have one that might be interesting. I was a Corporal stationed at Mhow India and was sitting for an exam for promotion to Sergeant, Well I liked the rank of Corporal so after some thought, I put my number rank and name on the exam paper, and handed it in blank. The officer didn't say a word, two days later the Orderly Sergeant came to me and said, you're on Commanding Officers orders at 1000hrs - oh dear, what's wrong now, off to report to the RSM - in I go in front of the CO - you all know what a feeling that is!! - when you don't know what it is about, Flagg, - Sir - I am giving you two choices - one you can go from this office to the tailors shop, and put three stripes on your arm, or two you can go from this office as a Pte soldier, well what would you have done? If I hadn't gone to the tailors shop I would never (later years) have had the good fortune to join 2/7th Queens. I was taken in and made very welcome by a very fine Regiment, not forgetting my Company Commander Maj Hugh Scammell A SMASHING LEADER, thanks for the Newsletter, oh just one more before I go I must just mention this in the obituaries Lt Gen Sir William Stratton. It mentions that he took command of 169 Queen's Brigade in the 56th (London) Division. Please correct me if I am wrong, but I am sure Sir Winston Churchill mentioned the above Division during the war( the only unit to be mentioned while fighting was still going on. But he said the 'Famous' 56 (London). If I am wrong, please forgive me. But if I am right, then lets have the word Famous when ever the Division is mentioned I keep trying to get to a reunion but as I don't run a car, I have to rely on my son he'll help me to make it one day. I was talking to Major Scammell the other day and he said there was several members I would have known.

Many thanks Sir, good wishes and health to all.

### N J Dyer writes from Hauxton:-

Thank you for the May issue of the Newsletter and I was delighted to see my letter regarding Captain Trench in the November 1989 issue.

My wife and I visited Boston, Lincs last month to celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary, as my wife is a native of Boston and I met her there whilst with 1/6th Queen's.

From July - October 1940 I believe we were the first troops stationed in Boston during the war. Your readers may not be aware that there is a Queen's flag and Plaque situated in the Boston "Stump" Church?

During our time at Boston we were presented with two tenor drums for the Regimental Band by the Town Council at a special ceremony in Boston "Stump". During this time Captain A R Trench was our Company Commander.

After the war from 1950 to 1960 I lived and worked in Boston and I am sure that there are quite a number of the 1/6th Queens who married Boston girls and settled there after the war.



POW Camp Stalag 383. Les Moxon second from left front row

### Sandy Hudson Writes:-

I was privileged to visit the Queen's Surreys Museum for the first time on Saturday 22 Sept due to the help of W J Webb.

Bill and Mary Webb met us at Leatherhead station - took us to their home and sustained us with an excellent meal then on to the museum.

Had a wonderful time saw many friends, was presented with the Newsletter and details of the Association which I have since read every word - and good stuff it is!!

Many names - very familiar even the obituaries brought back many memories. Then they returned us to Leatherhead station - on to Victoria then to Birmingham by coach and home to West Bromwich making the over 300 mile round trip possible with the help of friends. So that I'm pleased to apply for membership, lapel badge and Newsletter for which I enclose cheque.

### Bob Martin writes:-

It is a great pleasure to receive the 'Newsletter' and I am pleased to enclose the necessary cheque to cover two years subscriptions.

Like R N Parker MM I read with great sadness of Gary Lockwoods death and wish that I'd had the privilege of meeting Sgt Lockwood again before he died. I refer to him as Sergeant as I too was conscripted into the "Queens" at Stoughton Barracks and was most fortunate to be posted to No 1 Pln commanded by Sgt Lockwood. He was a fine man and no one could have had a better introduction into army life than those who passed through his very capable hands. Both in the Barracks and then in the camp, I found all the permanent staff of regular soldiers, highly qualified and dedicated people - from RSM Hawkins downwards. The likes of CQMS Tasker Sgts Stratford - Roadnight - Waldron - Oliver to name but a few.

I still have the photograph taken of our platoon near the end of our initial training, together with all our names. The call up was January 1940 and after our initial eight weeks at the barracks, we were posted to the camp and all went our various ways. I will enclose the photograph together with the list of names as maybe some of them, like me, receive the newsletter and it will bring back memories. Naturally I would like the photograph back, having held it all these years. It will be seen that Sgt Lockwood is in the centre.

Of the members of the platoon five of us were eventually posted to the 1/6th Queens. Originally we were on a draft to join them overseas, but it was around the time of Dunkirk and we were held at Seaford. Well occupied digging a tank trap in the vicinity of Cuckmere Haven. We eventually joined them, along with a draft from the Fusiliers, at Boulogne.

The five of us were Les Lake top row extreme left, Johnny Glover next to him in the top row, Jimmy Labroy bottom row extreme left, Arthur (Ginger) Mitchell bottom row second from the right and myself next to him bottom row third from the right, of these Les Lake now Sgt Lake was most regrettably killed in action at "Deir el Munassib", it was our first action in the desert Sept 1942, it was at the same time as CSM Stratford died of wounds (Sgt in charge of No 2 platoon at the Depot Jan 1940) as did the Coy Commander Major Trench (mentioned in an article by CHN).

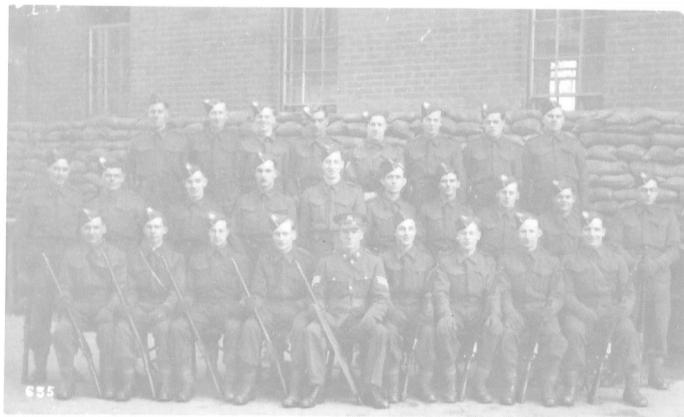
Arthur Mitchell now CSM Mitchell was most regrettably killed in action at 'Liseux' on 21st Aug 1944, he is buried in St Desiu War Cemetery. I have not been able to visit his grave, but ever hopeful of visiting the Caen area and the graves of many friends killed there.

Johnny Glover I kept track of, until the Battalion came back to England December 1944. I'm not sure whether or not he came home with us.

Jimmy Labroy I lost track of when I transferred from A Coy to HQ Coy Mortar Pln. I would be most interested and pleased to know what happened to everyone in the photograph, especially Johnny Glover and Jim Labroy. I saw Bob Dean 2nd row third left several times in Croydon up until the mid sixties - got thinking about him earlier this year, so phoned to enquire, regrettably his wife (Arthur Mitchell's cousin) told me that he had died a few years ago.

I did see RSM Lockwood again after our initial training, in 1943, we were camped on the shores of the Med at Hams preparing for the Salerno Landing. RSM Lockwood visited our Battalion and came into the Sgts mess with our RSM Brunton.

Arthur Mitchell and myself were sitting in the corner doing our best on the chess board - Gary Lockwood spotted us and came straight over surprised that we were still together he remembered us from 1940 - he stayed chatting and had the ubiquitous cup of tea with us.



No 1 Platoon January 1940 - Stoughton Barracks

In no particular order:-

<i>Sgt G. LOCKWOOD</i>	<i>A. MITCHELL</i>
<i>P. WEEKS</i>	<i>J. GLOVER</i>
<i>A. WILLCOCKS</i>	<i>W. HEATH</i>
<i>W.G. SKEET</i>	<i>H. VINCENT</i>
<i>F.G. HOGAN</i>	<i>R. DEANES</i>
<i>MARSH</i>	<i>P.J. HALE</i>
<i>G. SEWELL</i>	<i>F.W. BROWN</i>
<i>J. JOHNSTON</i>	<i>E.C. SIMMONS</i>
<i>J. LABROY</i>	<i>T.G. WELCH</i>
<i>G. VARDI</i>	<i>S. CARYER</i>
<i>R. THORTON</i>	<i>P. BEER</i>
<i>P.F. JACKLING</i>	<i>S. MILLER</i>
<i>P.J. BAKER</i>	<i>B.R. SELBY</i>
<i>D.L. ABLEWHITE</i>	<i>R.J. MARTIN</i>
<i>LAKE</i>	

Sitting here writing and remembering those far off days, numerous names and faces come to mind, numerous incidents and episodes. I spent six and three quarter years in the "Queens" over six of them in the 1/6th, so of course got to know many comrades.

All the Battalions must have been the same, each a little world of their own. If I started to mention names and incidents I'd never stop, so best leave it here.

I noted P Reads request in the current issue and will contact him.

I can't remember the name but might when we meet.

I too would be pleased to hear from any old friends. I already see and hear from many. There are one or two of us in Kings Lynn, and I have attended the odd function or two. There are many in the old Mortar Pln, that I think and wonder about - if any are reading this and feel like phoning, I'd be more than pleased. My number is King's Lynn (0553) 765842.

### Captain Ted Cruise TD writes:-

I enclose some photo copies of photographs taken in Worthing, fifty years ago, whilst stationed there with the 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Our billet at one time, was the bandstand on the seafront the platoon commander was Lieutenant P Z Henderson, and the Sgts were Willows and J Perryman, names of platoon members were Kemp, Kent, Fowler, Stranghan and many others, perhaps some of the young soldiers would like to see their names in print with photographs of themselves with their comrades.

My old friend was Sgt Joe Perryman with whom I served for some years, - I was his best man at his wedding in the 1940's, I did meet Joe and his family after the war about 1949, but since then, regrettably lost touch over the years. However I send greetings and best wishes to Joe and former comrades of the Queen's whom I hope to meet at future functions and if not then, perhaps on the great parade ground in the sky where the "cream of the Second of Foot and the bless'd will forever rest", (possibly on their arms reversed with wings folded) in eternal peace.

### D. Bennett writes:-

Many thanks for sending the complimentary tickets for R. H. & D. Railway.

I well remember the old holiday homes we took over as our quarters, and duty along the sea wall, and as an N.C.O. having to visit my men in the pill boxes along the wall. At that time there were two ladies still living in a private bungalow near the sea wall, they hadn't been moved because of health reasons of the elder woman, and one of them would daily bring a milk can of hot cocoa to one of our Bren Gun points. When we were about to leave Dymchurch we collected and gave them a pair of cushion covers with the Queens crest on them.

I also remember we helped to erect the scaffold poles in the sea as a deterrent to possible raids by German high speed boats.

D B

### R Harding writes from Guildford:-

Thank you for your letter regarding my recent visit to the Museum at Clandon.

I would very much like to be a member of the Regimental Association and to receive the Newsletter.

My service with the Queen's was from April 1953 to June 1956, I served in Germany and Malaya with eight platoon C Company. I would particularly like to hear from any of my comrades who served at that time as I have lost all contact with them. (114 Manor Rd, Guildford, GUZ 6NR).



2/5th Queen's Dymchurch 1940



## SIGNALS

### Signal from 1 Queen's

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGT PD IN THE MEMORY OF LT NEVILLE AND THOSE OTHERS WHO FOUGHT AT THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE BEST WISHES.

### Signal from Australia

BEST WISHES TO ALL RANKS ON THIS GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE.

6087294 Ted Josling

## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



### Shed Some Light

Mr Simon Normanton of Guys Head Lighthouse, Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire (Tel. 0406 351173) is anxious to obtain any photographs or information regarding the occupation of the lighthouse by the Queen's Royal Regiment (believed 1/5th) in 1940. The Curator of the Museum at Clandon Park would similarly appreciate any such information.

### Godalming's Fallen

Councillor Mrs Coral Blake of Godalming, Surrey is requesting names of Godalming men and women who died in the Second World War - to be listed on a memorial - and would appreciate any information relative thereto. She can be contacted on Godalming 23544.

### O.C.YEO writes:-

If you have space in a future issue I would greatly appreciate any information on what happened to Sgts John Soffe and George Weeks, also Capt Stevenson the Padre. John Noble was my carrier Platoon Sgt. We had to withdraw with 1/6th Queen's from Petegrem near Oudenarde in Belgium prior to Dunkirk. Capt Stevenson would not get aboard my Bren Gun carrier saying he must stay with the wounded.

I never saw the Sergeants again as I was in action in support of another group.

THANK  
YOU!

STAND  
EASY!



Mrs Mary Ray, Mrs Camille, RSM Camille, Mrs Muriel Sewell, Padre Morrison and Lt Col Brian Ray.

## With The Queen's In China - 1930 -1934

Prior to the Second World War Infantry Regiments consisted of two Battalions and Depot. One Battalion was stationed in the UK while the other carried out an overseas tour, taking all its possessions with it. All trooping was, of course, done by sea. Individuals normally did a six year tour with the Overseas Battalion but could volunteer for an extension. Their replacement from the UK Battalion was generally of similar rank.

In the latter part of the 1920's the 2nd Battalion were in Khartoum prior to returning to the UK. They had previously served with great distinction in India. The 1st Battalion was stationed in Dover prior to going to Malta on the return of the 2nd Battalion. In 1926 there was trouble in Hong Kong however and the 1st Battalion was suddenly posted there. The Depot moved temporarily into the Dover Barracks until the return home of the 2nd Battalion. The 1st Battalion moved to Malta at the conclusion of the trouble in Hong Kong and in 1930 they were again posted East to North China. They served in Tientsin and Peking until November 1934 when they were posted to Quetta, where they were stationed during the terrible earthquake in May 1935.

It was at the memorable King's Birthday Parade in Hong Kong on the 3rd January 1927 that the 1st Battalion, contrary to regulations, carried all three Colours on parade. The Regiment, due to seniority, normally paraded on the right of the line but on this occasion they had to give way to a Battalion of the Guards. This infuriated the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Clarke, who decided that the Battalion would parade with its three six foot Colours next to the Guard's Battalion with their two four foot Colours. The Regiment's third Colour of course was not allowed to be carried uncased out of doors.

I was posted from the 2nd Battalion in Dover to the 1st Battalion in North China in 1931. We travelled out in the very old coal burning troop ship H.M.T. *Neuralia* to Shanghai via Gibraltar Port Said - for coaling - Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong. The ship was very full and the troopdeck accommodation was extremely basic, especially for a long journey in a coal burning ship, slinging hammocks by night. The troop decks were below the water line and fresh air was only obtained from large canvas funnels, which stretched from high above the upper deck where they caught the wind as the ship made way. In the Red Sea unfortunately we had a tail wind and the troop decks got so hot that the ship had to turn round and steam into the wind to get a little air into the ship.

We spent four days in Shanghai and then transferred to a smaller ship for the journey to Tientsin.

The Battalion had one Rifle Company and a Machine Gun platoon in Peking, as a guard for the British Legation, while the remainder of the Battalion was stationed in Tientsin. The garrison in Peking was changed every six months. The Americans, French, Italians and Japanese all had troops in both Tientsin and Peking as well as the British. Each nation also had its own Concession and Chinese Civil Police in Tientsin. This was part of the Treaty after the Boxer rebellion.

The climate in North China is very cold and dry in winter and very hot and dry in summer. There were times, if the wind was off the Gobi Desert, when there were sandstorms. The sky became yellow with sand and the light bad until the wind dropped. The sand then fell like rain and covered everything.

Uniform in winter was greatcoat or leather jerkin with a fur hat. The dress for sentries was a fur hat, a long leather fur lined coat - poshteen - long leather fur lined boots - silsits - and leather fur lined gloves. A sentry's tour of duty was for one instead of two hours. Topees were always worn in the hot weather, until it was realised on the outbreak of war that these were both impracticable and unnecessary.

The Officer's mess and quarters in Tientsin were in the centre of the British Concession, near the church, while the Barracks

was on the edge of the Concession. On Sundays, with Band playing, the Battalion marched from the Barracks to church through streets lined with appreciative spectators of all nationalities. I believe that in winter the bandsmen had to use glycerine to prevent their instruments freezing up. Sometimes towards the end of March the music tended to get fainter as a few instruments froze up.

Training facilities in Tientsin were not good. There were no ranges and all shooting had to be done at the summer camp at Shanhaikwan. During its tour in Tientsin the Battalion held a Trooping the Colour parade and a torchlight drill demonstration, both of which went down well with its various national guests.

The Officer's mess and barracks in Peking were inside the British Legation compound. There were five International rifle ranges a few miles outside the City. These were side by side to each other and it was highly dangerous to be using our 100 or 200 yard firing point if the Japanese were advancing and firing down their adjoining range.

Social life in North China was extremely good for officers but regrettably not so good for the other ranks. The social life in Peking, in particular, was very international, as most Nations had Legations there.

A lot of polo was played in summer in both Tientsin and Peking. Ponies were cheap and so many officers were able to enjoy the game. The Regimental team played several matches against the American Infantry team. In winter pony cross country paper chases were held over a kind of steeplechase course.

There were two racecourses in Tientsin, one International and one Chinese, and one outside Peking at Paomachang. Race meetings were frequent with twelve races a day, three before lunch and nine in the afternoon. Races were for amateur riders and the annual turnover on the tote was considerable, as the Chinese love betting on anything. Three of us from the Battalion rode regularly.

Representatives of the Racecourse authorities, as well as certain individuals, travelled to Mongolia once a year to round up and select certain suitable ponies in the wild. These were then brought down to Tientsin and auctioned. The new owner then had to break them in and train them.

During the hot weather Companies went in turn to a tented Camp by the sea at Shanhaikwan. The French, Italians and Japanese all had summer camps in the area too. The Americans had their camp a few miles down the coast at Chinwangtiao. The Navy and their wives from Hong Kong went to Wei-hai-wei in the hottest part of the year.

We had our own 600 yard range by the sea and the area was also suitable for limited field training. Platoons used to march into the hills to Erleng, near the Great Wall, and bivouac there for a weeks training in lovely scenery. There was also a small lake at the site, fed by a mountain stream, in which one could swim.

The village of Shanhaikwan, with its railway station, is at the southern end of the Great Wall of China. East of the Great Wall is Manchuria, later renamed Manchukuo by the Japanese after they had occupied it.

Shanhaikwan Station was a few miles inland from the coast and the various international camps, so one had to march to camp. The British however, had a very narrow gauge line from the station to their camp and baggage was carried along this line on a flat trolley pulled by a mule. The other nationals were permitted to use our line, with their own trolleys, providing they always gave way to us by pulling into one of the several sidings, as it was a single line only. The Japanese were the only people who occasionally gave trouble over this.

It was while the Battalion was in North China that the Japanese occupied Manchuria and came right up to Shantung. They seized the Chinese parade ground and barracks and flew their new Manchuquo flag. There was considerable trouble one day, when the Japanese discovered one morning that instead of their new Manchuquo flag flying at the mast head it had been replaced, by a young British officer, with a large White flag with a large red spot in the middle. Luckily they suspected the Chinese, who unfortunately got the blame, otherwise there might have been an International incident.

I personally, with a brother officer, was lucky enough to be able to spend three weeks travelling throughout Japan during my tour in China. We rejoined the regiment at Shantung having travelled back via Port Arthur, now Vladivostock and Mukden.

P.H.R.

### GOLF SOCIETY

The spring meeting of the Golf Society took place at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on 3rd May 1990. 21 members attended.

The Results Of The Competition Were:

CHALLENGE CUP	COL. J. G. W. DAVIDSON	75 gross
DODGSON CUP	M. J. POWER ESQ.	66 net
HEALES TROPHY	CAPT. J. A. CLARK	38 points
VETERANS HALO	MAJ. GEN. G. A. WHITE	41 points
HARRY ADCOCK TROPHY	BRIG. S. T. W. ANDERSON	32 putts
SWEEP WINNERS:		
1st	MAJ. P. A. GRAY	
2nd	CAPT. J. A. CLARK	
3rd	CAPT. V. W. BLACKWELL	

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the clubhouse following the afternoon round. Colonel J W Sewell and Major B A Crutchfield having completed their term of office as President and Captain of the Society received a vote of thanks for the work performed on behalf of the Society.

By popular acclaim Major John Sutton was elected President for the next three years and Lt Colonel Foster Herd elected Society Captain for the years 1990/1992. The Autumn meeting will be held at Woking Golf Club on 4th October 1990 and we return to Sudbrook Park for the 1991 Spring Meeting on 2nd May.

### Annual Match v Royal Marines GS

This fixture was held on 4th July 1990 at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on one of the few very wet days so far this summer. Once again there was a very close contest, the result being in doubt until the last foursome left the 18th green. The half obtained by Basil Crutchfield and Michael Power was enough to give the Society victory by one point after being behind by the same margin after the morning round.

QUEEN'S SURREYS	AM	ROYAL MARINES	
MAJ GEN. G. A. WHITE	0	MAJ GEN. P. R. KAY	1
MAJ. W. J. F. SUTTON		CAPT. D. G. HUNT	
COL. J. G. W. DAVIDSON	½	COL. S. D. SMITH	½
LTCOL. F. B. HERD		COL. A. S. HARRIS	
MAJ. B. A. CRUTCHFIELD	0	CAPT. A. B. GORDON	1
MAJ. P. T. CARROLL		CAPT. H. J. PHILLIPS	
MAJ. F. V. SHEPPARD	1	G. BATES ESQ.	0
M. J. POWER ESQ.		A. J. DAY	
BRIG. S. T. W. ANDERSON	½	LTCOL. D. G. TWEED	½
CAPT. J. R. CLARK		LTCOL. R. P. CARTER	

PM		
BRIG. S. T. W. ANDERSON	1	MAJ GEN. P. R. KAY
MAJ. W. J. F. SUTTON		COL. S. D. SMITH
MAJ GEN. G. A. WHITE	0	COL. A. S. HARRIS
MAJOR F V SHEPPARD		CAPT. H. J. PHILLIPS
COL. J. G. W. DAVIDSON	1	CAPT. D. G. HUNT
MAJ. P. T. CARROLL		G. BATES ESQ.
LTCOL. F. B. HERD	1	LTCOL. D. G. TWEED
CAPT. J. A. CLARK		CAPT. A. B. GORDON
MAJ. B. A. CRUTCHFIELD	½	LTCOL. R. P. CARTER
M. J. POWER ESQ.		A. J. DAY ESQ.
	5½	
		4½

The meeting next year will again be held at Fleet, on Wednesday 3rd July.

V S



Richmond Golf Spring Meeting, L to R-Stuart Anderson, Mike Doyle, Peter Roupell, Vic Sheppard, John Davidson and Hugh Harris.



Mick Taylor's cricket team, see page 5.

### Old School Ties

Reviewing the book "Pillar of Fire : Dunkirk 1940", the Sunday Telegraph quotes the story of how during the retreat to Dunkirk Lord Sysonby, second in command of the 1/5th Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment, was handed a letter marked Most Secret and Urgent, by a despatch rider, which informed him that the meeting of his divisional Old Etonian Society had been postponed.

R.F.

## Reminiscences of Brigadier N. B. Brading, CMG, CBE.

I passed out of Sandhurst, as a Regular Officer, and joined 3rd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment at Dover in February 1916. The Officers Mess was divided into two, one part for regulars and recalled reservists, the second part for Second Lieutenants who were considered the scum of the earth and treated as such. The CO was an old 'Boer War Dugout' notorious for his welcome to newcomers "Do not think that because you have been to Sandhurst you know anything, you know nothing. Get out".

In August 1916 to France. The Battle of the Somme was at its height and the average expectation of life for the younger officer in the infantry was two weeks. I went to an enormous reinforcement camp at Etaples and was then ordered to join 1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment instead of my own Regiment. We travelled on a very slow, very dirty, very old troop train which took about two days to cover sixty miles to Railhead at Albert. This town had suffered badly from the battle and was little more than a collection of ruined houses. From Railhead we had to march to the forward zone which took some hours through the most devastated country that could be imagined. Shell holes filled with water, roads little better than mud tracks, remains of small villages and farms, hardly a tree that was not blown to pieces, and the whole lot still within shelling range of the Germans.

On arrival at 1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment I was sent to a Company in the front line opposite a well known position 'High Wood'. The trenches were nothing more than a collection of shell holes joined together and, in one or two places, German dugouts which had been captured during the previous advance. We had been told that we were pursuing the defeated enemy, a proposition which seemed to me ridiculous, as we were in mud up to our knees, in trenches which gave little cover, continuously under enemy shell fire, to say nothing of enemy machine gun fire and sniping. The plan was that at dawn next day, the whole front line would advance and take High Wood. The attack would be preceded by a heavy barrage by our guns and they would cover our advance.

At dawn our barrage arrived with great weight, but unfortunately landed not on the Germans, nor in front of their positions, but slap bang on top of us. I was sitting with the Company Sergeant Major at the bottom of a trench when one of our shells landed immediately above us. He was killed and I was completely buried in earth and debris. Some soldiers dug me out. Shortly afterwards I was rendered unconscious by another shell. When I recovered I was appointed Transport Officer. This gave me a chance to get away from the firing line. One day the Germans started shelling our Transport Area with long range eight inch guns. I remember remarking to the Transport Sergeant how local the effect of the shells was, when they burst. Almost immediately a shell hit a tree by which we were standing. I woke up in hospital with a French nun leaning over me.

On leaving hospital I was sent as an instructor to the big training camp near Etaples, commonly known as the 'Bull Ring'. This was most interesting work, but dangerous, as I found I was to instruct in bombing. I had to teach sometimes very nervous students in the handling of bombs, and the throwing of bombs from a prepared position. Quite often nervous students would drop a bomb which was already primed. This required very quick action on the part of the instructor in getting rid of the bomb before it exploded.

From the 'Bull Ring' I went to be Adjutant of the Reinforcement Camp near Etaples. After that as Staff Captain to Brigade HQ at Dover Castle until the War ended. Then to Newhaven Garrison as Staff Captain. That was disbanded towards the end of 1919, when I was sent to a similar appointment at Chatham. At the end of 1920 I was posted to 1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment in Dublin. During this time the rebels set fire to the Customs House which was situated on

the side of the River Liffy. It burned for about three days and the Bn. was ordered to place a guard on the ruins. I was ordered to be Guard Commander and moved there with my platoon. We were continually being sniped at from across the river, but fortunately had no casualties. After forty eight hours we were relieved by another platoon.

We had to assist in the guarding of the Boyne Railway Bridge at Drogheda. This was important because it carried the main line between Belfast and Dublin.

On one occasion we received word that De Valera was hiding in a gamekeeper's cottage north of the river. He was a much wanted man and we searched the area. We had no difficulty in surrounding the gamekeeper's cottage, nor of affecting the arrest of De Valera, who we took with us to our barracks in Drogheda. We were feeling very proud of ourselves. We informed Army HQ in Dublin only to be told that we were to release him as he was of greater value when he was on the run than when he was locked up. And so he was released.

Shortly afterwards I was informed that I was to be Bn. Signals Officer and was sent on the course at the Army School of Signals, then situated at Maresfield in Sussex.

Early in 1944 I was commanding a Beach Group. After an immediate landing we would help in preparing the beaches for the landing of vehicles, guns etc. We acquired a large number of different units e.g. road construction units and armoured recovery units, a minefield clearance unit, port operation groups, and labour battalions. Both Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery visited my HQ and inspected my troops.

On 6 June we crossed the Channel. The sight of enormous lines of literally thousands of ships, many with their anti-aircraft balloons flying, was one never to be forgotten. The assault touched onto the beach under cover from heavy gun and rocket fire from supporting vessels. The whole area was covered in mine fields and barbed wire, much of which had been destroyed by the air force and the rockets. The opposition was very much less than we had expected. I landed with the Canadian Divisional Commander whose troops were to hold the bridgehead while we secured the beaches for the reception of tanks, guns and more troops. Everything went according to plan and we did not see many enemy aircraft. Our casualties were very few.

While I was in command of the beaches, we had numerous visitors and I had an amphibious lorry (DUKW) in which I used to pick them up from the destroyers. I had the honour to do this for Winston Churchill and Field Marshal Smuts. Three weeks after the landing I had the special honour to do this for His Majesty the King and took him ashore to be greeted by General Montgomery.

Things had been going remarkably well on the beaches and it was decided to reorganise. I was selected to command all the beaches and the formation was reformed into a Lines of Communications sub area. This gave me a bigger staff, a bigger command, and promotion to Brigadier.

It was decided that as soon as the Germans had been pushed back far enough, I should follow up with my command and, as ports became overrun, I should take charge of them and get them into operation. After crossing the SEINE we moved through ROUEN and up to AMIENS where we paused. Then on to DIEPPE where we remained during the severe winter 1944/45.

My HQ then moved to BRUSSELS where I had attached to me a complete Dutch Naval staff under a Dutch Naval Captain, a Senior Dutch Staff Officer and two Dutch Liaison Officers. My task was to await the invasion of Holland, follow quickly and form an Area HQ in the vicinity of THE HAGUE, take command and re-organise ROTTERDAM PORT, and administer the country within that vicinity.



Brigadier Brading escorting HM The King on a tour of the beaches.

### Lambs To The Slaughter

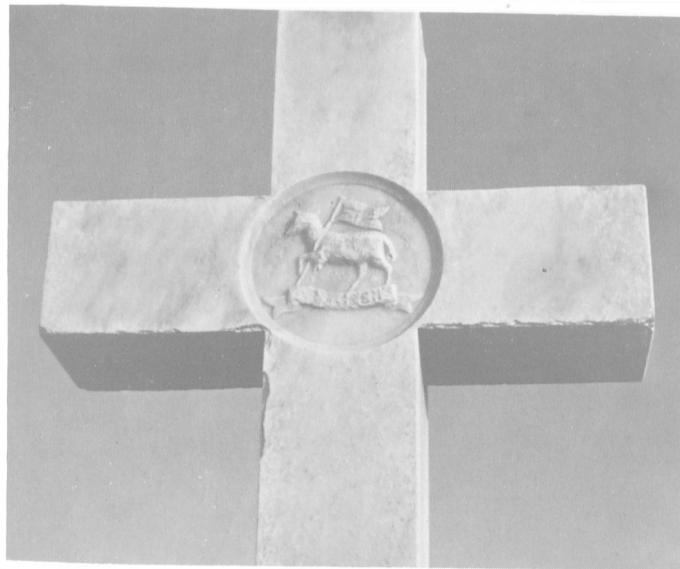
High above the waves pounding the cliffs on the eastern end of Bermuda stands this monument, looking out over the Atlantic. A smaller stone lies in the grass alongside.

There is a sad story behind these monuments. In 1864 the British soldiers stationed in St. George's moved camp. If they had stopped and pitched their tents on the exposed headland, where their remains now lie, many of the men might have survived. Unfortunately they marched on beyond the high cliffs to a swampy valley just below. Here, not realising the part the mosquito played in spreading yellow fever, the doomed men made their camp at the edge of a shallow, brackish pond.

While visiting Bermuda in October, 1989 I found the graveyard. The wall around it, built of the local sandstone, is still there, though broken down in places. Wondering about the names recorded there I visited the library and read that out of 148 British soldiers stationed in Bermuda in 1864, 120 had died.

An Army historian tells me that these eighteen men were enlisted in The West Surrey Regiment and were commonly known as "Kirke's Lambs".

Lambs to the slaughter!



DKM 653 Patricia Ave, Winnipeg.

The Cross at the top of The Monument.

*Editor's Note. Unfortunately the colour pictures could not be reproduced and we have only been able to print the top of the monument.*



HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the unveiling of  
The Chindit Memorial

## Regimental Deaths

*Brading* - On 5th June 1990, Brigadier Norman Baldwin Brading CBE, CMG, aged 94 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Clowes* - On 10th June 1990, Major Edward Bethell Garfit Clowes MBE, aged 72 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Crook* - On 20th August 1990, William Tom (Bill) Crook, aged 74 years, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Fennell* - On 6th November 1989.

*Flicker* - On 29th April 1990, Pte Henry Patrick Flicker, aged 73 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Griffin* - On 6th July 1990, Major John Francis Griffin, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Grimston* - On 18th September 1990, Lieutenant Colonel George Sylvester Grimston, aged 85 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hall* - On 28th May 1990, Private Cecil Hall, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hawkins* - On 4th January 1990, Captain (QM) Robert Edward Hawkins, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Jenner* - On 10th September 1990, Private Cecil Jenner, aged 91 years, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Karn* - On 4th February 1990, Major L W Karn MBE, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*King* - On 27th June 1990, Captain Lyndsay Thomas Burgess King, aged 70 years, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment and The Royal Artillery.

*Mills* - On 10th November 1986, Private John (Bill) Mills, aged 76 years, 2/6th The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Naylor* - On 13th February 1990, Major John Naylor, aged 70 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Newton* - On 26th April 1990, Private Reg Newton, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Orchard* - On 2nd October 1989, Corporal Herbert David Orchard MM, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Pitt* - On 27th July 1990, Ernest Albert Pitt, aged 72 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Punter* - On 28th June 1990, Corporal Charles Punter, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Robinson* - On 6th July 1990, Private Pierre Eugene (Jim) Robinson, aged 71 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Shonfeld* - On 31st July 1990, Staff-Sergeant Frank Paul Shonfeld, aged 85 years, 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Sidwell* - On 28th May 1990, Lance Corporal Leslie George Sidwell, The East Surrey Regiment.

## Regimental Families

*Blunden* - On 9th May 1990, Madge (nee Luya) widow of Major Bill Blunden.

*Buckle* - On 11th June 1990, Peggy, wife of Major General D.H.V. Buckle CB, CBE.

*Cottam* - On 23rd July 1990, Eileen, widow of Major General The Reverend Algernon Cottam.

## Obituaries

### Lieutenant Colonel T J Kilshaw

Lieut.-Colonel T.J. Kilshaw joined 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment as a Captain at Woldingham, Surrey, in April, 1942, and embarked with them, as part of 131 (Queen's) Brigade in May for the Middle East.

By 14th August they had joined the 8th Army in time for the first battle of Alamein (Alam Halfa) and, after the main battle, the Brigade became part of the 7th Armd. Div., being in the Vanguard for the rest of the African campaign. Capt. Kilshaw now commanded "A" Coy, which he led right through to finish in Tunis; he particularly distinguished himself at Medenine when, according to the 7th Armoured Division history, over 100 tanks attacked on the Queen's Brigade front, 27 being knocked out on the 1/7th Bn's front alone. In Company with Major W.L. Johnson, he went round the battle area finishing off damaged enemy tanks with petrol and sticky bombs to prevent their salvage.

Promoted to Major, he led "D" Coy., 1/6th, from the Salerno landing in 1943 to the end of 131 (Queen's) Bde's Italian Campaign following which they returned to the U.K. to prepare for the Normandy invasion. For this, he again commanded "D" Coy. until becoming 2 i/c of the Battalion in July. Active service with the Bermondsey boys ended when, as Lieut. Col., he was asked to join the former 131 Bde. Commander, Major General "Bolo" Whistler.

Ted Kilshaw was a courageous soldier, a good and popular leader, who always maintained the best traditions of the Queen's.

On release in 1945, he returned to his former business in the timber industry, often having to travel overseas, but he always kept in touch with the Bn. He and his wife, Sheila, regularly attended Armistice Parades and Reunions and he kept up this contact even after they moved to live in Australia.

After a long illness, Ted died on the 11th November last, Sheila having predeceased him, and our sincere sympathies go to his children and grandchildren of whom he was so proud.

CHN

### Lieutenant Colonel G S Grimston

George Grimston, who died in September 1990, was in his 86th year. He was educated at Winchester then after the Royal Military College Sandhurst, he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1925.

Before the second world war he served with the 2nd Battalion in India and the Sudan, then returned to the United Kingdom

in 1927 serving at Dover, and the Depot at Guildford. George was a natural and very distinguished games player. He played cricket for Sussex County Cricket Club and the Army (he had already played cricket for the Army in India); he played soccer for the Old Wykhamists in the years they won the Arthur Dunn Cup - 1929, 1930, 1931. He also played hockey for Sussex, the Army and the Combined Services. During the Olympic games of 1948 he was the Manager of Great Britain's Hockey Team (they were runners-up).

During the late 1930s he was an instructor at the RMC Sandhurst where began my own association and relationship with George for the next fifty years.

After the outbreak of the second world war George spent a few weeks in France in May 1940. From September 1943, he served with the 1st Battalion in Arakan and Kohima as second-in-command, then commanded the battalion from June 1944 down Burma towards Rangoon until June 1945.

George had a 'large' personality and had a tremendous zest for life. His enthusiasm and sense of humour were infectious, he was always great fun. His standards as a regimental officer were very high and he demanded the same from others. He had the skill, understanding and leadership to produce the best from his subordinates.

The combination of the qualities and personalities of George as the second in command and the CO, Lt. Col Graham Duncombe, ensured that the morale of the 1st Battalion, sometimes in the most appalling conditions, was high and contributed to its success throughout the Burma Campaign.

At Headquarters in the Burmese jungle, George would insist on the highest (possible!) standards. It was refreshing and an education to walk with him at some rear area headquarters and see and hear how he would extract a "good morning" from some reluctant, glum looking 'rear officer'.

One December dawn in 1943, the Japanese attacked the Battalion and infiltrated Battalion headquarters. George led a small bombing party and was responsible for killing several of the enemy. Quoting Captain Dick Kensington's (the Adjutant) entry in the Regimental History book, "Major Grimston had played cricket for Sussex and the Army his action was like a good return to the wicket.....".

He received a Mention in Despatches.

After retiring from the Army in 1950, George became Secretary of Sussex County Cricket Club for the next fourteen years. Again his leadership was largely responsible for that club's improved fortunes both in finance and on the field of play.

Of lasting testimony to his personality, respect and affection is that some ten ex officers who served during his period with the 1st Battalion, have met annually for a meal.

From all who knew him, we send our deep sympathy to his daughter Caroline, her husband Richard and their daughter Stella.

MAL

**Brigadier N B Brading CMG CBE**

Norman Brading, who has died aged 94, was the doyen of The East Surrey Regiment. Born at Deauville, France, in 1896, he was educated at Whitgift, Pembroke College, Cambridge, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment and first saw action on the Western Front in August 1916. He was wounded on the Somme the following month. A number of staff appointments followed, and after the war he served in both Regular battalions of the Surreys.

In 1923 he volunteered for service in the West African Frontier Force but was invalided home with dysentery the following

year. He was then posted to the 2nd Battalion in Gibraltar, but here he contracted tuberculosis and had to spend a year in a sanatorium in Switzerland. He applied for a posting to India and here he served for four years as Adjutant of The Chota Nagpur Regiment in Ranchi. Brading returned to regimental duty with the 1st Battalion in the Sudan, where he raised a polo team from the officers of his Company.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was Training Officer at the Regimental Depot, and the following year was appointed to command the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Norfolk. He was then promoted full colonel and assumed the command of 102 Beach Sub Area, at that time preparing for the Normandy landings. He crossed the Channel with his formation on D Day, 6th June 1944, and took on the organisation of the beaches and the support of the forward troops. Among the distinguished visitors whom Colonel Brading conducted round his beach-head were HM the King and Mr Winston Churchill. The role of the beach group developed into a L of C sub-area, and Brading was promoted Brigadier. The Headquarters was initially at Dieppe, and, during the winter of 1944/45, at Brussels and ultimately at Rotterdam. For his services to the Dutch Free Army Brigadier Brading was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of Orange Nassau. He had previously been mentioned in despatches, and appointed CBE.

In July 1945, Brigadier Brading was seconded to the United Nations post-war Headquarters which was being set up in Germany. In 1949 he retired from the Army after 33 years service, and then turned his attention to hospital administration. He had been appointed CMG in 1948. He was, first, Secretary of the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital in Exeter, but then returned to West Africa as House Governor, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Norman Brading will be remembered as a cheerful friendly person of wide interests and full enjoyment of life.

PGEH

**Staff Sergeant F P Shonfeld BEM**

Paul Shonfeld's death in a Worthing nursing home on 31st July 1990, aged 85, brought to an end a very long association with the 4th Bn QUEENS (TA) and the 4th QUEENS Old Comrades Association.

One of four brothers who all served in the Queen's, Paul joined the 4th Bn at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon in October 1920 and served continuously until he was demobilised in 1945. He re-joined the battalion in 1949 when it was re-formed as 598 LAA Regiment (4th Queen's) and finally took his discharge in 1953.

A kind and unassuming man, Paul will be chiefly remembered for his devoted and sterling work on behalf of the 4th Bn Queen's OCA. He served the Association in various capacities and was Assistant and Hon Secretary for 15 years, until ill-health caused his retirement in 1981.

He edited and produced the Association's 'Braganza' Journal, which was published twice yearly and which was of great interest and assistance in keeping members of the Association informed and in touch with each other. On his retirement he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to the Association.

PDC

**Major E B G Clowes MBE**

Major Edward Clowes who died suddenly in June achieved distinguished success in two careers, firstly in The Queen's Royal Regiment for 21 years, and then for a further 23 years in the world of finance as Managing Director of the Target Group and then Chairman of Target Life Assurance Company.

After school at Cranleigh he joined the Territorial Army and 5th Queens in March 1939. With the outbreak of war he was commissioned and served initially at the Depot, Stoughton Barracks, before going out to the Middle East to join 2nd Queens in the 70th Division in May 1941, in time for the attempt to relieve Crete, the nasty campaign against the Vichy French in Syria, and the defence and break-out from Tobruk, during which time he took over command of 'A' Company.

When in 1943, 2nd Queens then in Ceylon were selected to train for long range penetration and became part of Major General Wingate's Chindit Force, Edward Clowes was appointed Rifle Company Commander and 2 i/c of 21 Column commanded by his CO, Lieutenant Colonel John Metcalfe. There is no need to re-tell the Chindit story, but due first to injury and then through being wounded Colonel Metcalfe's time in command was limited, and Edward Clowes thus commanded 21 Column for much of the operation, in particular leading and reorganizing it when it had itself been surprised by unexpected Japanese near Indaw - for this in particular he was subsequently Mentioned in Despatches.

After the War after attending Staff College in India Edward Clowes alternated staff and regimental employment, the former in India, at the War Office and at GHQ FARELF. He commanded companies in 1st Surreys 1949/1951 in Greece and Sanaliland, and in 1st Queens 1956/1958 in Malaya and BAOR, and commanded The Queen's Depot at Guildford 1953/1955, during which time he met and married his wife, Louise. He was appointed MBE in the Coronation Honours List for his service at GHQ FARELF, and his final job was with the Chiefs of Staff Secretariat from which he retired in 1960.

On retirement Edward Clowes joined the firm of Accountants in which Captain A P W (Tim) Simon, who had also served in 2nd Queens was a partner, and soon after the Target Group was formed and this led the way as one of the first of the Unit Trusts. The extraordinary success of Target with all its pressures was managed by Edward Clowes without in any way changing his personality, which always remained collected, modest and humorous. He continued as a friend to many, always being a generous and caring employer and host, and retaining his interest in the Regiment and his regimental friends. Indeed he did more than this, since in 1970 he became a member of The Queen's Regiment Investment Committee and then its Chairman in 1976, which job he was still doing when he died. His expertise and the time he gave have been of immense value to the Regiment and its Battalions and organizations, which through this are probably markedly better set up financially than many others, and this evidence of his care and interest will continue long into the future. He will be much missed and the Association's sympathy go to his wife Louise and his three children, Anne, David and Nigel.

J.W.S.

#### Major W T (Bill) Crook

Bill Crook landed in Normandy on D + 1 as a Platoon Commander with A Coy 1/5th Queens. He took over C Coy on 8th April 1945 just south of Bremen after all their officers had become casualties, 8 days later the company "liberated" a large prison camp in the woods south west of Fallingbostel to be greeted at the gate by RSM Lord and a guard of men from the 1st Airborne Division who were in complete control of the twelve thousand British and American prisoners. Bill commanded C Company when the battalion led the 7th Armoured Division into Hamburg on 3 May 1945 - the final act of the war. Bill was the last officer with the 1/5th Queen's when it was put into "suspended animation" in April 1946. He attended the 1/5th Queen's OCA dinner on some 30 occasions and played a great part in helping other Queen's men with whom he had served to "Keep in touch".

Aged 75 Bill is survived by his widow, son, daughter and 4 grandchildren.

#### Major Gordon Spratt, TD, JP.

After a long period of ill-health, Major Spratt died on the 14th August, 1990.

Commissioned in The Lincolnshire Regiment, he transferred as Lieutenant to The Queen's Royal Regiment in April, 1942, joining "C" Company of the 1/6th Battalion at Woldingham, Surrey. With them he embarked for overseas service, arriving in Egypt in August in time for the first battle of Alamein (Alam Halfa) 10 days only after landing. Following Alamein itself, 131 (Queen's) Brigade became part of the 7th Armoured Division and from then on was always in the vanguard of the 8th Army advance.

Promoted Captain soon after the capture of Tripoli, he commanded the A/Tank Platoon at the battle of Medcnine when, according to the official history, over 100 tanks attacked on the Queen's Brigade front alone, but were soundly beaten off.

After the end of the campaign at Tunis, Capt. Spratt took part in the Salerno landing and became "C" Company commander at Sta. Maria la Fossa, a command he retained for the rest of his active service. This included the invasion of Normandy, soon after which he was promoted to Major. Towards the end of August 1944 however, he was badly wounded and the end of hostilities came before he was fully recovered.

On demobilisation, he returned to his former successful civilian occupation of agricultural engineer in Horncastle, Lincs., and rejoined the Territorial Army, from which he resigned during the reorganisations. His allegiance to his parent Regiment was pre-eminent, nevertheless he was always in close contact with those with whom he served, and regularly attended the social activities of the 1/6th Bn. O.C.A.

Gordon Spratt then devoted his time, in addition to his business, to serving the community in many ways, including founding the Horncastle branch of the Rotary Club and as a Justice of the Peace.

Gordon was a man's man, a gallant officer and a true friend. His is a great loss to all who knew him, and our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, Mary.

#### Adrian Hayter

This name will be familiar only to members of The East Surrey Regiment serving in India before the War, for Adrian Hayter was attached to the 1st Battalion for a year before being commissioned in The 2nd King Edwards VII's Own Gurkha Rifles. He was a gallant and inspiring leader, winning the Military Cross in Burma and the MBE in Malaya.

After the war Hayter sailed twice single handed to his native New Zealand and wrote a number of books about his voyages and experiences. He had more than his share of hard knocks and bad luck, but he faced all setbacks with courage and fortitude. He died on 14 June 90, aged 75.

PGEH

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.

## Museum Notes

1990 has been another good year for the museum. Attendance has been well up, at least one third of the fifty thousand visitors to the National Trust house at Clandon Park. There have been a number of highly successful functions, notably the Association President's reception for mayors and the well-attended Open Day. It has been a busy season and the assistance of those who have given up their afternoons to help has been greatly appreciated. In that respect our thanks go particularly to Mr. J. Skerry, to Graham Wenn our Treasurer, to John Woodroff our Archivist, to Alan and Peggy White, and to Mrs Margaret Ford.

The medal display in the refurbished Archives Room has become a major attraction, and medals which have been recently donated are displayed prominently for the whole of the season in a special case before being incorporated in the main display. The Trustees were able to give special dispensation for the permanent loan of one set of medals incorporating the Sobraon medal to the 1st Battalion Warrant Officer and Sergeant's Mess. These were the medals of Private Hugh Strain who served with the Thirty First Foot during the First Sikh War in 1845/6 and later in the Crimea. The war was otherwise known as the Sutlej Campaign, and the medal was given to those who were present at the battle at Moodkee and the subsequent major encounters at Ferozeshahur, Aliwal and Sobraon for which clasps were awarded. Strain took part in all four battles including the final decisive one at Sobraon.

Books are another feature of the museum, in two respects - those which we sell in the shop and those which assist research. Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis's admirable 'Salerno Remembered' continues to attract much attention. We will also have on sale shortly re-edited versions of 'The Queen's in Burma' and 'Second Surreys in Malaya' which incorporate new material, and which we hope will appeal in their new form to a wider public as well as to old soldiers. Among the latter we are most grateful for a recent donation to the museum by Major-General D.L.Lloyd Owen CB, DSO, OBE, MC of Volume I, II and III of von Clausewitz's "On War". An inscription on the inner cover of the first volume by Brigadier Allen Block reads as follows: "Bought by me in Lucknow in 1921 and carried round in my personal baggage ever since. During the 1939-45 war, I never planned an operation or battle without consulting these three volumes. I now bequeath them to David Lloyd Owen, the last Commanding Officer of a Regular Battalion of the Queen's 1958-59. A.P. Block, 14th October 1959". The books were written largely after the author's appointment to be Director of the General Academy of War at Berlin in 1818 and were first published after his death in 1831.

Much goes on at the museum during the winter preparing for the next season. Anyone locally who would like to help should get in touch with the curator, Richard Ford. The museum, and the National Trust house, open again on Easter Sunday, 31st March 1991.

MJAC

## Medals

Two fine groups of medals belonging to a father and son of the Queen's Royal Regiment were recently presented to the Museum at Clandon by Major D.F.L. Evans T.D. who handed over his own medals, consisting of the 1939-45 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War medals, War medal and the Territorial Decoration with two clasps, together with the medals of his late father, Colonel B.L. Evans T.D. who was honorary colonel of the 598 L.A.A. Regt. R.A. (4th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment) T.A. until its disbandment in 1955.

Colonel Evans' medals comprised the 1914-18 War Medal, 1914-18 Victory Medal, 1914-18 Territorial Force War Medal, 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal, King George VI Coronation

Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, King George V Territorial Decoration with one clasp and King George VI Territorial Decoration with two clasps.

Other medals which have been presented are:-

Pte. H.C. Hall Queen's 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, 1939-45 War Medal.  
Pte. W.G. Singfield Surreys 1914-18 War and Victory Medals.  
Pte. F. Barnett Surreys 1914-18 War and Victory Medals.  
Pte. J.A. Simner Surreys 1914-15 Star.

Another fine group, those of Sgt. W. Freeland, Queen's Royal Regiment, have been presented to the museum by his son, Mr K. D. Freeland, and comprise:-

Military Medal with Bar  
1914-15 Star  
1914-18 War Medal  
1914-18 Victory Medal  
Indian General Service Medal with clasp Waziristan 1919-21  
Defence Medal  
1939-45 War Medal  
Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.



The Presidents Reception for The Freedom Mayors of Surrey.  
RSM Camille, The President, Chairman, RSM Farrow, Brigadier Clarke  
and Mrs Penny James.

## A Penny for Them

Neither my personal nor my family history gave me much hope that I might be successful in my application for the post of Museum Assistant at the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum. The twenty-five years spent as wife, mother, farmer, boarding kennel manageress (and other occupations with which I shall not bore you now) did not appear very relevant to what I might be required to do in a museum. As to my family history - my father, grandfather and brother had all chosen a career in the Royal Navy and so any service experience I might have brought to bear seemed somewhat irrelevant (those summer balls at Dartmouth and Manadon were SOMETHING!).

However, apart from a threat from one of the interviewing panel to "terminate the interview forthwith", in response to my answer to a question concerning my leisure activities, the above-mentioned drawbacks did not appear to militate against me. Subsequently, I was to find out that your Curator had spent time in the Royal Navy during the war and was also to discover that the Regiment has an important and very long standing association with the Royal Navy.

As to having been a farmer, I could suggest many ways in which this has proved helpful in the event but had better confine myself to the more salubrious ones! While shinning up ladders to lift down awkward and heavy books, albums and files my

mind flashes back to bale-carting, unloading tonnes of animal feed sacks and such like activities. While trying to keep up to date with sales, stock, acquisitions and allied paperwork, I recall making those hideous monthly returns of "live" and "dead" stock to our accountant. As for counting and accounting for cash, I have come to the conclusion that the demands of accountants are the same everywhere.

Being nice to people and serving in the Regimental shop brings to mind my experiences in our farm shop where we sold some of our produce direct to the public and "the customer is always right". I hasten to say here that it is absolutely no hardship to be "nice" to our museum visitors. The ones with Regimental and Forces connections have taught me a great deal and the National Trust visitors are fulsome in their praise of the museum both verbally and in the written comments which appear in the visitors book.

Another museum activity which reminds me of my farming days and to which I was introduced on my first day in post is cleaning medals. I recall those countless hours (usually of the midnight or crack-of-dawn type) we spent preparing eggs for the packer. Here the comparison ends because not only have I, thankfully, not been asked to commit myself to that extent, but also "eggs is eggs" and medals are far from being just medals. True, they have to be cleaned, all 2000+ of them, but they also opened up a fascinating world of their own which it is going to take me quite some time to explore and assimilate.

One aspect of the work which is new to me and, I think, quite unrelated to my former experiences, is the enormous amount of background research, reading and learning which I have found it essential to undertake. If I let you into a secret, will you promise not to tell? I gave up history in the third form at school when deciding on options for O Level study! Now, at least, I know the dates of the two world wars and, hopefully, a few more besides..... Seriously though, my time at the museum is giving me the opportunity to fill that gap in the most highly motivating and "hands-on" way. Having been brought up almost entirely in the post war period, I must confess to having felt initially a little traumatized during my introductory browsings through the museum and the archives. However, far from glorifying conflict, the overall impression the museum gave to me was of an entirely fitting memorial to all those who have given their lives in the cause they believed in and a tasteful repository for all that two fine Regiments have held so dear over the several centuries of their history.

I still have a great deal to learn and look forward to it. In the meantime, I hope it would not be thought inappropriate to take this opportunity to express my thanks to your Curator, the Trustees and many others who have "taken me under their wing/s" and given me unstintingly of their time and expertise. I have been made to feel so welcome and, on my part, am proud to be associated with a world of such worth, loyalty and support.

P.S. Unfortunately(?) I have yet to find a legitimate use for the leisure activity referred to above but if my colleagues do not stop "pulling my leg" about it, I may yet be compelled to put it to good effect!

PJ



RSM Farrow and Brigadier Clarke discussing The Sutlej Campaign. The President and Chairman look on.



The Mayor of Guildford with Colonel and Mrs Toby Sewell.



The Corps of Drums, Queen's officers club luncheon.



Bottom right:- The President hands over Pte Strain's medals to RSM Farrow for display in the Sgts. Mess.

## Labour Troubles - Dublin - September 1913

The City of Dublin and outlying districts having been disorganised by labour troubles to a great extent owing to the Irish Transport Union under their leader Mr J Larkin all the troops of the Dublin Garrison were ordered to detail daily an inlying piquet of 50 to 100 men with a proportion of officers ready to turn out to assist the civil authorities in case of riot.

In addition to this, each unit furnished Guards over the Dublin Tramway Depots, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment furnished day and night a guard of 1 officer and 13 other ranks over the Dublin Tramway Power Station at Ringsend.

These duties continued from 25th September until the disputes had been settled at the end of December.

During this period - the troops in the Garrison had to unload their own coal and the coal for the Cunagh Garrison from the ships or trucks and cart it under armed escorts through Dublin to their destinations.

R.F.

## A Pleased Policeman

In 1910 the 1st Surreys were in the Tavistock area of Devon and were billeted upon the local civilian inhabitants who apparently weren't too keen to have them. However, it seems that in the event the troops were well behaved as is shown in this appreciative Constabulary letter.

*"DEVON CONSTABULARY.  
"K" DIVISION.  
Tavistock, 13th May 1910.*

Dear Major Smalley.

*I thought you might like to hear from me of the excellent reports I have received on all hands of the good conduct and behaviour of the troops under your command, who were billeted in my Division, during the present week.*

*Not a single complaint of any kind has been made, and I am sure the people of this District would heartily welcome The 1st East Surrey Regiment back at any future time.*

*I can personally testify to the civility, sobriety, and general good conduct of your men and I hope that any other Regiments who may visit us, will carry away with them the same exemplary character that the 1st East Surrey Regiment has done.*

*With very kind Regards  
Yours Sincerely  
(sd) M. Gordon  
Captain & Superintendent of Police".*

The title of the signatory is in itself interesting as it shows an Army officer holding a senior police rank, a practice which was once common and which the present Prime Minister is trying, against some opposition, to revive.

R.F.



## A Straggler

With these words B Armstrong describes himself and his adventures with D Coy 2/6th Queen's in France in the days preceding Dunkirk.

The French mis-placed faith in the Maginot Line was rudely shattered on May 10th, 1940 as German troops swept through the Low Countries. Surprised by a quick tank attack, "soldier" Armstrong suddenly became "prisoner" Armstrong the point being emphasized by the feel of the muzzle of a rifle pressing against his neck. After this there was some confused marching around under escort in the Abbeville area until (doubtless thankfully) the captives became separated from their captors.

After further adventures and trials the escapers eventually arrived at Boulogne in the back of a British ambulance, described by their driver as "casualties". Embarkation on a ship, this time in company with some German prisoners, preceded a quick journey to Dover, return to the Regimental Depot at Guildford, and eventual posting to Newcastle. It was there that "B. ARMSTRONG" was good humouredly categorised as a "straggler" (i.e. a soldier who becomes detached from his unit during an action but rejoins it later).

Nowadays he occasionally takes trips across the Channel between Folkestone and Boulogne, but in happier circumstances than those of his earlier acquaintance with the Continent.

## From a Boxer's Corner

Harry Warren, former Queen's man, one time regimental boxer and coach who also served with the APTC and now a Journalist, writes from New York with some interesting comments on the Newsletter and on past comrades who he recalls.

Names which particularly come to his mind are Lieut Col L. C. East, DSO., OBE., RSM J. B. Simmons, MBE., MC., and Tommy Atkins whose recently published stories have obviously caused nostalgia.

Most of Harry's memories are naturally connected with the Army's Physical Training Corps and their duties and activities. He has particularly happy recollections of the days he spent with Captain Consitt assisting with the restoration of the Olympic Stadium in Berlin.

Reading of Brigadier Charles Millman causes Harry to wonder whether this is the same Lieutenant Millman with whom he served in Germany. (Editors note "it is").

Gary Lockwood, DCM., (now sadly deceased) is remembered both as RSM and as a boxer, especially as he and Harry once gave an exhibition on board the troopship "OLDENBARNEVELT".

Pleasing to your Editor is Harry's recommendation that "members write letters". It is from such sources that the news arrives which gives the Newsletter its name and its substance.

## Pictured Left -

Frank Bohm briefs Colonel John Davidson and Major Derck Adkins on what should have happened to the rum in Tampin.

## So There We Were

**1790** Prince Edward (later Duke of Kent) was appointed to the temporary command of The Queen's on garrison duty at Gibraltar in February. Command reverted to Lt. Col Woollicombe in August. The 31st Regiment embarked on warships of the fleet at Spithead to perform its "original service of Marines in the event of war with Spain which appeared probable". Their services were not, however, required and by the following year they had returned to general duties on land.

**1800** In March, The Queen's, with other troops, were fighting the French in Egypt. After an opposed landing at Aboukir they advanced on Alexandria and by September the conquest of Egypt was complete. A certain Captain George Raitt, finding that the regimental consignment of port had become undrinkable through heat, solved the problem by making "coolers" for the bottles from wet freshly washed socks taken from the feet of dead French soldiers. The 31st Regiment, after a somewhat lengthy sea voyage, arrived at Gibraltar in October where they received orders to proceed to Egypt. But as their ranks were composed principally of volunteers and militiamen, whose condition of enlistment limited them to time and place, they were eventually posted to Lisbon where they arrived on the 27th November, "having suffered much from confinement on board ship, and the use of salt provisions".

**1840** At Ghazipore The 31st were suffering from the effects of fever and dysentery, but on being moved to Agra they found the latter to be a much healthier station. After journeying down the Indus from Taggar Banda, The Queen's were encamped at Deesa where they were joined by 311 recruits who were stated "to be of an inferior description to the old soldiers". (Aren't they always?). But the old soldiers must have had a beneficial effect on the new ones as, speaking of the Regiment, an Inspecting Officer commented, "they are altogether a fine Regiment".

**1850** Also suffering from the common problems of climate and disease, The 70th in India lost three officers by death, two of them from cholera and one from fever. In the previous year 31 men had died from cholera and 48 from other diseases. The Queen's, in Northern Ireland, were dispersed to various locations in readiness for expected trouble on St Patrick's Day. However, it was later reported that the inhabitants had been peaceable, not only on St Patrick's Day but on the subsequent three or four days and the civil power had not had occasion to call on troops for assistance.

**1880** At Chatham The East Surreys (designate), soon to receive their new County title and role, were obviously still keen to call a spade a spade as they received 285 of the new pattern implements for the purpose of testing them over a three month period. Digging of a more sombre nature must have been taking place in India where The Queen's at Mordabad, had, in the course of fifteen days, lost through cholera 1 Colour Sergeant, 5 Privates, 1 woman and 1 child.

**1890** After arriving at Aldershot from Ireland, The Queen's received new magazine rifles and new valise equipment of the 1888 pattern. A draft of The East Surreys went to India in H.M.S. Euphrates. Their numbers were reported to include "...3 boys, 160 rank and file and 2 women...." The 2nd Volunteer Battalion of The East Surrey Regiment were ordered to return their individual rifles to Headquarters for half yearly examination. Rifles were to be "complete with bayonet, scabbard, sight protector and sling. All to be clean and in good condition".

**1910** The Queen's performed duties at the Tower of London and Windsor in connection with the Lying in State and funeral of King Edward VII. Similar duties were performed by The East Surreys at Hyde Park. As a memento they received a leaf from the King's coffin and that leaf, somewhat crumpled but nevertheless dried and preserved, was recently found in a volume of the Regimental Digest of Services at Clandon Museum by Richard Ford, the Curator.

**1940** In the abnormally cold winter of 1940 men of the 2/5th Queen's had a freezing time at Bramley where they were under canvas and providing 24 hour guards for a large ammunition dump. In the evacuation from Dunkirk Lt. Colonel Armstrong M.C. successfully brought the 1/6th East Surreys home to Ramsgate, every man with his own rifle and some carrying Bren guns. For his leadership Lt. Colonel Armstrong was awarded a well earned D.S.O.

**1950** A draft of 150 other ranks of 1 Queen's commanded by Major B. K. Favelle of the Surreys, were flown out from Lyneham, Wiltshire where they reinforced 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment, in Korea. The East Surreys sailed from Athens in the Empire Ken for Somalia to reinforce the British Garrison during the handing over of the territory to Italy who had been nominated as trustees of the country for the United Nations.

The decade whose early days saw Surrey's two famous Regiments dispersed to different theatres for their various duties was the one whose closing year would see them amalgamated to form the new Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

R.F.

## In The Maginot Line

Congratulations to RCT for his detailed recollections of 1st Surreys period of active service experience on the Maginot Line. May I contribute a couple of other memories.

The village church in Waldweisstroff had an organ in working order - so long as it was pumped. Under the skilled hands of Pte Philbrick of HQ Company strains of Beethoven were heard over the village. However, the troops preferred 'Roll out the Barrel' to classical music, and under the threat of the organ blower withdrawing his labour, the organist was compelled to accede to popular demand for 'wish me luck as you wave me goodbye' and other topical songs.

The whole of the Maginot Line defences were the responsibility of the French, and reliefs were moved on the 1914-18 War system. We took over from 10 Brigade, one of whose battalions had sustained a bloody nose in an ambush. Life in the 'lignes' in rear was pretty peaceful, except for a French horsed battery of seventy fives which would gallop into position with great elan, loose off a few rounds rapid fire and then withdraw equally rapidly, leaving us to receive whatever retaliation the enemy cared to send back!

At the end of March 1940, the Battalion, now seasoned warriors, or so we thought, returned to the comfort of our billets at Tourcoing and the various activities with which we passed our time, both on and off duty.

P G E H



CHRISTMAS CARDS 1990

These are still available  
from RHQ The Queen's  
Howe Barracks, Canterbury  
Kent CT1 1JY

Price £2.40 for 12.

## News About Pews

A humorous article received from Stan Brown recalls that in 1940 strenuous (but not always successful) attempts were being made at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford to improve the religious knowledge and inclinations of Stan and other Queen's men. Regular Sunday Church Parades were the norm but some of the "likely lads" had quickly found that on the march from the barracks to the local church it was possible to slip away through the side streets and thence to the railway station and an extended week-end leave. Disaster overtook them when one day, to their dismay, authority, in the form of the Orderly Sergeant, was on the platform to greet them in a manner which could not be described as friendly. Retribution followed on Company Orders together with stricter Sunday security under the personal supervision of RSM P. Tasker.

The next Sunday saw an increased khaki clad congregation in church but apparently they were not entirely minded to be "soldiers of Christ". Although the band played the hymns tunefully, and the officers made gradually dwindling efforts at accompaniment, there was no sound from the stubbornly muted (or mutinous) rank and file. The same applied to such responses as were required during the service, and at the end of his sermon the Chaplain was moved to comment that "this house of God is full to capacity but one would think it was empty". The final "Amen" was the only vociferous offering of the whole occasion. No disciplinary action followed. Possibly nothing was found in King's Regulations to cover it.

Whether anything is recorded in the big book in that "great barracks in the sky" is debatable, but presumably the supply of Regimental Sergeant Majors up there is somewhat limited anyway.

S B

## Trinidad 1797

The 2nd Regiment of Foot took part in Abercromby's campaign in the West Indies, during which Trinidad was captured in February, 1797.

The only British casualty in this particular operation was a Lieut Villeneuve (died of wounds).

The only untoward incident to the British soldiers in this campaign was as follows:-

Having landed unopposed, they proceeded to pour puncheons of rum down a well on the estate, to which was added a large quantity of sugar, the whole then being stirred with the aid of a ship's oar, the troops then partook of refreshment.  
(Surely the world's largest cocktail?)



## Brushes

Early in 1940, I acquired a soldier-servant (I abhor the term 'Batman') one - Bob Rivett, or maybe he acquired me as he volunteered for the job!

He was a good looking young man from South London, a bit like a famous film star of the day - Robert Taylor, and his civilian occupation was polishing shoes for display in the windows of the Dolcis Shoe Company Shoe Shops. My Sam Browne, cap strap, boots and shoes gleamed as never before!

His main recreation on leave was dancing with his pretty little blonde wife and they spent a lot of time at the Hammersmith Palais.

As I progressed through various commissioned ranks Bob Rivett stayed with me. He himself would not take promotion, though he was well worthy of it, because, he said, he was a Communist and did not believe in bossing people about. Yet he was prepared to captain the battalion football team! Some Communist!

I was worried that one day we would part and he would still be on a private soldier's pay so I sent him on a driver-mechs course which he passed with flying colours so that he could become the Company Bren-carrier driver on extra pay but still able to look after me.

Early in 1944 I had the opportunity of joining our 1st Battalion in CMF and I asked Rivett to come back with me. I gave him a 48 hour pass so that he could consult his wife. He came back and said "No". When I left, as a parting gift he gave me two of his polishing brushes, one black and one brown. In late 1944 I heard that Bob Rivett had been killed serving with some "foreign" regiment in Normandy.

I still have the brushes, a bit worn after 50 years wear. Everytime I clean shoes I think of Bob Rivett. What more lasting and ever-present memorial could one have to a friend?

FJR

## Justice

Soon after the battle of Sedgemoor, an 11 year old girl stabbed a soldier to death with a sword because he had insulted her mother. She was tried by court martial before the notorious Colonel Kirke. Not only did he acquit her, but he presented her with a souvenir - the sword

## Tailpiece

Overheard in the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park, the plaintive voice of a former Queen's officer:

'I wouldn't have come if I had known you were going to be here.'

Who could he possibly have been speaking to?  
Suggestions to the Editor.