

# THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUEENS SURREYS



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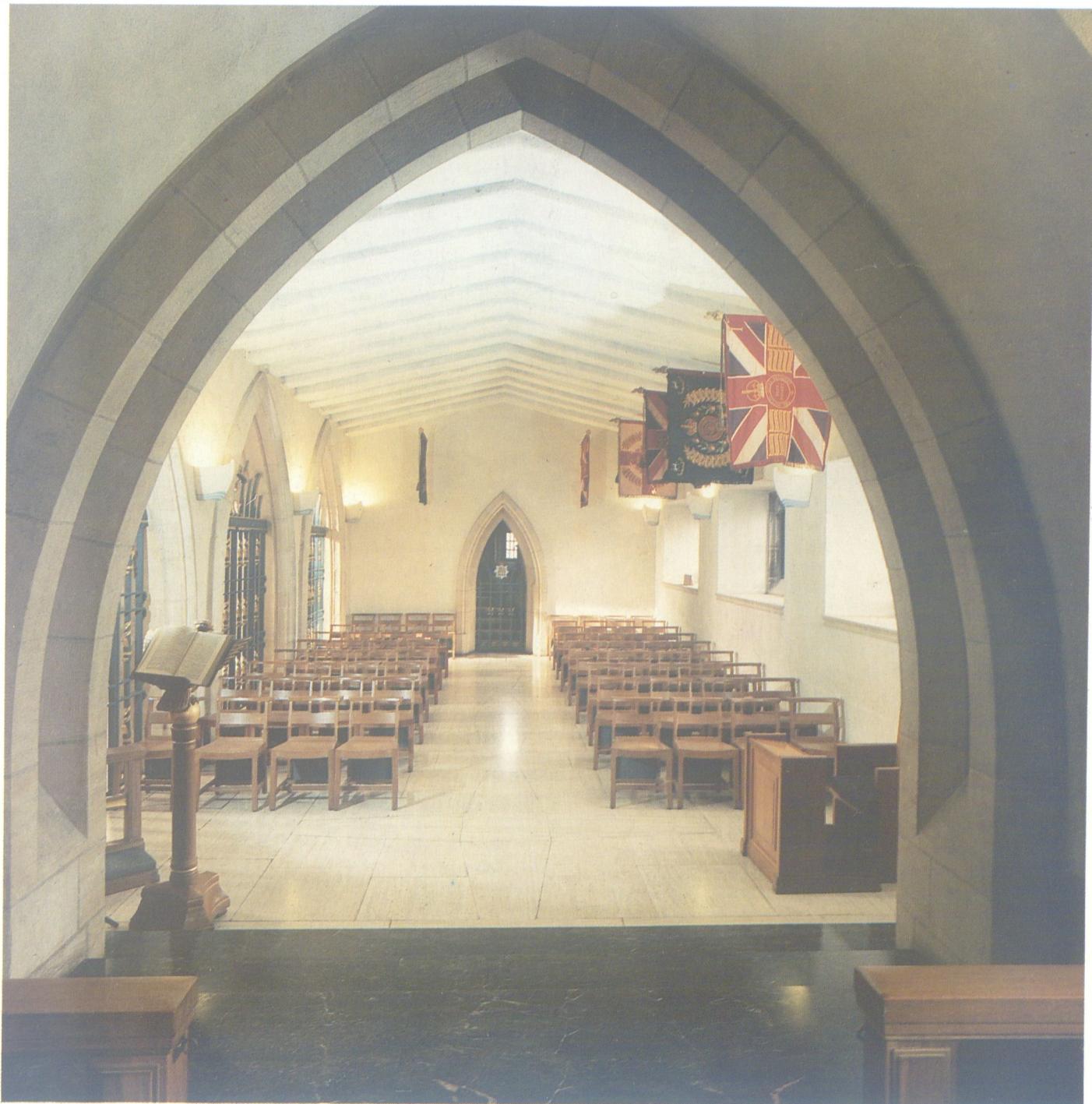
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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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**THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL**, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. The Chapel viewed from the altar, The Colours are those of 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment and 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. The Colours have all been cleaned and netted recently for the Association by The Royal College of Needlework.



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



### 1991

31 May  
1 June  
2 June  
30 June  
3 July  
9 September  
21 September  
28 September  
4 October  
12 October  
17 October  
25 October  
1 November  
7 November  
10 November  
20 December

### 1992

10 February  
28 March  
23 April  
16 May  
29 May) or  
6 June )  
1 June  
14 June

### Details

Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors, Clandon  
**THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE**  
 Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral 11.00am  
 Queen's Regiment Annual Reunion Bassingbourn  
 Golf Society - Royal Marines Match - North Hants, Fleet  
**SALERNO DAY**  
 East Surrey Reunion - St Johns Hill, Clapham  
 Museum 'At Home' - Clandon  
 Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon Clandon  
 Past and Present Dinner, WOs' and Sgts' Bassingbourn  
 Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking Golf Club  
 Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Cocktail Party - Haberdashers Hall  
 Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club, London  
 Field of Remembrance - Westminster  
 Remembrance Day  
**BRITISH BATTALION DAY**

**SOBRAON DAY**  
 Queen's Surreys Trustees and Association meetings Clandon  
**YPRES DAY**  
**ALBUHERA DAY**  
 Presidents Reception - Clandon (TBC)  
**GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE**  
 Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral

### EDITORIAL

As you all will see from the size of this edition we have received from members a large number of letters, many of which it's hoped will be of interest to many more readers. We have been fortunate also to receive a number of articles for use in the Newsletter. Please do not stop sending in either letters or articles, long or short, all are welcome. Photographs are always welcome, particularly those of an unusual nature and where all those portrayed in the picture are named. Why is it that we all fail to put the names on the reverse of photos, especially group pictures?

In this issue is a short article on benevolence. One of the Association's main aim is to assist our old comrades and their immediate dependants in time of need. If you know of someone who needs help please do let us know, but NOT anonymously. We will always respect a confidence, but in most cases the Association will ask SSAFA or a similar organisation to investigate and make a report. This in nearly all welfare problems that we deal with, is the best way of resolving the individuals immediate needs.

As the President has said in his notes, we still await decisions on the Options for Change study now taking place. This may affect both our regular and territorial battalions in the future. We will of course publish details in the Newsletter when known.

I hope to see as many of you as possible with your wives at our annual Church service on June 2nd at Guildford Cathedral, and hopefully we will maintain and increase our numbers at The Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn on the 30th June. There is believe me, plenty of seats and space available at both events.

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Later this year members may expect to hear about the recommendations made by the Ministry of Defence in its Options for Change study proposing a reduction in the size of the army and learn how it may affect The Queen's Regiment. Whatever changes take place should not alter the make up of our Regimental Association which can be expected to continue as healthily as ever.

Your Association Committee however, have decided it is an appropriate time to change the title of the Association and you will see this new title at the heading of this Newsletter. They considered it was important to show our close links with and support of today's Regiment more clearly, whilst retaining the Association's individual identity. This change will not of course in any way alter the names of the individual branches of the Regimental Association which will remain as before. It is hoped that by naming The Queen's Regiment in our title we might encourage more ex regular and territorial members of today's Regiment to join our various Association branches in their local areas.

An Association banner with our new name is now being made and will be carried at the front of our Association contingent when it marches past the Colonel of the Regiment at The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn on Sunday 30th June 1991. I hope that many of you will be able to be there and I look forward to meeting those that are.

Mike Doyle.



# THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

## Brig H N Tarver CBE

The whole Regiment was deeply shocked to learn of the sudden death on 24 February of Brig Hugh Tarver, at the early age of 52, who since 1 October 1987 had been one of our Deputy Colonels. He was held in great respect and affection by all ranks, and Queensmen past and present send their deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

## New Deputy Colonel

Col David Beveridge was appointed a Deputy Colonel of the Regiment in April. He was commissioned into the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1964, commanded 3rd Battalion from 1983 to 1986 and since last year has been Commander of Victory College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

## The Battalions

The 1st Battalion, under command of Lt Col Amedee Micville, moved from Tidworth to Minden in mid-January where they took over from the 2nd Battalion which, under Lt Col David Wake, returned to Canterbury. The 3rd Battalion continue to enjoy their posting in Episkopi where Lt Col Andrew Barratt handed over command in March to Lt Col Anthony Beattie. In our TA battalions, Lt Col Philip Pearce handed over the 5th to Lt Col Chris Argent in November, Lt Col John Salmon will pass command of the 6th/7th to Lt Col Piers Storie-Pugh in June and Lt Col Peter McLelland continues as CO of the 8th Queen's Fusiliers.

## Ceremonies in Canterbury

On 1 February Canterbury gave a tremendous welcome home to the 2nd Battalion after their absence of 20 years. The battalion exercised the Regiment's Freedom of the City with an immaculate parade which was inspected by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Mike Reynolds. A Civic Service in Canterbury Cathedral followed for the battalion and their families at which the Dean preached and the Regimental Honorary Chaplain, the Ven. Peter Mallett took part. The celebrations concluded with a Civic Luncheon for 400 Queensmen and other guests-a most generous gesture by the City.

## Army Boxing Champions

The 1st Battalion Boxing Team became Grade 3 Novices Boxing Champions in BAOR in February when they defeated 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and, as such, represented BAOR against United Kingdom Land Forces in an exciting match against 94 Locating Regiment at Larkhill in April. Again, our 1st Battalion were the winners, this time by 6 bouts to 3 and thus became the Army Champions. Our warmest congratulations go to all members of the team and thanks to over 100 members of the Regiment who supported them at Larkhill.

## Other Recent Sporting Achievements

Since the last Newsletter the 1st Battalion have also won the Infantry Biathlon Competition - no mean achievement so soon after their arrival in Germany - and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion have won the South East District TA Orienteering Championships for the sixth successive year. Sgt Harper was individual champion, Maj Tony Guthrie won the B course and LCpl Duncan was runner-up in the WRAC competition.

Brig John Holman has been appointed Chairman of Army Cricket and there have been a number of other individual achievements. At boxing, Pte Beckinsale and Pte Mahoney, both 1st Battalion, became Army Individual Novices Champions at Welterweight and Heavyweight respectively. Cpl Phillips (1st Battalion) and Cpl Dunn (Depot) represented the Army at Boxing against the Royal Navy. Lt John Griggs, Lt Tom Major and LCpl White, all 2nd Battalion, played Rugby Football for the Infantry against the Royal Armoured Corps.

## 1st Battalion, The Queen's

The Battalion is now firmly established in Minden and has completed four very turbulent and disjointed months in its new role. Although Maj Lance Mans was the only person from the Battalion to be called up for OP GRANBY, we have felt its effect in every aspect of a life in Germany from the moment we arrived.

After an excellent handover from 2 QUEENS we took on most of the guard commitments of those units from Minden who had deployed to Northern Ireland or the Gulf. This has meant that a company each day has been committed to guards and duties since January. However it has not stopped us making the most of the many opportunities that have arisen.

Minden is an extremely nice town at the junction of the Weser river and Mittland Canal, some forty miles south-west of Hanover. The accommodation blocks in the barracks have recently been modernised and divided up into self contained flats. This is a vast improvement on Tidworth and there is no doubt that, despite the guards and duties, the quality of life for everyone is much higher over here.

We are equipped with Mk 1 FV 432s APCs which are all older than most people in the Battalion! Sadly spares shortages caused by the bill for OP GRANBY have limited our use of the vehicles to one week on Soltau but it did at least allow us to start to come to terms with our new role. Soltau training area is much the same as ever, although the pressures of the Green movement and conservation groups are reducing its size and utility.

We are now on our ninth Forecast of Events in four months! At various stages we have been warned to deploy on OP GRANBY as a Battalion, as individual reinforcements and finally as two companies attached to other Battalions. The thought of becoming Garrison Commander in Minden with all the Unit, except Battalion HQ, deployed to the Gulf and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders due back from Northern Ireland did not really appeal to me and I for one was glad the plan was not carried out! There was a bonus however in that the companies preparing to go were trained on Warrior, the Army's new Infantry Fighting Vehicle. This is a quite excellent vehicle and allows us to keep up with the tanks for the first time since the Second World War. Unfortunately we are not due to be issued with it until 1993/94!

Despite our commitments we have managed to make the most of all our sporting and adventure training opportunities that have arisen. With the help of 2 QUEENS we entered a novice biathlon skiing team and took part in the National competition. We have run a ski hut in Bavaria as part of Exercise SNOW QUEEN which has allowed some 120 soldiers to get away from Minden for two weeks. 20 young soldiers and officers have tried the sport of Free Fall Parachuting with varying amounts of success and enthusiasm. But our best achievement has been winning the Army Novice Grade Three Boxing competition, and so continuing the fine record of the Battalion in this sport. In recognition of this, Brigadier Charles Millman awarded the

team his trophy and was present in Larkhill to see the match and make the presentation to the team himself. Four of the team went on to the Army Individual Final where Ptes Beckinsale and Mahoney won at their respective weights.

Without wishing to speak to soon, our programme for the remainder of the year is beginning to take shape. Most people will have completed a weeks field firing at Sennelager and a few days leave by the end of May. We intend to celebrate the Glorious First of June in the traditional manner, although finding the Royal Navy this far inland is proving difficult! It will however give the Corps of Drums a chance to perform before they are split between the 2 companies going to Canada in August as part of the 5 Innis DG Battle Group. The Drums have already made their mark in Minden with fine displays at the Arrival Cocktail Party and the first of the Anglo-German Society events. Life in the Battalion without a Band feels very strange but our particularly fine Corps of Drums under their new leader, Drum Major Barden, are making sure that the musical aspects of life in the Battalion are never forgotten.

So despite the uncertainty and disruption of the last few months the Battalion is in good heart and looking forward to the challenges ahead. We are considerably undermanned but the recruits are still arriving and the steady stream of re-enlistments continues. It says a lot for the morale and loyalty of our soldiers that our manning strength is actually increasing. The future size and shape of the Army is still uncertain, however we take every opportunity to demonstrate our effectiveness, morale and traditions. In that respect we very much appreciate the whole hearted support of the Queen's Surreys and hope that we will be able to arrange a visit to us by the Trustees later in the year.

ACM



*The Regimental Boxing Championship Trophy  
being presented by Brigadier H. C. Millman OBE*

#### 5 Queen's OMA

As I write these notes preparations are in full swing for our Annual Dinner on 11 May. Once again we are to be honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr. Doreen Bellerby, wife of one of our members. Each year the numbers attending the Dinner seem to increase; this is largely due to the hard work of your committee Doug Mitchell, Ron May, Dick Saunders, Jimmy Patterson, Geoff Register, Ernie Clamp and Arthur Dunipace. At our recent committee known as 5 Queen's Royal Regiment OMA (West Surrey Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association), thus showing a lead to all the old members' associations of the Regiment and identifying ourselves with our successor Regiment.

Now to events that have taken place since the last Newsletter:- On 27 October the Cranleigh Company held their Annual Reunion Dinner at the cricket pavilion - some 40 members and guests attended. Guests of honour were the President, Mrs. Bridget Reindorp and Rev. Castle. All were welcomed by Chairman Les May who also thanked Jack Petch and his committee for yet another excellent evening. Sadly since the reunion Mrs. Reindorp, the widow of Bishop George Reindorp, has died.

Remembrance day was bright and sunny and 35 Old Members attended the service at Holy Trinity, and took part in the march past to the Castle grounds, where wreaths were laid on behalf of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association by Col Toby Sewell, and on behalf of 5 Queen's Royal Regiment OMA by Lt Col Foster Herd. After the service we repaired to a local hostelry where we were able to reminisce for a while and enjoy the company of old friends.

We were all saddened by the sudden death of Col John Kealy who never failed to attend our reunions, and who was a past Chairman and Treasurer. The OMA was well represented at the funeral in his home village of Ditchling. We sadly have to report the deaths of the following members of our Association:- Major Bill Crook; Charlie Punter; Ron (Titch) Bellows; Cecil Jenner; Cecil Hall; H. Brooker.

Finally if you are an ex member of any of our former regular or territorial battalions, or are a serving member of any of the present battalions of the Queen's Regiment, and would like to attend any of our functions, please contact Doug Mitchell, 3 Littlefields Way, Fairlands, Guildford, GU3 3JE. Tel. 0483 232043.

5 Queen's OMA will be pleased to welcome you.

RM

#### St Dunstan's

On the 7th March at The Duke of Yorks Headquarters London, a small lunch party was held by The Queen's Regiment for a few members of St Dunstans.

Among those attending was the President of St Dunstans, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife. Colin was wounded and awarded the Military Cross at Enfidaville whilst serving with 2/5th Queen's. His Company Commander then was a Major Fergus Ling. Colin Beaumont-Edmonds became Mayor of the Sutton Coldfield in 1964. He hopes to attend our officers club luncheon later this year.

Harry Foster and his wife who live in Farnham was a sergeant in the Queen's and served from 1940-1946 and lost the sight in both eyes whilst instructing recruits.

Doug Forshaw served with the 2nd Surreys and was a prisoner of war. On his demob he joined the Ambulance Service and served with them until 1972.

Also present was Bill Slade from Bognor who served with the Queen's during the war. We hope to see them all again in the near future.

#### Kingston Parish Church

The East Surrey Regiment War Memorial Gates outside the church were vandalised last year. The crown on the top of the badge was broken off and removed also part of the decorative work on the side.

LW

The parish clerk and the secretary have now arranged for estimates to be prepared for the repairs to be carried out. It is likely to be some months yet before they are completed.

The damaged metal case which holds the Book of Remembrance in the Chapel has now been repaired by the apprentices at British Aerospace.

LW

### The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

Once again our Annual re-union dinner was held at the Union Jack Club, on 16th March 1991 with tight security arrangements on entering. As usual, our President, Lt Col W D Griffiths DSO MC took the chair, and we were delighted to have the company of Maj. Gen. Desmond Gordon CB CBE DSO who received standing applause before members were seated.

The guests were:-

Mr Jose Huybrecht - President of the Patriotic Committee of St Niklaas Belgium. Mr Frans Bruwiere - Treasurer. Commandant Rene Van Den Bergh - Secretary. Mr Patrick Shew and Mr Bill Pheby - Royal British Legion

The Guest of Honour being the popular Capt. Roy Lugg who served with 1/7 Queen's throughout the campaigns in the Western Desert, Italy and N. W. Europe.

A toast to 'The Queen' and 'HM King Baudouin' was proposed, followed by 'Absent Comrades' feelingly spoken by Maj. Peter Freeman MC, not forgetting those who had lost their lives in the Gulf war.

Col. Griffiths proposed the toast to our guests, speaking at some length about the many praiseworthy war time incidents connected with our chief guest of the evening, and the compassionate nature of his character in helping old comrades after the war.

Capt. Roy Lugg in response dealt very earnestly and sincerely with the time he has spent with the Battalion. Humorous references were made to several individuals present at the dinner, and he also spoke about the many life long friendships he associated himself with since joining at Alamein. In concluding with a toast to 'The Regiment', Roy exalted those members of the O.C.A. to remember that they were first and foremost 'Queensmen'.

Mr Jose Huybrecht then rose to say how delighted the Belgian party were to be with us and how much they looked forward to the occasion. They had been met on arrival by our President together with Maj. John Tamplin, Mr Joe Rowe and Mr David Smith and had been taken directly to the Regimental Memorial in Kennington Park where wreaths were laid.

The evening would not have been such a success without the untiring efforts of our Secretary, Maj. John Tamplin TD, who works so hard with all the multifarious details concerned with organising the event, and in keeping our membership together throughout the year. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

KAJ

### A Talisman

Some editions ago the Editor of the Newsletter, Les Wilson stated that he wanted no more items about the Queen's Regimental badge; but a little while ago I was reading a book

called 'Religion and the Decline of Magic' by Keith Thomas. and I thought it still may be of interest to record one last comment?

In the Middle Ages much of routine life was guided by superstitions, magic, and the need to have lucky charms to ensure for example that the cows were fertile, the crops would grow, the rain would fall when required. For this they needed these lucky charms, and amulets - all part of their very real world.

One of the most common of these amulets was the Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, or Paschal Lamb which eventually became the Queen's badge. Usually made of wax it was worn around the neck of the people to serve as a defence against misfortune, sudden death, etc.

It could be possible that when a man wished to become a soldier he would wear this image of the lamb and flag for the reasons stated above. A superstitious soldier maybe would need this insurance more than other people. (Some of us, even now, 'touch wood' or hang a St. Lawrence on our car keys). This is not the place to go into medieval magic, but maybe by the time the Queen's Regiment was formed most soldiers could still be wearing the Agnus Dei around their necks. Some 'bright spark' may have thought that rather than each man wearing it individually, it would have made a sensible badge for the Regiment.

Perhaps.....maybe.....who knows?

RCT

### The Paschal Lamb

The origin of the Paschal Lamb as the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment has always been a matter of uncertainty although many theories have been propounded. But the "Lamb and Flag", as the symbol is often popularly known, is not only of Regimental significance. It has other connections as well. For example, it is quite often found as an inn sign, showing that priest and publican are not always in opposition.

Appropriately, the device was used in early days as a form of "trade mark" in the wool trade. More unusually, it also became a standard smelting mark of the Cornish tin trade, together with another mark of a Pelican. The former mark was used on tin destined for Christian countries and the latter for Mohammedan. Indignation was caused when a Chilean company adopted it in 1908. One company, at St Erth, actually advertised itself under the name of "The Lamb and Flag Smelting Company".

The sign was also welcome in seats of learning. The College of St Mark and St John in Truro incorporates it in its badge as does the Ayr Academy, although in the latter case the banner, characteristically, is that of St Andrew instead of the usual form of that of St George.

LW

### Benevolence 1990

During the year 253 cases were investigated, and the Association made grants of £29,054. In addition to these grants we assist, with the aid of The Army Benevolent Fund, fifteen of our old comrades or their dependants with Nursing Home fees. We now administer thirty two cases of the ABF Supplementary Allowance Scheme, on behalf of The ABF.

We continue to be most grateful to Trustees of The Army Benevolent Fund who are always so helpful and respond so quickly and generously to all major cases submitted to them.

We are assisted in the benevolence cases we deal with, by voluntary bodies and professional organisations such as The Royal British Legion, SSAFA and FHS, and their voluntary case workers. To them all we owe a special debt of gratitude.

During the year, two anonymous letters were received by the Secretary from our members asking for assistance for two of their mates. In order to assist such cases it is MOST IMPORTANT to be able to discuss the case with the person who is aware that assistance is required. Unless one of our officers or branch secretaries make a recommendation, we will always ask one of the organisations mentioned above to investigate and submit a report so that we can assist the individual or family in need quickly. So, if you are aware of any case of hardship, please do let us know either at RHQ Canterbury, or through one of your branches but please not, anonymously. We will always respect confidences.

Finally on benevolence, we print two letters with permission, following the death of one of our old soldiers, the names have of course for obvious reasons been deleted.

*From SSAFA.*

*Dear Colonel Wilson,*

*I write to confirm my telephone call advising you that, sadly, Mr. X has died.*

*You are, I know, making arrangements to collect the motorised wheel-chair which was donated by your Association and The Army Benevolent Fund for the use of Mr. X during his life-time, and I know Mrs. X will be writing to you, but I felt I simply had to take this opportunity of thanking your Association myself.*

*You cannot know the pleasure and joy that wheelchair brought to both Mr. and Mrs. X. It allowed them both to have a life after the devastation of the stroke two years ago. It allowed him to enjoy some independence and he was able to go and visit friends and neighbours in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. Over it all was the pride he felt in telling everyone that "his regiment" had given it to him.*

*I hope you are able to continue your good work with the same caring attitude that you showed in this particular case. It was a pleasure to deal with you.*

*Dear Colonel Wilson,*

*As you know my dear husband passed away recently. I would like you all to know how very happy you made him in his last two years. He was very proud that his old regiment got him an electric wheelchair, he had fun in it, and to him it was his legs for getting out, right up to two days before he died. Well sir I expect when you collect it, it will bring joy to another old soldier that needs it. Please let me know when you can collect it.*

*Thank you and God bless you all.*

first, there was to be the service of consecration of the Queen's chapel on 19 July in Guildford Cathedral. The regiment had been planning to have its chapel there since 1937, but completion of the Cathedral had been delayed by the war, shortage of money, materials and craftsmen after it, and of course, greatly inflated prices. The dedication of the chapel to the Honour of King Charles the Martyr was to be really the last of the Queen's Royal Regiment's great occasions before amalgamation; it also commemorated its origins as the Tangier regiment, and the church there in 1662 - 1684 had the same dedication.

Those of you who knew him, will not be surprised to learn that Major General J Y Whitsfield then Colonel of the Regiment, asked me "What happened to the Communion plate when Tangier was abandoned by the British in 1684?". I promised to try and find out.

It was known that the English church there was the prerogative of the Bishop of London who had appointed Lancelot Addison (later to become Dean of Lichfield) as the first Minister in 1662. He was followed by Marius d'Assigny BD, Dr Turner and finally Dr Thomas Hughes who was to be the last incumbent at the time of the British withdrawal. My original enquiries were therefore with the Librarian to the Bishop of London at Fulham Palace, and later the diocesan archives and records were split between the Guildhall Library in the City and Lambeth Palace. They were all most helpful and produced some useful background information, but nothing about the Communion silver which one could expect to consist at a minimum of a communion cup or chalice for the wine, and a paten for the bread. It would never have been regimental silver, but always the property of the Anglican church and kept by the resident Minister in the church or at his home nearby for administering The Sacrament to the ill and dying and at Communion services in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer. The services in the English church were attended by the British civilian population resident in Tangier, which numbered about 600 of all ages; by the garrison; the crews of British naval and merchant shipping entering the fortified port of Tangier and any Protestant visitors, of which there were quite a number over the years.

The church of King Charles the Martyr had formerly been a Roman Catholic chapel dedicated to St Jago, and was acquired from the Portuguese Fathers when the Earl of Peterborough marched at the head of his (the Governor's) regiment 1000 strong into Tangier on 30 January 1662 and received from Don Luis de Almeida the insignia of his office as Governor, the keys to the city and various gifts. Under the 1661 Marriage Treaty between England and Portugal the Roman Catholic Cathedral continued to be used by the Portuguese priests and Dominican monks "while any of the priests (who were there in 1661) remained". It stood with its cloisters just inside Sandwich Gate as one entered the city up the steep incline from the harbour. The English church was nearby, overlooking the market place and Catherine Street the main thoroughfare of the city running SW to Catherine Gate in the city walls, and thence to the outlying forts and countryside so hotly disputed with the moors between 1662 and 1680. The Anglican burial ground was also to the South of Catherine Gate and in one of the Wenceslaus Hollar drawings of Tangier one can just discern a bearer party carrying its sombre load behind the clergymen intoning the burial service. Only the most important were buried inside the church, notably the heroic Governor Sir Palms Fairbourne mortally wounded in the successful counter attack against the Moors in October 1680 which saved Tangier from falling.

It was then suggested that perhaps the church plate had been given to one of the four churches in England also dedicated to King Charles the Martyr. The most likely being at Tunbridge

## The Tangier Communion Plate

When I was serving at the Depot of the Queen's Royal Regiment at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford in 1958/59 the imminent and successful amalgamation with the East Surrey Regiment on 14 October 1959 was on everybody's minds. But

Wells which had become a fashionable spa in the 17th century after poor Queen Catherine had been advised to take the waters in a vain attempt to improve her fertility and provide King Charles II with an heir. Again there was no trace and I began to wonder if perhaps the Communion silver had been destroyed by fire, enemy action or some similar disaster. Could it perhaps have been melted down after the evacuation of Tangier on the orders of Charles II? He was known to be upset about the decision to abandon the city, and he was in financial difficulties all his reign. But I dismissed this disloyal thought, as pique was never part of the King's character.

From time to time I made other abortive efforts, then in August 1990 I was by chance casually looking through Sir Charles Jackson's monumental work "English Goldsmiths and their marks" published in 1921. To my astonishment on page 481 of "unasccribed English marks of about 1660" there was the reproduction of a stamped mark of EL under a crown, set above an S with a sunburst; against it was written - "Tankard Mr Lambert. Also on Tangier communion flagon: St Thomas of Canterbury, Portsmouth".

A letter was addressed to the Registrar of the Diocese of Portsmouth asking anxiously if the church of St Thomas of Canterbury still existed? had it perhaps been bombed during the war? did they know of any other silver such as the chalice? and in what churches? After what seemed an agonising delay I had some charming and helpful letters from Miss Hilary Tyler the solicitor and Registrar for the Diocese informing me that the parish church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Old Portsmouth had become the Cathedral when the Diocese was created in 1927 and "that they do indeed have the Tangier Plate". She went on to say that if I required any further information would I please contact her, the Provost, or the Cathedral Administrator Mr Brian Jones.

Thanks to their kind co-operation, I was on the 21st of November holding the Tangier silver in my hands - with a lump in my throat. The Cathedral at Portsmouth is very proud of its historic links with Catherine of Braganza and the Tangier plate is carefully safeguarded and brought out for special occasions. Just before I saw it the silver had been newly polished and put on display for a VIP visitor as the photograph shows.



*HRH The Princess of Wales inspecting The Tangier Plate.  
Acknowledgements to Portsmouth City Council.*

The story of why and how the Tangier communion plate came to be in Portsmouth will be covered in a further article. I am just so sorry that General Whitfield died before I could tell him of my discovery.

PGC

## Territorial Soldiering

Service in a QUEENS or EAST SURREYS TA Battalion between the wars? A member of 3 or 4 QUEENS ROYAL SURREYS in the "sixties"? Would you feel at home in today's Territorial Army? I think you would.

With a current establishment of 85,000 and a strength of about 75,000, our constant preoccupation would be most familiar to you - recruiting. Given turnovers ranging from 25% to 35%. All units face a perpetual struggle to attract and retain sufficient individuals to remain viable. The problem is not a new one. For example, the history of the Lambeth and Southwark Volunteers ( and successor units based at Braganza Street, London SE) records that:

- a. In 1865 "the state of the Corps was - enrolled 532, of whom 362 were efficient members and 170 were non-efficient"
- b. In 1913 "the total enrolled in the Battalion had steadily decreased every year from 1909. In that year the strength was 940, in 1910 840, in 1911 775, in 1912 762, and in 1913 it had dropped to 566. The trend was reviewed by those in authority with concern".
- c. In 1959 "the Batteries had reached a very low strength of personnel. It was the cause of great anxiety and worry to those who had striven so hard for the past ten or more years".

So is today's volunteer any different to his predecessors? I do not think so. Less deferential perhaps, more demanding and not prepared to be taken for granted, but like those who went before him merely a product of his time. This is of course the age of instant excitement and low boredom threshold, symbolised by the 'TV channel hopper': "You don't like what's on offer? no problem - turn it off and try something else" In the South East in particular, there are plenty of counter-attractions and, even today, sufficient money to be earned to indulge the craving for almost constant activity. If a large part of soldiering is waiting for something to happen, why bother with the cold, the wet, and the discipline when with a little bit of overtime you can enjoy a day's hang-gliding?

Then there are the domestic pressures. This is also the age of equal opportunity; often both partners are at work all week, in many cases driven by the necessity of paying off the high mortgage. This means that there is a lot to be done at weekends on the domestic front. In these circumstances, it is understandable if spouses and indeed prospective spouses do not accept that one should go off to the TA, while the other does the chores.

Nor do changes in work patterns help. Recession or boom, companies are expected to perform better and better, putting increasing pressure on staff to improve efficiency. Additional difficulties arise from the increasing need to obtain demanding qualifications, and to train and retrain throughout one's career. This pressure for vocational and professional qualifications impinges particularly on our potential and serving officers and NCOs. Other aspects of employment which have an adverse effect on the TA are:

- a. Privatisation which makes some hitherto very supportive organisations less accommodating to potential and serving members. My own signal platoon is already feeling the effects of the squeeze on British Telecom.
- b. The growth in service industries with their employees on shift work.
- c. The trend towards smaller firms which simply do not have the flexibility among their workforce to release employees for TA service.

So there are many external factors making it difficult to give a whole-hearted commitment to the TA. But that is not the full story. The Army itself is not blameless. Given all the above, it is easy to see the moral courage and determination the youngster needs to propel himself through the door of the TA centre for the first time, and we must give great credit to all those who wish to do something useful with their spare time. The sad thing is that we tend to kill off their enthusiasm with bad training practices. To some extent these are again a reflection of the pressures on the TA officers and NCOs. Far too often, however, they result from penny pinching on high which makes it impossible to match the expectation raised by glossy advertisements in the press and on TV. Once in uniform, the Volunteer wishes to be taken seriously and expects to undergo demanding and realistic training. It is difficult to provide this if there is only enough blank ammunition at the weekend to allow 5 rounds a man. The image of the modern 'professional' soldier, already dented by the outmoded helmet and weapon, takes a further dive when one journeys to the training area in a lorry which is not much younger than its driver and has no cross-country capability.

One could go on, but the wonder is that we do have men and women prepared to shrug off all these difficulties and get on with the task of providing the country with a most credible reserve army. Once in the field, the TA soldier will certainly match and often, within the limitations of his resources, out-perform his regular colleague. I shall never forget my first Battalion exercise which involved an advance to contact across Salisbury Plain. If I had listened to the NCOs "gripping" their men with my eyes shut, I could easily have imagined myself back in 3 QUEENS. The 'One Army' concept is viable, and finds its most obvious expression in the guaranteed response from the TA for volunteers to serve with the regular battalions on tours in Northern Ireland. Whilst a number of medical trained Territorials volunteered for service in the Gulf no Territorials of our Queen's battalions were embodied for service there. We certainly had plenty of men willing to go provided that their jobs were guaranteed by the enactment of The Queen's Order. Sadly, the Government would not or could not bring itself to take the necessary step.

So be of good cheer, all you "Terrible-Torials" of yesterday. Your tradition of Volunteer Service is alive and well, despite today's less conducive atmosphere, and you can be proud of those who have picked up the baton from you. The training is tough and there is no place for the faint-hearted. Those who would question the modern Volunteer's agility, stamina and robustness would do well to watch members of 6/7th QUEENS (V) fighting their way through the new FIBUA complex on Salisbury Plain, or coping with the demands of a week long Brigade exercise in the Kielder Forest. Change is in the air, and we may well have to make some painful readjustments to fit the TA into the New Model Army which will emerge from the 'Options for Change' review. But we will be kept in being in some form or another for howsoever and whensoever we may be needed. We will continue to instil the concept of service and self-discipline into our soldiers, and train our officers and NCOs to "think on their feet and do it now" no matter how tired and uncomfortable they may be. The Volunteer spirit will flourish and, while we may never be put to the test, Society can only benefit by the presence of such individuals in its midst.

#### JABS

#### **Major Ferguson - and How We Lost our American Colonies?**

Knowing next to nothing about the American War of Independence, I always thought that perhaps we lost our American Colonies because of the surrender at Saratoga, in which by chance the flank companies of the 31st were taken

prisoner. But recently reading a book called 'From Savannah to York Town', by an American author called Henry Lumpkin I came across a little known battle, (Kings Mountain 7 October 1780, in which he states:

"Kings Mountain was a turning point in the American revolution, 900 Americans fighting desperately for strongly held loyalty for their king were doomed to be annihilated by 940 Americans equally dedicated to the freedom of their new homeland".

The loyal forces (local not British) were commanded by a Major Ferguson. Major Patrick Ferguson presents an interesting study in leadership. He came from Scottish gentry and joined the British Regular Army at the age of fourteen when his father purchased him a cornetcy in the North British Dragoons. A frail man with a driving spirit, though physically ill through much of his life, he was forced to resign military service because of bad health. Pushed by an overriding ambition to be a soldier, he entered the army again in 1768 as a Captain in the 70th Foot Regiment. He invented and demonstrated a superior rifle; then volunteered for the American war. Ferguson did not attain his majority until 1779 at the age of thirty four, old for an eighteenth-century major, a brilliant, ailing, bitter, very proud man, whose marked abilities and advanced-design rifle the authorities had chosen to ignore.



*Major Patrick Ferguson, by Robert Wilson*

In spite of inventing a new rifle which was not accepted he was given command in the South of the Colonies and his small army, as stated above, of Empire Loyalists, were attacked on Kings Mountain by an irregular motley of those who wished for independence from England. The battle turned out almost to be like Custer's Last Stand. His attackers seem to have been irregular back-woodsmen almost what we would now call 'Yobbos' or 'Rent a Crowd'. These back-woodsmen were excellent at fire and movement and Ferguson was soon surrounded and his army virtually annihilated. Being a sensible man he ensured that his mistress who had fought along side him escaped before he was killed. It is a most interesting little engagement and I am somewhat surprised that Henry Lumpkin states that 'Kings Mountain' could be called the first step in the two year campaign that led to General Cornwallis surrendering at York Town and the final expulsion of the British from the South. The Americans thus opened the way to the final loss of our American Colonies. Strange that this battle, in which Fergusons little force was annihilated, which seems now to be so important, was commanded by an Officer of the

70th, which later became the 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment.

RCT

#### Major Patrick Ferguson, 1744-1780

The Regimental History of The East Surrey Regiment records that 'Major Ferguson was an officer of whom the Seventieth Regiment has every right to be proud, and by it his memory should be preserved'.

Born in 1744, Patrick was the second son of James Ferguson of Pitfours, Aberdeenshire, a Scottish judge. He was commissioned in the Scots Greys before he was fifteen, and in 1759 took part in the German campaign of the Seven Years War. In 1768 he was 24 and senior cornet in the Greys. After nine years service as a cavalry officer he acquired a company by purchase in the Seventieth Regiment, then in the West Indies. He served at Granada and at the rebellion at St Vincent in 1773. Early in 1774, the Seventieth, much depleted in numbers on account of sickness, returned to England to build up their strength. Two years later the Regiment moved to Scotland, where they had been raised sixteen years previously.

Ferguson did not return with them to his native land, for at this time he was working on improvements to the existing breechloading rifle which was subject to heavy fouling. In March 1776, Ferguson, now a captain, produced a breechloading rifle incorporating four major improvements to the breech action. In heavy rain and a high wind, he personally demonstrated the new weapon at Woolwich. A number of distinguished officers who witnessed the demonstration were much impressed, and orders were given for the manufacture of one hundred Ferguson rifles. These were demonstrated at Windsor Castle before King George III and the Royal Family in October. A contemporary newspaper reported, 'An officer belonging to the 70th Regiment has been down at this place (Windsor) teaching several men the use of the rifle-gun. Their Majesties were much pleased at the dexterity of the officer, who loaded and fired seven times in a minute, and hit the mark each time. What is the more remarkable, he lies upon his back when he discharges his rifle'. Ferguson took out a patent in December 1776 for the improvement of existing breech actions. So ended 1776, a momentous year for Patrick Ferguson.

A company of riflemen, trained by Patrick Ferguson in the handling of the new breechloading rifle, was sent to America in May 1777. The Commanding Officer of the Seventieth Regiment, then at Edinburgh Castle, was notified that Captain Ferguson would be returned to regimental duty when General Howe (the Commander in Chief in North America) had no further use for his services. In fact, Ferguson was never to return to the Seventieth.

He had been authorised to select men from various regiments in North America to form a corps of riflemen. Ferguson's Rifles, as they were called, first saw action at Elk Head in August 1777, and a few weeks later acted as advanced guard at the Battle of Brandywine. They did good service in this, their first major engagement, but suffered heavy casualties. Ferguson himself sustained a severe wound which deprived him of the use of one arm. General Howe felt that Ferguson's Rifles could not function effectively without their leader, and while Ferguson was recovering from his wound, ordered the disbandment of the corps. The men were posted to the Light Companies of their regiments and the breechloading rifles returned to store. This decision was a bitter disappointment for Patrick Ferguson.

In the autumn of 1778, when he was fit enough to return to active service, Ferguson led a raiding party on Little Egg Harbour, some 80 miles south of New York. On 26 October 1779, Captain Ferguson was promoted major in the 71st Regiment, later the Highland Light Infantry, and with the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel was appointed to command the American Volunteers, a loyalist corps formed from picked men of the Loyal New York and New Jersey Regiments. About this time, 1779, General Clinton, who had succeeded Howe as Commander in Chief, decided to mount an expedition to the Southern states of Georgia and the Carolinas. The American Volunteers took part in the siege and capture of Charleston, the capital of South Carolina in May 1780. Ferguson, who excelled in guerrilla operations, was in his element, and, in spite of his disability, took part in many daring raids. It was during these operations that Ferguson made contact with his great friend, Captain Robert Irving who was commanding the Seventieth Regiment's flank company at Charleston. Irving, a fellow Scot, was able to send a message home from Ferguson in a letter to his wife.

After the siege of Charleston, Ferguson was appointed to command a corps of about 1,000 Loyalist Militia of South Carolina, styles Ferguson's Rangers. While working their way north he was severely wounded in his good arm in a night attack. Despite his injuries, he remained at duty and continued to lead his irregulars into North Carolina. On the morning of 7th October 1780, Ferguson's troops, encamped on a rocky wooded spur known as King's Mountain, were attacked and overrun by about 3,000 backwoodsmen. In this, Ferguson's final battle, his Rangers fought desperately, but 225 Loyalists were killed, 163 wounded and 716 taken prisoner. The action at King's Mountain was a major defeat and heralded an ignominious retreat from North Carolina for General Cornwallis. In the fighting Patrick Ferguson himself was struck by several bullets. He was taken from his horse, mortally wounded, and propped against a tree where he died. So ended the life of a dashing leader and a generous chivalrous soldier.



Major Patrick Ferguson's Grave

One hundred and fifty years later a monument was erected at King's Mountain to the memory of Patrick Ferguson, inscribed 'killed October 7 1780 in action while in command of the British troops. A soldier of military distinction and of honour. This memorial is from the citizens of the United States of America in token of their appreciation of the bonds of friendship and peace between them and the citizens of the British Empire'.

## COLOURS OF THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT.

and its forbears The 31st and 70th of Foot.

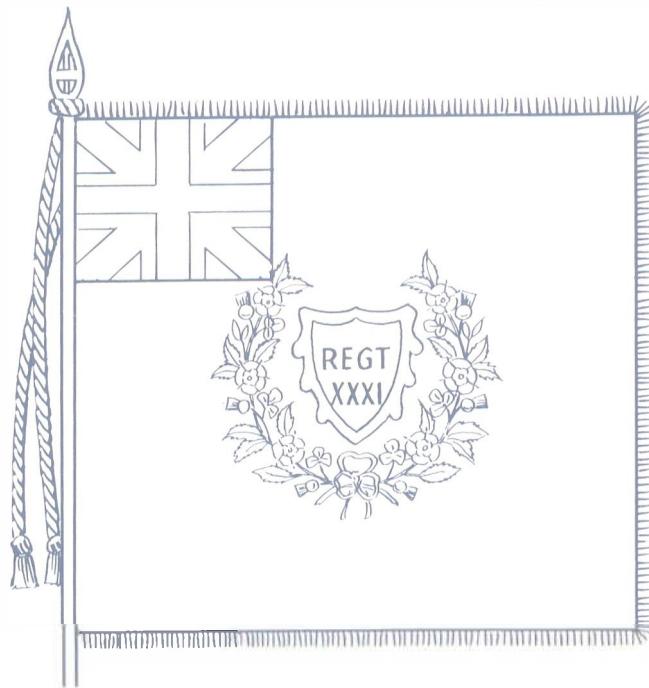
From the earliest times, soldiers went into action with distinguishing flags and originally the style of these was left to the Colonel of each Regiment, who often incorporated part of his own coat of arms in the design. Two Royal Warrants of 1743 and 1751, laid down the very first formal patterns for colours, restricting marching regiments to two, and decreeing that they would be known as 'King's' (First) and 'Regimental' (Second) Colour. I am particularly indebted for much of my material to Major Peter Hill, formerly of the Regiment, who is an authority on the Colours of The East Surrey Regiment and one of the moving spirits behind the superb museum of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment open during summer months at Clandon Park near Guildford.

### Thirty-First Regiment. (1st. Bn.), 1788-1802.

These colours, the earliest of the 31st known to be in existence, were discovered in 1951 at the bottom of a box containing Sikh standards captured in the Sutlej campaign of 1845 - 46. Very dilapidated, they were beautifully repaired by the Royal School of Needlework, and are now on view at Clandon Park. It is almost certain that they were received by the 31st on their return from eleven years service in North America. They were carried in the French Revolutionary War in Holland, and in the West Indies, and were probably retired in 1802. The regiment had been out of the country when the Union of Great Britain and Ireland took place in 1801 when, amongst other alterations, a shamrock was ordered to be inserted in the central floral design. What is particularly strange about this stand is that they seem to have been kept by the Regiment for over 150 years without being properly laid up, or even cared for.

The Regimental Colour is of special interest to all old Surrey's as it is the earliest example of the traditional facing colour, buff, of the Thirty First. It is minus the red saltire of St. Patrick. (The 31st were nicknamed "Young Buffs" after George II mistook them for the 3rd Foot (The Buffs) at Dettingen in 1743.

*These venerable Relics would have been the six foot by six foot six inches although no more than a quarter of each Colour now exists, but luckily including central designs. The original designs show clearly the extremely 'freehand' style allowed the 18th century seamstresses!*



### Thirty-First Regiment 1802-1825.

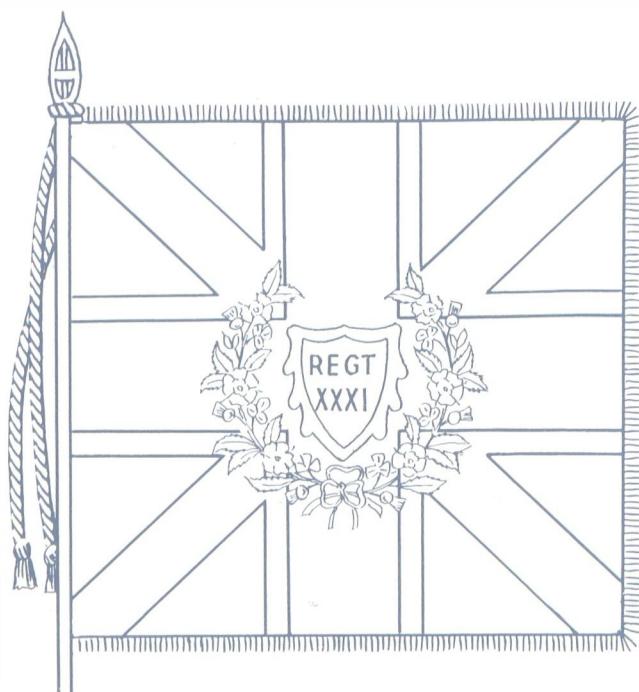
Sketches of this stand of similar size and design to their predecessors, are held in the College of Arms, the Kings Colour this time bearing the saltire of St. Patrick. These colours were borne in action at the capture of Alexandria in 1801, and in the unsuccessful action against Rosetta, and also in Italy in 1814 at Albaro. They were lost at sea in the sinking of the troopship 'Kent' in 1825, when the survivors of the 31st were cared for so well at Chatham by the Royal Marines, thus cementing the close association between the 31st (who were formed originally in 1702 as Marines) and the famous Corps.

### Thirty-First Regiment 1805-1814 (1st Battalion).

To contend with Napoleonic aggrandisement, the regular army expanded in 1805, and the 31st raised a second battalion which probably received its colours in the same year. Five years hard fighting in the Peninsula War included Talavera 1809. An unusual incident involving these Colours occurred during the action at Mouquerre, near Bayonne in December 1813. Major-General Byng's Brigade (including 2nd/31st), was ordered to attack a strongly entrenched hill supported by artillery. The brigade commander a man of outstanding courage, took the King's Colour from its Ensign and under gruelling fire led his troops to the capture of the position, with guns. The ensign was very upset at the time by General Byng's unorthodox action which, he felt, reflected on his courage.

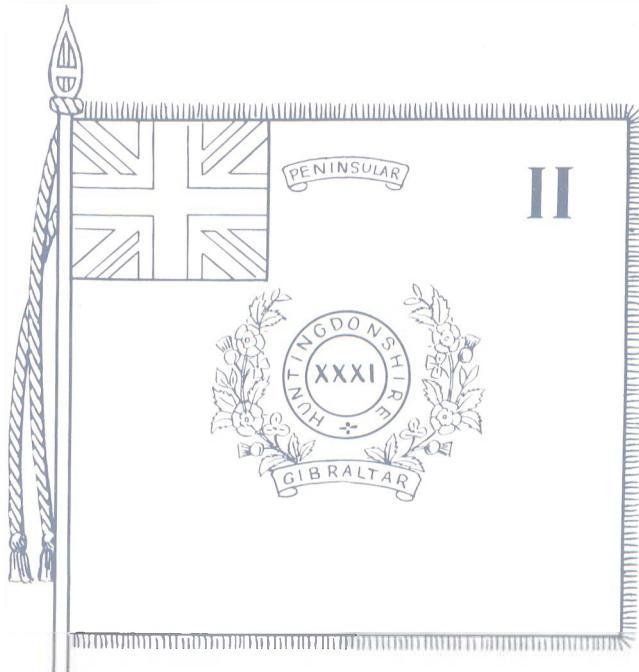
On the disbandment of the 2nd/31st, these colours were presented to Sir John Byng (later Earl of Strafford). They are supposed to be preserved in the ancestral home at Wrotham Park, Barnet, to which beautiful house the author of this article repaired in 1975 with the objective of examining and photographing these old Colours. The then owner of Wrotham Park, Lord Strafford's sister, Lady Elizabeth Byng, gave me every assistance, but although Peninsular Colours of the 29th Foot, and of the Second Guards were hung there in fine state of repair, there was no trace of those of the 2nd/31st, which have not been seen by anyone connected with the Regiment since 1814, Lady Byng believed 'other flags existed' but I was unable to pursue my inquiry further.

The missing 2nd/31st Colours would be of the six foot size, with the red saltire of St. Patrick added completing the Union Flag. The central shield began to be changed about this time to a circular crimson patch bearing the regimental numeral and surrounded by its title. One must remain optimistic that one day we will be able to actually see another early example of the traditional buff facings of the 31st.



Based on existing designs of other second battalions formed in this same period, The Regimental Colour at Wrotham Park might be as illustrated.

*This is conjectural - there may be other Buff facing colours. The association with the County of Huntingdonshire began in 1782. I have since corresponded with the present owner of Wrotham Park The Hon. Julian Byng, who believes the Colours of the 2nd/ 31st could have been destroyed in a fire which occurred at his ancestral home early this century.*



### Thirty First Regiment 1827-1848

This is perhaps the best known and most famous stand of Colours of the 31st in existence.

They were presented in 1827 by Lady Amherst, wife of the Governor General of India, to replace those lost with the troop ship 'Kent' in 1825.

They were borne throughout the Afghan campaign of 1842, and the Sutlej (Sikh) actions of 1845, when the Regiment earned undying fame during the bitterly fought actions of 'Moodkhee', 'Ferozeshah', 'Aliwal' and Sobraon, fought on 10th February 1846. During a third attempt made on the Sikh position, the Ensign carrying The Queen's Colour was mortally wounded and the officer bearing the Regimental Colour was killed. The pike of the latter was seized by Sergeant Bernard McCabe who planted the Regimental Colour on the highest point of the enemy's fortifications, and the attack was successful.

On the return home of the Colours, the "Illustrated London News" of the 12th December 1846 described them as "torn to shreds from the storm of grapeshot through which they were victoriously borne, and stained with the blood of the Ensigns who were killed carrying them".

They were paraded for the last time in 1848, and in 1850, on the fourth anniversary of Sobraon, were laid up in Canterbury Cathedral, where they can be seen to this day. The names of the officers killed carrying them being inscribed on silver plates fastened to the pikes.

On the anniversary of Sobraon each year, commitments permitting, the Regimental Colour of the 1st Queen's direct lineal descendant of the 31st is marched with all ceremony to the Sergeant's Mess to whose care it is given for the day. Sergeant McCabe, later commissioned into the 32nd Foot, was killed at Lucknow in 1857 leading his fourth sortie.

The first Afghan War and Sutlej Honours were not added to these six foot size Colours, though the Peninsula War Honours can be seen.

A photograph in the November 1951 issue of the "Journal of The East Surrey Regiment" shows the Colours to be very thin,

they were hung untouched for over one hundred years until 1951, when they were netted and rearranged to project horizontally.

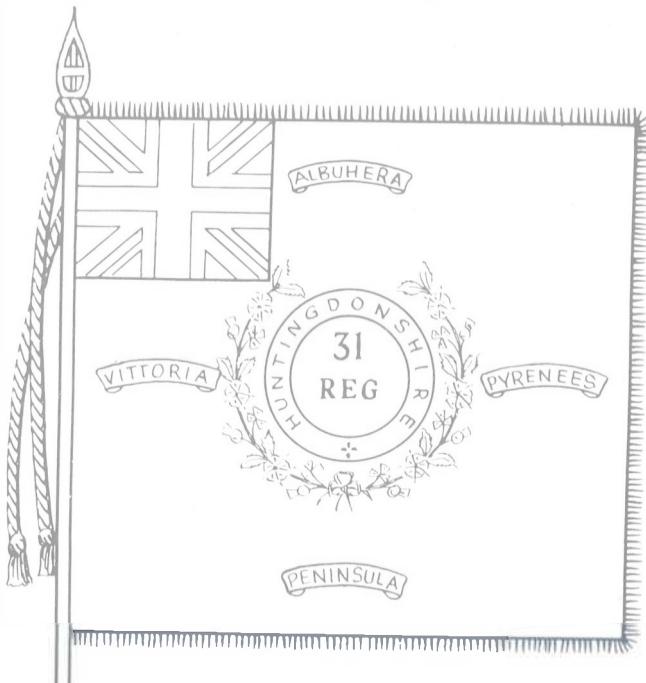
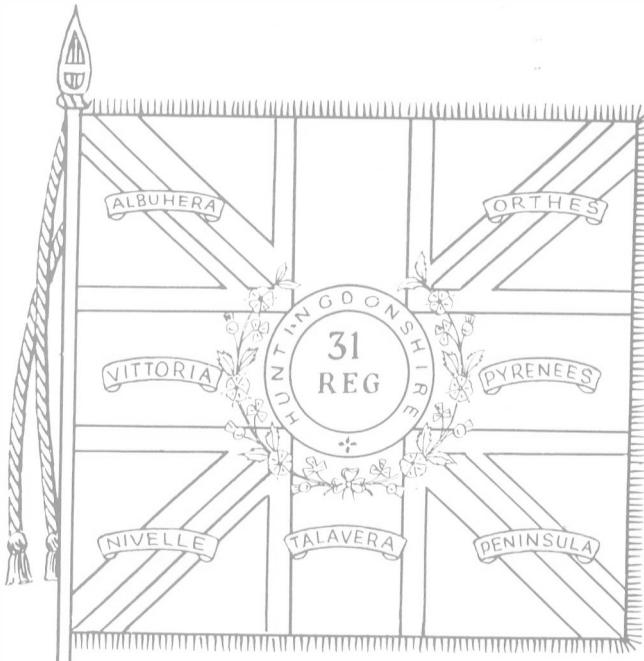
Since the above account was written, the author has again visited Canterbury Cathedral, and made a closer inspection of the above stand of Colours, and some amendments must be noted.

The spearpoint finial is missing from Sergeant McCabe's Colour. Only two thirds of the Queen's Colour now remains, and the now missing Battle Honour scrolls are thought to be from top to bottom as follows - 'Orthes' 'Pyrenees' and 'Peninsular'. This is how they are depicted on the memorial under the stand.

The scrolls on the Queen's Colour are yellow, the central device is red ground with gold lining. Note Arabic numerals, these also in gold.

The scrolls on the Regimental Colour are probably blue, but due to fading of the material over the years it is very difficult to state if this was indeed the case. The ground colour of this, the Regimental Colour is buff.

Both the Colours in this stand were of the six foot, by five foot six inches deep size.



## Soldiering In India

Former WOIII(PSM) and later Captain (QM) Bill Roadnight, who served overseas with the 1st Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment from 1934-40 has written an interesting account of his experiences in India.

Transported abroad by troopships, he and his colleagues soon settled down to shipboard life although finding the quarters rather cramped. The troops' accommodation was basically divided into three sections, officers, other ranks and married families. Sleeping facilities were provided in the form of hammocks which were stowed away during the daytime to make more room on the messdecks. Time was occupied by parades and drills during working hours and such relaxations as cards, cinema and a canteen during leisure time. One thankless task which the troops were spared was that of coaling ship at Port Said, the whole operation being carried out by coolies while the soldiers went ashore for a route march.

Disembarkation from troopships on completion of the voyage was followed by train journeys to appropriate military establishments. To reduce the effects of heat, ice blocks were placed in the carriages but this was of doubtful benefit as their melting resulted in pools of water forming. Food was provided on the journey but older hands, particularly those with families, took the precautions of carrying extra rations and even small spirit stoves.

Clothing was mostly in the form of topees with drill jackets, shorts and trousers. Dobbying was by the usual "wallahs" who ensured that adequate supplies of clean clothing were regularly forthcoming.

The usual forms of pre-war weaponry were in use, Enfield rifles and bayonets, Vickers machine guns and Bren guns. Safe custody of arms was essential as any loss was a court-martial offence.

Communications were either visual or by field telephone, and by the Company "Runner" who had a bicycle.

Barrack life revolved around bugle calls from Reveille to Lights Out.

Parades were on a company basis unless there was a regimental requirement, and off duty social life was by company or battalion arrangement.

In relation to weather and general climatic conditions, appropriate interchanges of stations were made, transport again being by rail. Monsoons brought welcome, but oppressive, downpours of rain. One station on which service was seen was that of Quetta during the earthquake.

Married quarters were provided in stations, but on a quota basis, and were only available for occupants aged at least twenty-six. Marriage had to be approved by the Officer in Charge Records and the prospective wife had to produce a certificate of good character signed by a magistrate or other responsible person. For those who were separated from their families, mail from England, both by air and sea, was always welcome.

Adequate army medical facilities existed both for the troops and families. Particular precautions had to be taken against malaria, both by the use of drugs and by protective clothing and mosquito nets.

Training and manoeuvres were regularly practised as were security precautions and operations, usually carried out in conjunction with the civil police.

Bill Roadnight obviously looks back on his Indian service with pleasure, a pleasure that was seemingly shared by his wife. His recollections of those army days will undoubtedly give equal pleasure to readers.

WR

*Bill Roadnight was later promoted Regimental Sergeant Major, commissioned as Quartermaster and served with 2/6th Queen's for most of the war.*

*He remains a regular attender at all our regimental functions.*

## 23RD LONDON REGIMENT

I was looking at the chapter on the 23rd London in the book, "TA Battalions of The Regiments of Surrey and Their Successors". The 23rd was raised originally in 1859 as the 7th Surrey Rifles, and I remembered that my Grandfather like myself named simply 'Dan James' had served in this unit. I possess a copy of Regimental Orders for The 7th Surrey Rifles for October, 1887, HQ at 71, Kennington Lane.

The "Orders", (above the name of JG Sparkes, Major, Adj't. 7th S.R. "By Order"), are contained in a fragile, folded letter without envelope addressed, in a large spidery hand, to my Grandfather at 23, Fulford Street., Pimlico, a street which, I assume, disappeared under Dolphin Square or during the last war. My relative had enlisted in the Metropolitan Police at Peckham on 7th March, 1887, and was to retire on 3rd May, 1914 as an Inspector in 'K' (or Bow) Division.

This copy of the Regimental Orders must have been one of the last issued under the heading, 7th S.R., as according to our history the Regiment became 4th Volunteer Bn. The East Surrey Regiment in 1887, and changed their uniform from green to scarlet.

Some details from the October 1887 Orders may be of interest. Duty Officers served for six-day periods at both HQ and at Battersea, and included Captains F. Putney, Rossiter and Dieseldorf (nice Prussian name?), and Lieut. Hart. NCO's from A,B,K and F companies did similar periods of duty in the Armoury. Drills were held Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Oct. 1st was a 'shooting Saturday'. On Oct. 8th "Outpost Duty" ordered Riflemen to "parade at Battersea in marching order at 4.30pm, Forage Caps and leggings to be worn".

Sat. Oct. 15th - "Battalion Drill under Adj't., at HQ, 6pm, plain clothes".

Sats. Oct. 8th and 29th, "Both Bands", (what a luxury!). Musketry - Class Firing, and practice every Tues. 12pm to 5pm. Battalion Spoons 200 to 600 yards, seven shots each. 8th Oct., Outpost Duty Parade, with 2nd. London Volunteers, on Wimbledon Common, 'when the C.O. hopes there will be a strong muster'.

The War Office had sent a circular requiring 12 to 20 Privates to form a Cyclist Corps - volunteers were asked for, "each man to provide his own bicycle or 'tricycle'!!

Sword Exercises - A recent General Order required Officers to attend on Wednesday evenings at 7.30.

Paragraph 9 is rather quaint - "Falling-In. The attention of the CO having been drawn to men not falling in on the sound of the bugle, it is to be distinctly understood that immediately on the last sound of the bugle "Fall-In" every man should move smartly to his place with shouldered arms, and any men who are late should 'double' to their places".

Paragraph 10 warned "members" that the Volunteer Year ended on 31st October and that "any member failing to make

himself "Efficient" will be fined 30 shillings in lieu of the Capitation Grant".

Members granted leave of absence from the Inspection were required to do two extra drills.

Under 'Notices', Sergeants were told of the date of the next Mess Dinner, and they are exhorted to pay their annual subscription on or before 1st October.

A cricket match had been postponed because of coinciding with Regimental Shooting Saturday.

This 103 year-old document is of especial family interest to me, and it gives just a glimpse into the daily lives of our Volunteer forbears. I thought it might similarly interest our readers.

My Grandfather retired on the eve of the Great War following a severe injury received from a kick administered with a wooden 'sabot' or shoe. He later became the licensee of the 'City of Canton' public house in East India Dock Road, (destroyed in the last war), and died in 1926, two months before I was born. He was extremely well-known in the East End, (I have a photo of him at the Sidney Street Siege in 1911), and there was an enormous 'turn-out' at his funeral. All his four sons survived the Great War - George (MM) and Oscar (RE), Dan (my Father, CQMS Ox & Bucks LI), and Charles, Lt. MC 23rd Royal Fusiliers & Royal Engineers.

DJ

### So There We Were

**1671** The Queen's were in Tangiers where the Moors were giving trouble. A strong rebuff was given by troops to a Moorish party who attacked workmen who were cutting hay for the Garrison.

**1691** In country that their successors were later to get to know only too well, the Queen's were in Ireland where rebels known as "RAPPAREES" were inflicting great losses on English forces, so much so that a total of 35,789 troops (both infantry and cavalry) were employed in the Emerald Isle at that time.

**1711** The 31st Regiment were campaigning in the Mediterranean and Lieut. Rogers died there but the cause of his death is not recorded. The Queen's, in England at the beginning of the year, embarked in April for America and Canada where they later suffered privations and dangers from shipwreck, lack of stores and hostility from certain sections of the population.

**1781** Serving in the American War of Independence, the 70th Regiment were among troops sent to Portsmouth on the James River to rescue another British Force who were being threatened with destruction by the French fleet and army. On home service, and possibly with the Gordon Riots of the previous year in mind, the Queen's seem to have remained within reasonable reach of London. Lieut. Fenwick was granted permission to raise an independent Company and quickly succeeded in doing so. At a meeting of Lords Lieutenant at St Alban's Tavern, lots were drawn for the precedence of various Militia Regiments and Surrey drew No.16.

**1801** The 31st Regiment were at sea, but disembarked at Minorca, which island had surrendered to Britain in 1798. The Queen's were taking part in the Egyptian campaign and were grouped with the 50th and 79th Regiments under Major General Lord Cavan. At a briefing of General Officers on board the *Kent*, Sir Ralph Abercromby gave strict instructions regarding preservation of water as it was "apprehended that great difficulty would be experienced in obtaining it in Egypt".

**1821** Casualties for the Queen's in the West Indies between the 1st January and the 2nd May totalled 259, viz: 230 sick, 27 dead, 1 deserted and 1 sent home. Back in England, the Regiment eventually arrived at Brighton where, on 3rd July, a letter was received from the Commander-in-Chief commending the conduct of a sentry, Pte James Maguire, who secured a man who was attempting to make forceful and violent entry into HM the King's Enclosures at Brighton.

The 31st landed in Ireland in March and detachments were stationed at Coleraine, Downpatrick and Carrickfergus where they were employed on revenue and other civil duties which were at that time performed by the army in Ireland.

**1861** The 70th Regiment were in New Zealand and maintaining order among the white mining population at Dunedin where disturbances had broken out. They were also assisting in building a road from Auckland to Waikato. The Queen's were in Corfu where they were described as "remaining complete.....except for one Company detached to Icathia".

**1891** The Queen's and The East Surreys were both in India where the former sustained a loss when Captain H.P.S. Estridge died as the result of a polo accident at Umballa. The latter took part in street lining duties on the arrival of H.I.H. The Czarewitch of Russia at Calcutta.

**1901** Both Regiments were in South Africa. The East Surreys were having to learn something about horsemanship as about sixty of them became Mounted Infantry in the Paardekop, Graskop and Zandapruit areas. The Queen's records show that 378 men were "snt home", presumably either sick, wounded or on completion of service.

**1911** Transport difficulties were encountered by The Queen's when in Rangoon as troop movements along the River Irrawaddy in the R.M.I.S. Sladen were handicapped by low water levels and the ship had to abandon certain journeys which were then completed by rail. The East Surreys, again in Ireland, were issued with one Narindin (one man) range finder which, in addition to other advantages, could be operated at night by use of a fitted "Astigmatizer".

**1921** Both The Queen's and The East Surreys were in Ireland in connection with "the troubles". The Queen's took seventy civilians into military custody after two troop trains had been derailed in North West Donegal. The East Surreys suffered a casualty when Pte Manley was accidentally mortally wounded while on guard duty at Mountjoy Prison.

**1931** At Dagshai in India Cpl Walters of The East Surreys renewed Regimental association with the horse when he attended a Course of Instruction in Animal Management, Care and Fitting of Harness and Saddlery with 11th Light Battery, Royal Artillery.

The Queen's, in China, Trooped the Colour on the Ming Yuan sports ground before a cosmopolitan crowd which included the commanders and consuls of the American, French, Italian and Japanese embassies and forces. Extra security measures had to be taken later on when Sino-Japanese troubles broke out in Tientsin.

**1941** The Queen's were in the Western Desert and were also involved in attempts to relieve and hold Crete. While on passage there in H.M.S. *Glenroy* they came under determined air attack and a large dump of cased petrol on the ship's deck was set on fire. Officers and men, with great courage and coolness, formed a chain from the dump and hurled two gallon

cases into the sea. The East Surreys, now at war with Japan, were in Malaya and took part in the bitter fighting which led to the formation, on 20th December, of the renowned British Battalion which was composed of a merger of the 2nd Surreys with the 1st Leicesters. Many were killed and many went into brutal captivity as prisoners of the Japanese.

**1951** The East Surreys Depot at Kingston was once again functioning in its pre-war role of training Regimental recruits, the emphasis at this time being on National Service men. The Regimental ears were once more assailed by the clatter of hooves when the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in full dress and with guns and sixty horses paraded at the Depot prior to firing a salute at the funeral of Field Marshall Lord Birdwood. But if The East Surreys were concentrating on young soldiers, The Queen's were about to see the departure of an old one. At Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Pte Frederick Sheffield retired after 43 years service in the British Army. Aged sixty-one years, he had, during his service, collected eight medals and eight service stripes. The news was widely reported and even merited an entry in the Egyptian Gazette. Doubtless Fred could have pointed to many places on the map of the world and truly said "SO THERE I WAS".

R.F.

#### 1/7th Queen's - Commemorative Dinner

A very special Dinner took place at the Le Strange Arms Hotel Hunstanton, Norfolk on the 25th October, last. The guests being ten surviving officers of this Bn who had been present at a dinner held in the same hotel on 31st January 1944.

The event came about after a private visit to Norfolk by Major Ken Jessup last year, during which time he thought he would look up the hotel where he and other officers of this Bn had been generously entertained to dinner by the late Capt. C.E Gray, proprietor at the time. In fact Major Jessup had kept a copy of the menu which had been autographed by the 30 officers present. This has since been framed and is on permanent display in the dining room.

1/7th Queen's had arrived at Hunstanton from Italy in early Jan. 1944 having been continuously in action since Alamein right through to Tunis, followed after a break at Homs, N. Africa with the landings at Salerno, and subsequent return to the U.K. in readiness for "D" Day. After disembarkation leave had been dealt with, there were a number of parades including an inspection by Col Simpson the Hon Col. of the Bn. HM King George VI then in residence at Sandringham also expressed the wish to review the Queen's Brigade which took place in the grounds.

It was at this time that Capt Gray, then chairman of the International Hoteliers Association extended a dinner invitation to Lt. Col. D.S. Gordon commanding, and the other officers of 1/7th Queen's.

It was a sumptuous meal, particularly by wartime standards, (including a course of Royal Sturgeon) and as can be imagined remained long in the memories of those officers present especially during the harder times which took place later in N.W. Europe.

On hearing the circumstances of this wartime occasion Mr. Bob Wyllie, now the Resident Director of the Le Strange Arms Hotel, extended a similar invitation to the survivors, and as a result Ken Jessup contacted those officers living in U.K. and known to be alive, who were at the dinner in 1944. Despite the ill effects of war wounds and other disabilities to some, everybody turned up from various parts of the country,

resulting in a grand re-union enhanced by accompanying wives - (see photograph).

A Queen's ice bucket drum was presented to Mr. Wyllie by Major General Gordon to commemorate the dinner which took place on the Anniversary of the Battle of Alamein.

Incidentally, this event was picked up as an item of news, and published by East Anglian daily and evening newspapers, also the local radio stations, with special reference to Desert Rats of the Second World War. Pictures were taken of Gen. Gordon and others among the sand-dunes at Old Hunstanton.



*The Officers attending the reunion dinner were:-*

*Back row - Major EG Sandys, Captain P Hoggart, Major KA Jessup, Major PC Freeman MC, Captain AR Lugg, Major J Sheehan MC, Captain GH Courchee. Front row - Lieutenant Colonel WD Griffiths DSO MC, Major General DS Gordon CB CBE DSO.*

KAJ

#### Some Regimental Cricketers

The appointment of Brigadier Stuart Anderson as Secretary of Kent County Cricket Club and the subsequent news that Mr P.G. Foster has been elected to be President has led to a look at cricket records of the 1930s to find some details of members of the Regiment who played cricket at County level before the 1939-1945 War. The 1930s were probably the last period when true amateurs were both able to play and could be welcomed as County Cricketers on a part time basis. After the War while a few continued to play it was generally only those of the greatest ability, the Mays, the Cowdrays, the Shepherds and the Dexters, who could be accepted to displace professionals, and in the early 1960s the distinction between Gentlemen and Players was abandoned.

Before 1940 however the talented Amateur was greatly welcomed both in First Class & Minor County cricket, and the Queen's Royal Regiment could take particular pride in Peter Foster, George Grimston and Patrick (now Sir Patrick) Kingsley. While in the Middlesex Regiment as even more distinguished players there were F. Sr G. Unwin, also an England Rugger International, and J.W.A. Stephenson, who both played for Essex on a regular basis when they could from 1932 and were joint Captains of the County in 1939 - J.W.A Stephenson also played for The Gentlemen on a number of occasions and in those days this was akin to an England trial. Then a little lower down the scale one notices that Mr F A H Ling played for Wiltshire in 1934 and Mr C.M.M. Man for Kent 2nd XI in 1936. Reverting to those of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

P.G. Foster was a Supplementary Reserve Officer of the Regiment, who went to France with 1/5th Queen's in 1940. He had been a distinguished school boy cricketer at Winchester and then played for Kent 2nd XI for 4 years before finding time

to play a full season for the County side in 1939 during which he scored over 750 runs, including 107 v. Leicestershire, often opening the innings and being especially commended in Wisden for his fielding.

G.S. Grimston, who had played for Sussex earlier was only available in the 1930s to play for The Army from 1936 to 1939 but he completed a first class century of 104 v. Cambridge University in 1939.

P.G.T. Kingsley, also a Wykehamist, is the most prolific entrant in Wisden playing for Hertfordshire throughout the 1930s, except for 1936, and being Captain in 1938 and 1939. During all this time he was a Territorial Army Officer with 24th London Regiment, later 7th Queens, going to France in 1940 with 1/7th Queens and subsequently serving with HQ 131 Queens Brigade. As a Minor Counties cricketer his record is outstanding: in 1934 he averaged 48.75 and in 1937 70.20, and throughout this time Herefordshire were one of the leading and most successful of the Minor Counties.

Both Peter Foster and Pat Kingsley came and played for the Queens at Stoughton Barracks on occasions after the War, but regrettably now life no longer gives the same opportunities for distinguished sportsmen to combine service with games at the top levels.

JWS

#### SEAS AND "D's"

That amphibious and combined operations are not new is shown by the fact that in 1925 the 1st Bn. East Surreys were embarked in H.M.S. *Durban* at Hong Kong to take part in "opposed landings" at Taitam Bay against Royal Marines from H.M. Ships *Tamar* and *Titania*. The exercise was considered to be a success with much useful experience being gained by both sides. The battalion were particularly complimented on their speed of embarkation, 560 O'R's being taken aboard the warship in 1 min. 40 secs.

*Durban* was one of eight "D" class cruisers built between 1917 and 1919. With a sister ship, *Dragon*, she was deliberately sunk to form a breakwater off the Normandy beaches during the Allied invasion in 1944. Another sister ship, *Despatch*, was also present at the landings, acting as a Headquarters ship and with some members of the 4th Queen's aboard her in an anti-aircraft capacity and manning Bofors guns. At the same time I was serving in the Royal Navy with a fourth sister, *Diomede*, at Rosyth where capital ships of the Home Fleet were being held in reserve.

Pictured here, *Diomede* was typical of her class. With a displacement of 4,850 tons and armed with six inch guns, they were well built ships but their accommodation was somewhat limited. Embarkation of other personnel such as troops must have resulted in a rather tight squeeze. There certainly wouldn't have been any chance of the present day experiment of having WRENS on board as well.

RF

#### Fighting Patrol

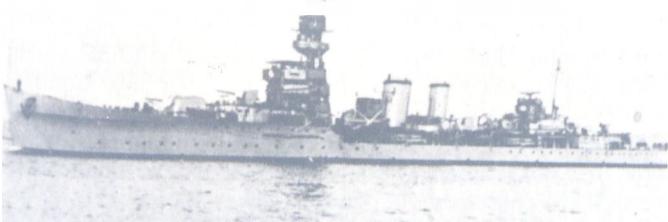
Reading a previous newsletter. I was interested in the article The Sequel by C.N.H. about 1/6th Queens on the River Escort in Belgium which interested me as I was with the 1/6th Queens. I enlisted with my pal in the 2/6th Bn Queens TA at New Cross. On being called up on September 1st my pal and I were separated and put in different Companies and then I was transferred to the 1/6th Bn to go to France. We both finished the war in the Queens my pal with the 2nd Battalion and myself with the 1st Battalion in Burma.

Getting back to the 1/6th Bn we went to France from Yeovil. We arrived at Cherbourg and eventually finished up at Steenwerck. The Battalion formed a fighting patrol here and I think I must have volunteered as I became one of its number.

I remember we were training on the lines of a first world war fighting patrol, I was a left flank blocker and we had prisoner takers with ropes and coshes, also a getaway man. We moved into Belgium and took up a position on the River Escort. We were dug in near Bn HQ waiting to go on patrol when the first enemy rifle and machine gun fire started. Whilst we were waiting a stretcher bearer came over and needed assistance to bring in a casualty. I was the nearest so I went. We had to go forward to one of the Companies, I do not remember which one. The man we picked up was wounded in the stomach and it was a very difficult job as we were now getting mortared. When we got to the R.A.P. I decided I did not want a permanent job as a stretcher bearer! On return to the patrol I found we had been given a task to contact "B" Coy. We proceeded along a ditch which was alongside the road. I remember crawling past a civilian who looked as though he had been shot off his bike as he rode along the road.

Eventually we reached "B" Coy and our officer Captain Trench said we were to clear some snipers in front of "B" Coy positions. This was a bit like going over the top and the ground in front was rather swampy. About this time the enemy artillery was shelling "B" Coy positions and we had to take cover under a bank in front of "B" Coy and I was given the job of watching the rear of the patrol. As I lay there I remember seeing some cows chewing the cud oblivious to the shelling. All of a sudden I heard an extra whizz and a piece of shrapnel had hit my rifle and torn all the wood off and then gone into my arm. I went to dig it out of my arm and it was white hot. I wrapped my first aid dressing round my arm and found my piece of shrapnel and put it in my pouch. After this I looked behind for the rest of the patrol but I was on my own. I crawled along and found them in some dead ground. It was decided by our officer Captain Trench that we would have to make our own way back to Bn HQ. Three of us had been wounded, one with a bullet through his cheek, and another with shrapnel in his shoulder, and myself. I thought I had a Blighty one but the MO gave me a mug of tea and a clean shell dressing and a sling for my arm, and to carry on!

I think this account of my episode ties up with 'The Sequel' in Newsletter No.45 as Captain Trench was my officer in the Fighting Patrol, and before I went in the Patrol I was in the same platoon as Corporal Horwood as he was then. The withdrawal and the hectic journey to Dunkirk and arrival in England is another story.



HMS DIOMEDE

## A DREAM COME TRUE

21st June, 1990, was THE red-letter day for the Rev. Canon John Devine, more familiarly known to war-time members of the 1/6th Bn The Queen's Regiment as Father Jack. Guide, Counsellor and Friend to all.

The realisation of what to him was a dream for many years became a reality in the celebration of the Consecration Mass of the Sacred Heart Church at Bordon, Hants., where he had served his parishioners, both military and civilian, so devotedly for 28 years.

Father Jack came to Bordon by a very circuitous route. Sent to serve as a hospital chaplain near Hollywood, USA, to help recover from TB, he returned to become a chaplain in the Irish Army and in 1940 volunteered to serve in the British Army. Posted overseas, he eventually joined the 8th Army at Alamein when, as he so modestly puts it, "That was the turning point of the war; once Monty and I got together, the 8th Army never had a reverse so we kept going until Berlin!"



*Father Devine and Friends*

Father Jack became a Desert Rat when he joined the 1/6th Queen's in December, 1942, and from that time the lads lived, if not in luxury, then with many benefits resulting from his prowess at cards and his proclivity at bartering. He was also the best card player in the 8th, if not the British Army, he would visit 131 Bde. HQ at suitable times where "Bolo" Whistler (later General) held sway and where he and his staff fancied themselves as poker players; alas, none was anywhere near Father Jack's class, and he would relieve them of such 'ackers' as were available which he promptly put to good use at the nearest Naafi, be it 50 or 500 miles back, buying essentials for his lads. I have vivid personal knowledge of his bartering ways in recalling an occasion prior to the Horseshoe (Enfidaville) attack when he approached me and said "I hear you're after going on patrol tonight". "Yes, Father" I replied. "Then bring me back a luger, me bhoy" he calmly demanded. Aghast, I strongly denied all or any intention of going so near the enemy and pointed out he was not supposed to carry arms. "Oh, it's not for me", he countered. "I'm going to try to contact the Americans and reckon to get at least 25 dollars for one!" And soon afterwards, he did precisely that! Loading up a truck with German loot (helmets, belts and suchlike militaria) he and his driver disappeared for days and returned loaded down with proper cigarettes (NOT Victory V's!) chocolate and similar goodies. They had swanned through uncertain country between the 8th and 1st Armies to make his contact, but whether they paid cash (doubtful!), raided the stores

(possible!!), swapped the German loot (likely!!) or played poker for them (probable!!!) is still a well-kept secret. No wonder he was Mentioned in Despatches!

Father Jack stayed with 1/6th Queen's with the unenviable task of helping the boys he loved face up to the horrors of war; this he did with selfless devotion through the Salerno landing and Italian campaign, then after a short break, the Normandy landing and subsequent fighting to the banks of the Rhine. Here, 131 (Queen's) Bde was reorganised and Father Jack joined 1/5th Queen's which enabled him to make the Alamein to Berlin run complete.

After 2 years as a Senior Chaplain to the Forces he eventually arrived at Bordon where he soon made his number; a former Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. Derek Worlock (now Liverpool), when asked how many priests he had, whimsically said "208 live and one in Bordon!", and Father Jack continued to make himself known and loved. Of his wooden-hutted Church, he remarked that it was a fine example of "you cannot tell a sausage from its skin"; the calm, friendly atmosphere of the interior gave the lie to the exterior but in recent years it became obvious that the wooden Church had come to the end of its days. The foundations for a new Church were laid in July 1989 but Father Jack was fully involved from the beginning in the planning, and his enthusiasm and drive, coupled with the magnificent financial aid he and his relatives raised (over 100,000) were instrumental in the whole plan becoming fact.

His 65th year of his ordination coincided with his celebrating the first ever Mass in the new Church on 17th June 1990, his assistant being his nephew, Father Michael Devine. Four days later, the Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Portsmouth and among the many present were Father Jack's old friend, the Rt. Rev. Dominic Conway, Bishop of Elgin, and General Sir John and Lady Mogg. Representatives of the Battalion were led by Maj. Gen. Michael Forrester and included John Tack, Rupert Mullins, Jimmy Pretsell, Charles Litton and Nick Nice, with their wives and Mrs. Thicknesse.

Father Jack still celebrates Mass for the residents of the Sue Ryder Home in Langrish, Hants., where he now lives. All who have known him are the richer for that knowledge, and he will be more than ever in their thoughts on the 1st May when he becomes 90 years old.

CHN

### Never Volunteer

In June, 1941, 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, part of 131 (Queen's) Brigade, were billeted in the Ramsgate area, so-called "Hell Fire Corner"; at that time, 169 (Queen's) Brigade (2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th) were at Hythe and Dymchurch, and with the 15th Queen's at Newhaven, the larger part of the most vulnerable stretch of the English coast was held by Queen's Battalions. As an opening gambit, this bit of regimental history will do admirably!

From the battle on the Escaut canal, the battalion had withdrawn, desperately short of numbers, to the Dunkirk beaches from which they were evacuated, via Dover, to the 44 Division area near Oxford. As the Division diary stated, the 1/6th Queen's had fought a great battle and held their front with magnificent skill and courage, but over four hundred other rank casualties was a tremendous price to pay. Towards the end of June, they had recovered in numbers sufficient to take over coast defences around Boston, Lincs., it then being thought the coast from the Wash to Dover to be most likely for attack. In October 1940, 131 Brigade left Lincolnshire to return South (after a short stay in Pontefract), but before leaving, the battalion were honoured by the gift of two tenor drums from the town of Boston in recognition of the excellent behaviour of

the men during their stay. In return, the battalion presented the town with a regimental flag which is still to be seen in position in the famous "Stump".

The Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. R.E. Pickering (later Brigadier), a real character, famous, if not infamous, as a genius for transforming civilians into soldiers when commanding the depot at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford; legend had it that he could see a button undone at four yards and a voice to crack windows at the same range! He had returned to command the Bermondsey Boys long after he had been their Adjutant (in 1928) fostering their boxing traditions and nurturing the Corps of Drums; he retained his fondness for his old Terriers and they in turn responded to his idiosyncrasies, stories of which were legion. Firm in the belief that the Sgts' Mess was the backbone of the British Army, he was particular in seeing that all ranks had good food and regular leave. One of his self-imposed tasks to ensure this, was a regular inspection of the swill buckets when, if he saw wastage, he instantly wanted to know the reason why; if the food was not up to his standard, woe betide the cooks, but if too plentiful, he would reduce the rations temporarily. The WO's and Sgt's Mess, of course, sacrosanct in this respect but even so the Sgt's Mess caterer was regularly catechised by him and this, together with the normal flow of complaints and threats from disgruntled members, made such a position untenable, so much so that it had been unfilled for some time and Joe Barnett, the President was at his wit's end to find such a mug.

It was then I appeared on the scene, in closer contact with the CO than I really wanted, in fact, cordially disliked. As a newly-fledged sergeant, naive in the extreme and still trying to fit in to the rough hurly-burly of a different world, I had been interviewed by "Pick", thoroughly questioned and then told I would henceforth be the Intelligence Sgt. so that he could watch me, which naturally sent a shiver of apprehension up my spine. My first duty, I felt, was to report to the I.O., Capt. J. Pescod, but he, I found, had wangled a posting to a course of an extremely vague nature in the Aldershot area; as his home was in Farnham, this, I thought, was intelligence of a high order and I never did see Capt. Pescod until we met up later in Gencifa, Egypt!

I searched in vain for anything appertaining to "Intelligence" but all I could find was a quarter inch map of SE England and an old London underground map, neither of which, in my opinion, really fitted the bill. Pondering on these two invalidated assets, gazing absently the while into the middle distance, I leapt up in fright when the door crashed open and "Pick" burst in as if on the wings of a hurricane. "What do you think of that?" he roared, deafening not only me but the occupants of rooms on either side. He slammed something on the table in front of me, and crashed out again, slamming the door behind him.

In horror, I gazed at "that" there on a plate, barrack issue, one for the eating of, leering up at me in all its obscene nakedness lay a half-inch thick slice of Shippam's meat roll, now, in the past I had met many thicknesses of this type of meat roll in various guises. It had appeared many times as an article of food but, speaking for myself, one just did NOT want to think about it; either one was hungry (often) in which case you ate it, or you were not, in which case you disposed of it, but never did you THINK about it! As my other thoughts clarified themselves, it became obvious some poor chap wasn't hungry or was ill or had lost his teeth or something, but what sort of stupid clot was he not to bury it, burn it, or chuck it down the latrine? And now here it lay, leering up at me, challenging me to THINK about it - and report accordingly!!

Fortunately, we had as Assistant Adjutant a TA officer, in civilian life a solicitor and thus qualified, I thought, to know of a soft answer to turneth away wrath, so to him I turned trustingly for help. Cringing into his office holding the plate and offending SMR like a sacrificial lamb chop, in pleading tones I addressed Lieut. (later Major) Rodney Goodridge...

"Sir, the Commanding Officer has asked me what I think of this, Sir; please, Sir, what do I think of it?" and held the plate out for inspection. Gravely he viewed it from all quarters and equally gravely he advised ... "When the CO returns, give him a real Bermondsey salute and tell him you think it is absolutely criminal".

With gratitude, I thanked him, returned to my office and awaited, trembling, my lord and master's return. This time, I was ready for him and as the door opened, I crashed my left foot through the floorboards, up came the right arm to a quivering salute, and screamed with all my might ...

"It's absolutely criminal, SIR!"

"Good" he said "Very good!" Pause. "Now find out who threw it away!" and off he went.

I doubt if I ever really recovered from the shock; the vision of questioning nearly 800 ribald OR's was a recurring nightmare for two nights, then a kindly (at the time!) Fate saved me further worry by sending a tip-and-run raider who was well out in his aim by dropping his load on the sands of Pegwell Bay, much to the detriment of a minesfield laid in the days when mapping minesfields was an unknown art. "Sympathetic detonation" (lovely phrase!) left the minesfield in a state of "suspended animation" (another lovely phrase!) but left considerable doubt as to its efficacy in the mind of my lord and master. "Not," I thought, "that it was anything to do with him, surely it was a Sapper problem", me thinks, and this I tried to convey to him by ESP, forlorn though my hope. Alas, my ESP wasn't working too well and, "Get me the map of the minesfield" he demanded "and bring to my office tomorrow". Even my previous saviour, the Asst. Adj., this time could not help so, in despair, I searched for the nearest R.E. unit. But Sappers are not that stupid - not for them to savour the joys of Hell Fire Corner unless they had to, "Rest in comfort while we may" was their sensible outlook, so RE units in the area were few and far between, if not actually absent. On the verge of absconding, I stumbled across a Sapper Sgt. who I think had been left forgotten from the 14-18 War; he looked like it with his moth eaten walrus moustache, aged cap comforter and minute fag-end singeing his whiskers. What he was doing in a broken-down hut, all alone, goodness alone knows, but he wore the insignia of the Royal Engineers and in broken tones I off loaded my pitiful tale and begged his help in providing the necessary map. Bleerily he peered at me, sniffed, swallowed half his mug of hot sweet tea, sucked his teeth and pronounced thus ... "Mines! Nasty things is mines!! Don't believe in 'em meself - goes ofr with a bleedin' great bang and then - where are you? Dead and gorn!!"

End of conversation and interview.

Sadly and despondently, I reported on the morrow and waited patiently while the resultant storm passed. Eventually, "Pick" subsided, his colour returned to his normal brick red and for a while he sat there glaring at me. Then came his decision ... "Go down to Pegwell Bay and trace what's left of the minesfield and map it!"

From the black pit of despair, in horror I listened as he gave his version of how to do it ... "It's quite easy; all you do is prod the sand with your bayonet and if you hit anything hard, mark

it on a map". Zombie like I left his office, a condemned man, his parting shot still ringing in my ears. "Better take a janker-wallah with you to keep watch in case anything happens!"

What did the future hold for me? Did I, in fact, have any future? Pegwell Bay sands ran from Ramsgate to Deal, a matter of some 10 miles - was that to be my future, prodding away with a bayonet for evermore? Which ever way I looked at it, it seemed "eternity" was the only possible ending; either I prodded away at sand for the rest of my life or I hit a "hard bit" which would inevitably end it!

The great sacrifice had to be made; the very basic fact of Army life had to be gainsaid, that which had been drilled into me ad nauseam since my first day as a recruit had to be ignored, indeed, denied. BUT with the dreadful problem now facing me, only one thing could save me, awful though the alternative was, to volunteer!!! Yes, I volunteered to become the WO's and Sgts' Mess Caterer!

Fortunately, this purgatory only lasted a couple of weeks for I was posted as an Inf. instructor to a LAA School at Acrise Place. Even here, the shadow of caterer followed me for the first thing I saw when reporting to the BSM was the C/Sgt on a nearby table taking infinite care to unfold a 4 oz. pkt. of butter (destined for the Officers' Mess) to be replaced by the Sgts' 4 oz. margarine; The speed with which he re-folded the respective butter papers in their creases showed he must have had many past months of practice! I passed the information on to my unfortunate successor as a mark of my sympathy, while from my comparatively safe haven I pondered deeply on the thought -

It does sometimes pay to volunteer!

CHN

## SIGNALS



THE PRESIDENT, BRIGADIER MJ DOYLE AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION SEND GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND ALL RANKS 1ST BN THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE BRITISH BATTALION ON THE 20TH DECEMBER

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Signal from RHQ The Queen's  
To 1 Queen's

FROM PRESIDENT AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION PD. BEST WISHES ON THE 145TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SOBRAON.

Signal from RHQ The Queen's  
To 1 Queen's

FOR CO AND BOXING TEAM PD. FROM PRESIDENT AND ALL MEMBERS THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION PD CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WIN ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

## Private Luff DCM

A transcript of an interview between John Woodroff, our honorary archivist at Clandon, and the former 39181 Private Wilfred Luff, DCM gives a comprehensive view of the ordinary soldier's life during the First World War.

Joining The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) in 1916 he was for a time retained in England as being under age. During that period he partook in various courses including one on the Hodgkiss Gun. Eventually going to France, however, he found himself at the somewhat notorious holding and training camp at Etaples. From there he went to the Somme, arriving just after the great Battle. A planned minor attack across a river was cancelled when the Major in charge was killed by an exploding shell while he was carrying out a reconnaissance on horseback. Artillery fire was often heavy, particularly around Ypres where a heavy gun was mounted on the railway.

At Passchendaele there was the additional hazard of glutinous mud which made travel and transport difficult and fatigue parties found that, to add to their problems, the pack mules were traditionally stubborn and individually minded. The casual approach to discipline of some of the Colonial troops amazed their British brethren. There were even more surprises in store when the Americans entered the war, particularly as the newcomers didn't seem to understand the rudiments of movement under shellfire.

Communications were inclined to be primitive, messages being mainly carried by runners, carrier pigeons or specially trained dogs. Germans were showing an unusual form of mobility when, during the British retreat of March 1918 some of the enemy were to be seen mounted on bicycles which had springs around the wheel rims instead of tyres.

An eventual wound took Pte Luff back to "Blighty" and hospitals in Cheshire. By that time he had won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and although he is characteristically modest about it, the true story is told in the copy of the citation at the end of this article.

His description of a leave period in Paris in July 1918 makes interesting reading and some of the troops must have over enjoyed themselves because afterwards a few of them went missing altogether.

After the end of hostilities Pte Luff took part in the peace celebrations in London, a momentous time which he remembers with well deserved pleasure.

Now enjoying well earned retirement, he savours his memories of his Army days. He has visited the Regimental Museum at Clandon where he renewed his contact with the Regiment of which he is proud and which is justifiably proud of him.

## CITATION

39181 Pte. W. Luff, R.W.Surr.R. (Hindhead) (LG 6 Feb. 1918). For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an attack he advanced alone some distance to the front, and, unaided, penetrated an enemy strong point, taking twenty four prisoners. He showed magnificent courage and initiative.

THANK YOU: Yet again we are indebted to Major J. L. A. Fowler TD. for giving us the materials on which our Newsletter is printed.

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT AND ITS FORBEARS, 1919-1950

### Regular Battalions of The Queen's

**The 1st Battalion** The Queen's returned home from the Western Front to be stationed in England between 1919 and 1920. This was followed by a tour of duty in Ireland during the period of 'the Troubles'. Returning home, the Battalion was stationed at Aldershot and Dover until posted to the Far East in 1927. Until 1929 they were stationed in China and then served a year in Malta. Returning to the China station in 1930, they remained there until 1934. During this period the Battalion was stationed at Tientsin and Peking where they provided the Peking Legation Guard.

Later in 1934, the Battalion was transferred to India and posted to Quetta, here they rendered sterling service at the great Quetta Earthquake. Two soldiers were awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal, later converted to the George Cross. For a year after the outbreak of war, the 1st Battalion were engaged in operations against tribesmen on the North West Frontier of India. The Battalion was then transferred to Burma and saw much hard fighting in the Arakan, at Kohima and in the Irrawaddy operations.

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, the 1st Battalion spent a year in Siam before a short spell in Malaya before returning home to the United Kingdom.

They had originally been put into suspended animation but the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard after consulting the Regimental Committee decided that the 286 years service of the 1st Battalion, should not be broken and with regret, it was decided to disband the 2nd Battalion. Now reduced to a small cadre the 1st Battalion joined the 2nd Battalion in Germany.

**The 2nd Battalion** The Queen's returned to England in 1919 after the First World War, they were stationed at Aldershot for six months before embarking for India. Early in 1920 they took part in the operations against the tribesmen in Waziristan. In 1921 the Battalion was moved to Lucknow and two years later to Allahabad. After a short stay at Khartoum in 1927, the Battalion returned home for service at Dover, Aldershot and the Isle of Wight. In 1939 the Battalion was despatched to Palestine where it served with distinction on several operations. They were then moved to Egypt in 1940. They took part in the Battle of Sidi Barrani, Tobruk and other operations in the Western Desert, before moving to Egypt and back to Syria. A peaceful year training in Ceylon preceded a move to India and Burma where they served in the Deep Penetration Forces (Chindits) in Burma.

After the War, the 2nd Queen's remained in India until 1947. They were then posted to Dortmund, Germany. From Dortmund they moved to West Berlin where, under the command of Lt Col L.C. East they served throughout the Berlin Airlift. On September 9th (SALERNO DAY) 1948 at a parade on the Olympischer Platz, the order was given by General Giffard '2nd Battalion, Ground Arms' followed by '1st Battalion, Take Up Arms'. Thus the 2nd Battalion passed into history.

It was a very sad moment for Colonel East as he had joined the 2nd Battalion in 1922 shortly before they moved to Delhi, as a specially chosen guard to the then, Prince of Wales, where the battalion had first received the nickname the 'Guards of India'.

### Territorial Battalions of The Queen's

The Territorial Force was disbanded after the 1914-18 War, but reconstituted as the Territorial Army in 1921. In 1938 battalions of the Territorial Army were ordered to double their strength. The Queen's battalions were formed into two Brigades - 131 Brigade consisting of 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th

Queen's and 169 Brigade consisting of 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's. All six Territorial battalions fought in France in 1940.

Two years later both Queen's Brigades were ordered overseas and fought in the 8th Army in the Western Desert. After the Battle of Alamein in 1942, 131 Brigade became the Lorried Infantry Brigade of 7 Armoured Division (The Desert Rats). 169 Brigade as part of 56 London Division (The Black Cats) took part in the capture of Tunis in May 1943.

Both Brigades fought in the assault landing at Salerno, one relieving the other. 131 Brigade then returned to England for the invasion of North West Europe. They pushed the Germans back across the River Maas. The 1/5th Queen's ended the war in Hamburg, later moving to Berlin where it took part in the Victory Parade, before the then Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill MP.

In 1946 the battalion went into 'suspended animation'. In May 1947 5th Queen's was again reformed on its pre-war lines, with Bn HQ as before at Sandfield Terrace, Guildford and the companies in the pre-war drill halls of West Surrey.

1/6th Queen's returned to England at the end of 1944 and acted as a training battalion in Yorkshire. In 1945 they were ordered to Palestine on active service. 1/6th Queen's passed into 'suspended animation' in 1947.

6th Queen's was reformed in 1947 in their old drill hall at Jamaica Road, Bermondsey.

The 1/7th Queen's, like their sister battalion the 1/6th on its return to England became a training battalion. Sadly, the battalion which had fought so well throughout the war was disbanded. When the 5th and 6th battalions were reformed, there was no place in the new organisation of the Army for them as Infantry, and the unit became 622 HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery, though the connection was maintained by the word 'Queen's' in the title.

169 Brigade with 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's remained intact as a brigade until disbanding. The brigade were in Italy in May 1945. They were present in the Morgan Line covering Trieste. Later it moved from Trieste to Polo where after six very eventful years the brigade and the battalions disbanded.

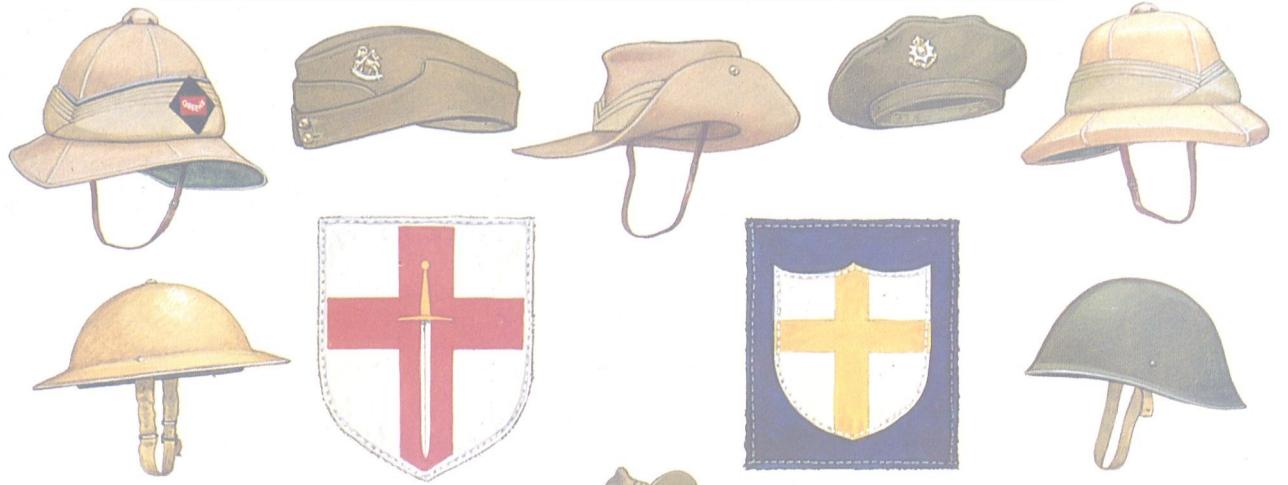
### Regular Battalions of The Surreys

**1st Battalion** The Surreys returned to England in April 1919 after the Great War, but only four months later they were fighting in North Russia. The operations concluded in October and the Battalion once more returned home. In 1920 the 1st Battalion was posted to Egypt for three years, and then to the Sudan from April to November 1923. The next posting was to Hong Kong where the Battalion served until 1926 before moving to India. They served in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Fyzabad and the final station homeward bound was back to the Sudan for another year at Khartoum.

The Battalion reached England in January 1939 but was in France soon after the outbreak of war in September. They were evacuated from Dunkirk in June 1940, and spent two years in England and Scotland.

In November 1942 they landed in North Africa with the 1st Army as part of the assault troops for 'Operation Torch', the first Anglo-American operation of the war. Then followed the capture of Tunis and Medjez-el-Bab and the Battle of Tebourba, and mention must also be made of D Company's action at Fort McGregor, on the 26th February 1943. The short successful campaign in Sicily followed.

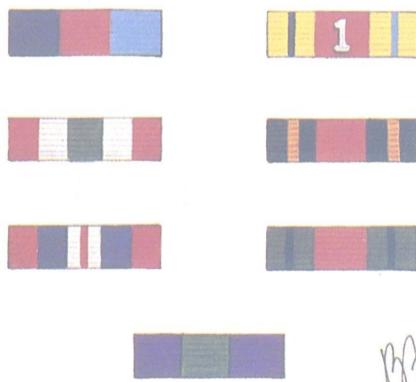
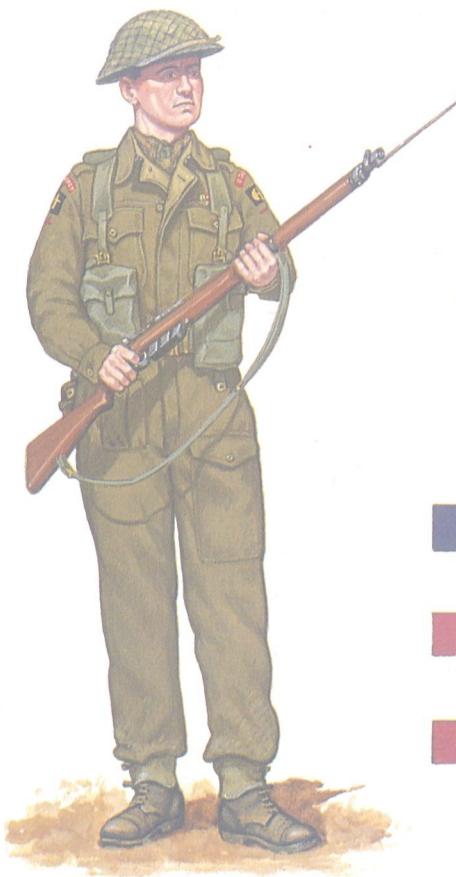
1st Surreys crossed to Italy still with 78 Division. There followed a very arduous campaign with much bitter fighting particularly in the Cassino and 'The Bowl'. There was a short



QUEEN'S

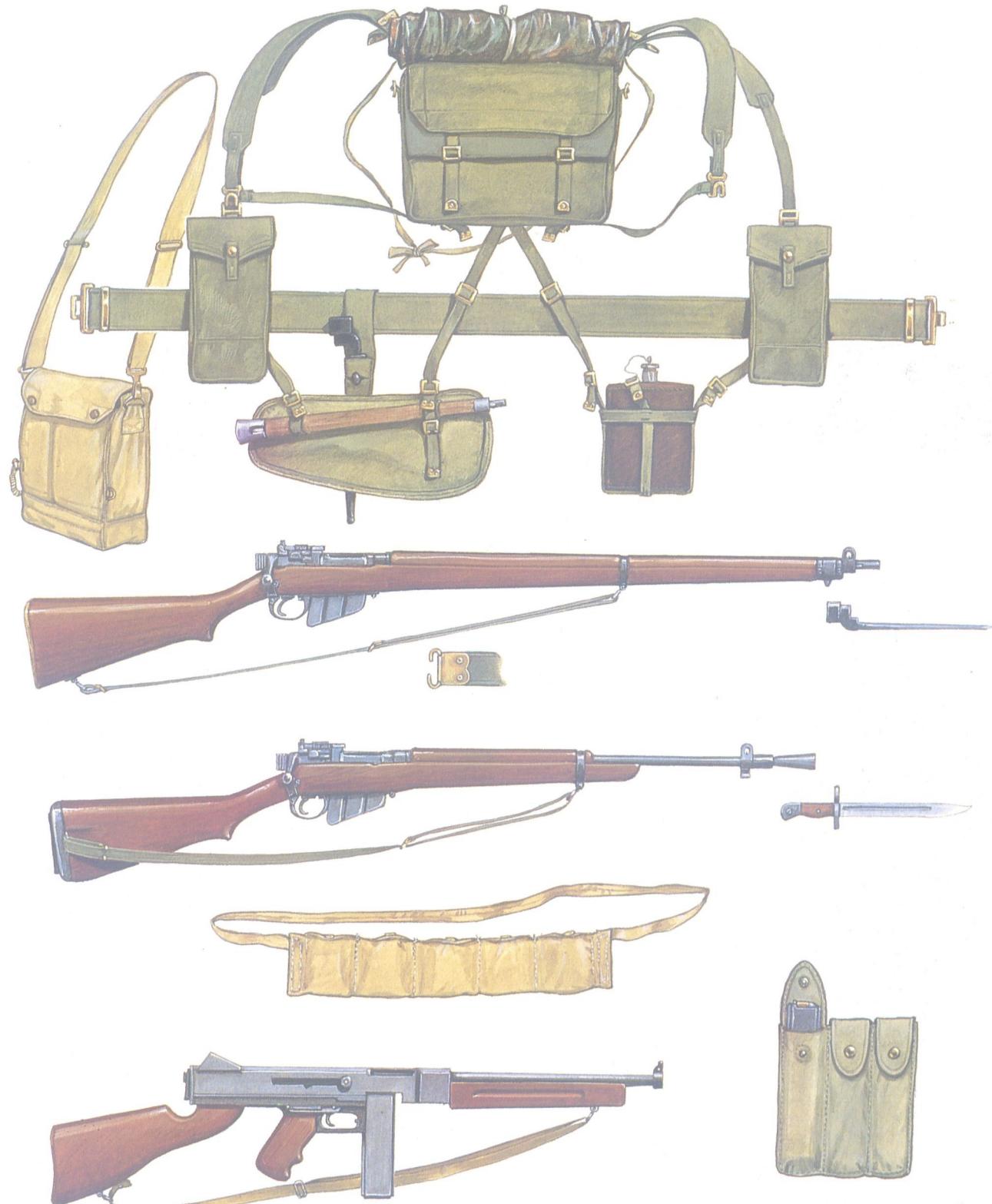


E. SURREY



MFH

Top: Left to right, Headdress worn during the period 1920-1950. Wolseley pattern helmet, Cap Khaki F.S., (Queen's), Felt (Bush) hat, Cap G.S., Pith hat, Steel helmet Mark II, Steel helmet Mark III. Shoulder title worn by the Queen's C1943, Shoulder title worn by the East Surrey's prior to 1943. Officers' coloured F.S. caps: Left Queen's, Right East Surrey's. Centre: Army signs for the left, 1st Army, right, 8th Army. Central figure, Sergeant of the 1st Queen's, Burma, 1944. Bottom left, Private of the 1st East Surrey's, Italy, 1944. Bottom right, Officer 2nd East Surrey's, Palestine, 1947. Centre Bottom, a selection of medal ribbons applicable to the regiment for the period under review. From the top left to right, 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star (1st Army), Italy Star, Burma Star, War Medal 1939-1945, Defence Medal, General Service Medal.



Top. A selection of Army and Divisional signs worn by the Queen's and East Surrey's during WWII. Left to right, 7th Indian Division, 3rd Indian Division, 14th Army, 7th Armoured Division, 56th (London) Division, 78th Division. Equipment: Web equipment (Braithwaite), 1937. Rifle, Lee Enfield No.4 Mark I, Lee Enfield No.5 Mark I. Cotton bandolier for 50 rounds. U.S. Thompson sub- machine gun, M1 with magazine pouch.

break for retraining in Egypt, and then it was back to Italy and more bitter fighting until the final German surrender.

The 1st Surreys then moved to Austria. From Vienna it moved at short notice to Veroia in Greece. In January 1947 it was announced that the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Surreys were to amalgamate. The formal amalgamation parade of the two battalions was marked with a Trooping of the Colours at Salonika. The new 1st Surreys left Salonika for Athens and after various important ceremonial events then left Greece for East Africa on the *Empire Ken*.

Battalion headquarters was at Mogadischtu with company detachments in the area. After the handover of Somalia the battalion left on the *Empire Pride* for England, where its first station was Barnard Castle then on to Shorncliffe.

The 2nd Battalion served in Jersey from 1924 to 1927 when they were transferred to Gibraltar for two years. After service at Catterick and Shorncliffe, they were posted to Shanghai in 1938. In 1940 the Battalion was transferred to Malaya. The disastrous onslaught by the Japanese resulted in such grievous losses that 2 Surreys had to join with 1 Leicesters to form the British Battalion. The British Forces were overwhelmed by the Japanese and the Battalion became prisoners of war for three and a half harrowing years.

The 11th Battalion in England assumed the identity of the 2nd in May 1942.

#### The Territorial Battalions of the Surreys

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War the 1/6th and 2/6th Battalions went to France. The 1/6th fought alongside the 1st Battalion in Belgium before being evacuated from Dunkirk. The 2/6th was forced to surrender at St Valery and the majority of the Battalion became prisoners of war.

The 1/6th Surreys landed in North Africa in March 1943 and took part in the Tunisian Campaign. From February 1944 to May 1945 they fought in Italy. There was particularly hard fighting at Cassino and Forli, they then moved to Greece.

Whilst still serving in Greece 1/6th Surreys received the news that they were to go into 'suspended animation' and later the same year the 2/6th Surreys suffered the same fate.

In May 1947 however recruiting began for the newly constituted 6th Surreys based in Kingston and the drill halls in the immediate area surrounding Kingston.

#### Dress 1919 to 1948

After the 1914-1918 War full dress, although never officially abolished, was not re-issued. From then on its use was confined to Officers attending Levees, Regimental Bands, Corps of Drums and Pipe Bands but even then remained reserved for certain ceremonial occasions. The blue cloth spiked helmet was seldom worn, even for Tattoos or the Royal Tournament, and the usual headdress worn with full dress was the peaked blue forage cap, introduced in 1905.

Khaki service dress, which was the universal uniform for the Infantry, remained substantially the same as worn in the latter stages of the World War, although attempts were made to smarten it. The crown of the khaki peaked cap was stiffened up and the strap and badge highly polished, collar badges were worn, trousers were better cut, smartly creased and neatly folded over the puttees. Brass shoulder titles were issued, for example "QUEEN'S" and "E.SURREY".

Until 1938 the 1908 pattern webbing equipment remained the same with the belt and sword bayonet retained for parades and ceremonial duties.

Officers' uniforms also remained substantially as worn in wartime although the system of rank badges on the cuffs was finally

abandoned in favour of the shoulder straps. The polished Sam Browne belt was retained for duties and parades and swords were carried on ceremonial occasions. On occasion officers still wore the old 1896 pattern dark blue patrol undress jacket and retained their scarlet mess jackets which were both worn with dark blue overalls with regimental facing.

Tropical uniform comprised the drill tunic and trousers or shorts, puttees, knee length woollen hose tops, folded over the puttees and the wide brimmed Wolseley helmet with pagri. Trousers were worn for ceremonial duties and evening wear and the shorts were retained for every day wear. In some stations overseas the home service uniform was retained for the cooler months but the Wolseley helmet was still worn. During the 1930s, a lighter, pith topee was introduced for hot weather only.

In 1937, a dark blue serge uniform was issued for the Coronation. In 1938, a new version khaki serge service dress was adopted. This was Battle Dress, worn, with several modifications during the 1939-1945 war. It comprised a folding field service cap, sometimes referred to as the "forage cap" or "side hat", a blouse, trousers and canvas anklets.

The cap had a folded up peak and side "curtains" which buttoned in front. The blouse was made loose fitting. It had a folded down collar, two breast pockets with pleated and pointed flaps, five buttons down the front and the waist was secured with a 3" wide cloth belt and buckle. The pockets and front buttons were concealed by flaps and a fly. The collar closed with two metal hooks and eyes.

The wide legged trousers had a very large pocket on the left leg above the knee and a small pocket (for the first field dressing) high on the right leg, the left pocket having a pointed flap with concealed button. The first pattern trousers had a tab and button at the bottom of each leg which could be used when the anklets were worn.

In addition to the khaki field service cap both officers and men were given the option of purchasing and wearing coloured versions of the headdress. These were worn for some duties and ceremonies by the officers and for walking out by the men. For The Queen's the caps had a light green crown piped red, and a dark blue body, peak and side curtains. The East Surrey cap had a black crown with camel brown piping, a black body, a camel peak piped cherry red and black side curtains with white piping. The caps were made of good quality cloth.

In September 1943 (ACI 1407) a new headdress was introduced and began to be issued to all troops overseas. This ugly, khaki, beret style hat, was officially the Cap, General Service 1943 or Cap GS and unofficially "The Cow Pat". It was never popular with the troops who had to be discouraged from efforts to shrink the large crown to the proportions of proper berets.

In November 1944 (ACI 1516), a shirt with an attached collar was taken into use to replace the old collarless khaki pattern and a khaki tie was provided to be worn when the battle dress collar was worn open for walking out and certain duties in quarters. Khaki pullovers were worn in some orders of dress. Officers adapted them to show shoulder straps and their rank insignia. Leather jerkins were issued for certain duties and the special "assault" or "battle" jerkin was issued to some regiments before they went into action.

The officers' greatcoats were double breasted with two rows of 4 regimental buttons. It had a stand and fall collar and a half belt with 3 buttons. The sleeves were plain and the coat had shoulder straps. The old pattern greatcoats for other ranks were single-breasted with 5 buttons. Until 1937 they were the universal pattern. After 1937 regimental buttons were worn and in April 1939, a new pattern, double-breasted coat was approved which could be worn open at the neck.



## FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

### J R Puddephatt writes:-

I was interested to read in the November 1990 issue of the Association Newsletter of the query regarding Ross Parker being in the Regiment. I can confirm that he was, although I have no details, nor do I know whether he is still alive.

It was in the late part of 1946 when the 1st Bn. Queens was stationed at Patani in N. Malaya that some of the members of the Sergeants' mess, who were jazz oriented, used to listen to a record request programme beamed from Sungei Singapore. The programme was introduced by Ross "the Laker" Parker, who was a disc jockey at the time and I particularly remember sending requests to him for the playing of records without a great deal of success. In some degree of high dudgeon therefore I wrote a somewhat derogatory letter to him, threatening him with the majesty of the Sergeants' mess. I well remember that shortly afterwards, in playing "Caledonia" by Woody Herman for us, he informed us that in fact he was an officer in The Queens!.

Recently I have particularly enjoyed the article by Bob Strand, covering the 1st Bn's stay in Thailand and it brought back many happy memories of my sojourn with them there. Indeed I have quite a good collection of photographs taken during that time, including one of his drawings of glamour girls on one of the walls in the Officers' mess. I was similarly very interested in the photo of the M.T. platoon at Bangkok and was able to recognise many of them by sight without being able to recall too many names, except Bert Kingston, Johnny Davis and Ron Hinton. I was able to recognise the sender of the photograph as well but could not recall whether we knew him as "Bill" or "Dan" Challis.

Easter 1989 I made a nostalgic trip back to Bangkok and Singapore, but after over 40 years things had changed beyond recognition. I did however find in Bangkok the Statue of Democracy in Rajadamnoen Avenue with a restaurant facing onto it, which in our day was called the Chainarong and served an extremely palatable fried rice. I got a taxi to take me to Chulalongkra University but when I got there I was completely unable to recognise the two blocks of buildings that the Battalion occupied. The Hoi Thien Lao restaurant was still in existence, no longer at its former site but on the other side of the river, but they still serve the most excellent dishes, including suckling pig.

In Singapore the Cathay building, the tallest in 1947, is still there but now completely dwarfed by the many multi-storeyed

buildings surrounding it. The Singapore C.C., against whom I played for the Battalion is still there but now much further from the coast as Singapore has been the subject of much land reclamation from the sea.

I visited the site of Selerang Barracks, almost opposite Changi jail, but all that remains of the buildings is the old Officers' mess; the site is now given over to a camp for rehabilitation of drug offenders. I was told by our guide that the methods used are rather more primitive than those employed in the West.

Incidentally I noticed in your May 1988 issue, under the heading of the Burma Star Association on the second page, that details had to be obtained from a Dr. Glyn Court. It made me wonder if that was the same person as was on my draft to India in September 1944, on the "Athlone Castle", who used to play "Shout for Joy" on the piano.

Sorry for this brief wallow in nostalgia; it is entirely up to you as Editor to cut it down to size if you feel that to be appropriate.

### J L W Parsons writes:-

I look forward to the Newsletters. The reading of them are most interesting. I live so far away from Surrey so the Newsletters keep me in touch with the Regiment. I do manage to get to the Salerno reunion usually held in September. I was at convalescent this year and think it was the first I missed.

Regarding your Editors post bag query about Ross Parker. He was certainly an officer in 2/6th Bn Queen's at Ham Street, Kent. I went into Ross Parker's tent with his batman Oscar Slater on one occasion and his music was spread over most of the ground. Hope this helps your query.

### Frank Beville writes:-

Many thanks for the excellent Newsletter.

As usual, one or two items caught my eye that were of particular interest to me, such as Benny Armstrong's account (page 34) of his escape from the Germans in May 1940. We met at various times during the war and I well recall Benny recounting these experiences to me. We also met a few years ago at a 2/6th Bn Reunion at the Union Jack Club. Quite a character was Benny and a very likeable one too.

I found the first letter 'From the Editor's Postbag' (page 21) of interest also. The writer is quite correct. Ross Parker was in the 2/6th Bn. The Queen's and I recall meeting him at a Sergeants' Mess 'do' at Ashford in 1940. As I walked in he was seated at the piano and I remember asking him to play various numbers from shows I had seen. I understood that he left us to join Field Marshall Wavell's Int. Staff in India. Incidentally, he was also the composer of that other well known war song 'There'll always be an England', amongst others. I believe after the war he was to be seen on TV advertising a well-known brand of paints. He died some years ago. I was sorry to learn of the passing of Alan Zeigler, one time Adjutant of the 2/6th Bn, I still possess the Part 1 Order signed by him at Kirkuk in N. Iraq, which included my posting and Movement Order to 15 Reinforcement Camp. Unfortunately, the Order said 15 Rft Camp was at Latifiyah! I was stuck there for two or three weeks and then asked to look after the rear party when that camp moved to Mussaib.

There we were held up by heavy rainfall and in consequence I did not finally reach 15Rft Camp at Shaiba near Basra until just before Christmas 1942! I had left the Bn on 29 Nov 1942 and I think 15Rft Camp had given me up as lost. Personally I enjoyed the experience since it allowed me to see places I might not otherwise have seen and to make new friends in my travels. Lt Col H E Wilson was commanding the battalion at that time.

**S Pratten writes:-**

I have today received Newsletter No 48 which has been kept to its very high standard. I think I am probably as qualified as anybody to answer the query about Lt Ross Parker who wrote "there'll always be an England", he was Platoon officer of 18 Platoon 'D Coy' and I was Platoon Sgt, he left the 2/6th shortly afterwards I believe to join ENSA, this was from the area of HAM STREET.

May I take this opportunity to "plug" the 2/6th Queen's Royal Regiment reunion on the 7th September 1991.

**T F Langridge writes:-**

I was in 1/5th Queen's carrier platoon and when I read the Newsletter I noted with interest the article on Ross Parker and often wondered what happened to him. At Stoughton camp in 1940 a small concert party was formed by Lt Gilbert who was a friend of the late Jack Buchanan. I was a member of the party doing a few impressions, ending up with a few of Harry Launders songs accompanied on the piano by Ross Parker, a great chap, they were happy days. We left the barracks to join the 1/5th at Uckfield and that was the last I saw of him. I saw Lt Gilbert again in Tripoli.

**L Wellbelove writes:-**

I am in receipt of the November issue of the Regimental Magazine and I thank you. It is read from cover to cover I assure you and occasionally, very occasionally these days, I see a name or a picture that I recognise. I was with the 6th Battalion and later 1/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment TA from enlistment in 1937 until I was discharged unfit in 1945. I was wounded at a place called Castel Forte in Italy, so missing the Battle of Cassino, in which so many of my comrades were killed or wounded.

**H L W Stevens writes:-**

I was very pleased to receive the November Newsletter which contained many interesting items.

As regards medals on page 32, there must now be an excellent collection in the Regimental Museum. I collected medals and decorations and these included Afghanistan, Ashanti, China, Crimea, Indian Mutiny, Waterloo etc and 9 Iron Crosses and other foreign items which I picked up in various parts of the world. They were shown in 9 cases and I disposed of all of them by auction in New Bond Street some years ago, now much to my regret.

While on the subject of medals, I have two rather unusual ones on my bar. These are the King Faisal II or Iraq Coronation Medal of 1953 and the Iraqi Flood Medal of 1954. I was in Baghdad for ten years with the Iraq government and was well known at the Palace and received the Coronation medal from the King.

Every ten years or so the flood would be very serious "Baghdad would be destroyed by flood" is an Iraqi saying and in 1954 this looked like becoming a fact as the river Tigris runs right through the centre of the city, and the main street was 8ft below the water level. The water level which was only just being held back by the embankment, was already seeping through. Urgent action had to be taken as Baghdad had no proper drainage system. It was therefore essential that the Tigris banks were raised and so some 250,000 tons of earth was brought down and used, I was concerned in this and the city was saved.

The King issued a special flood medal which only about 6 Britishers received.

I was in Baghdad for 10 years from 1950 to 1960 with the Government and was there when King Faisal II and all The Royal Family were assassinated on July 14th 1958. The Prime

Minister Nuri Al Said and many other officials were also killed. This was when the Communists took over. My passport was taken away and I was under detention for several months. I was being accused falsely in the Courts of criminal activities which were totally untrue, for which the punishment was a heavy fine and 5 years imprisonment. Eventually my case was dismissed and I got my passport back and a 5 days exit visa as I was overdue for leave and wished to leave the country. At the last minute they offered me another 3 years contract. They had dismissed all British and American senior staff and realised they had no one suitable to run their departments like Airways and Railways. I did not accept but dare not refuse it while still in Baghdad but advised that I would contact the Iraqi Ambassador in London. I stated to him that I could not accept for domestic reasons. So I did not return to Iraq but went to the Ghana Government for 7 years.

I apologise for my typing but at 96 I am not now very good at it.

Having been in Baghdad for 10 years I am very disturbed about the Gulf situation. I know when the Iraqi Communists took over by force in 1958 what happened.

The King, the Royal Family and their servants were all killed and were buried by the Army. The Crown Prince's (the King's uncle) body, feet and hands were cut off, was mutilated and dragged through the streets, tied up naked for exhibition and run over by cars and there remained only a piece of the backbone and its flesh after souvenir hunters had had their way. On the same night Nuri Al Said the Prime Minister and his son Colonel Sabah Al Said were treated in the same way.

My grandson a Squadron Leader, fighter pilot has just returned from Florida after three years training US pilots to fly their own fighter aircraft. He has been posted to No 27 Squadron RAF at Marham, but this squadron is already in the Gulf.

**K Munday writes:-**

I get great pleasure from the Regimental Association Newsletter and am an avid reader, although I recognise only a few names.

Many thanks for sending it to me.

I joined The Queen's Royal Regiment at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford for national service in 1957. Lasting friendships were made and 8 - 12 of us still meet annually in November at Waterloo (not the battleground) and at another time during the year with the wives.

No better comradeship than the forces, nor better regiment than The Queen's.

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

IF IN DOUBT - PAY!  
KEEP IN TOUCH

### Eric Lockwood writes:-

Over the past year I have read with great interest that every time the Newsletter has been published someone has written a small praise to my Father (Gary Lockwood). It makes my family and I so proud to think you have given your time to write (in our minds) of such a good man.

I noticed that Harry Warren wrote about Dad, and I am sure that Harry would have been thrilled to know that Dad wrote to "THE OLD CODGERS" (Daily Mirror) to try and find his whereabouts, but alas he had no luck.

Thank you all once again for all the good things you have written about Dad he is missed so much.

If any one is in Eastbourne my Family and I would only be too pleased to see you, anytime as I am now retired.

Eric Lockwood's telephone number is 0323 - 642045

### N J Ashby writes:-

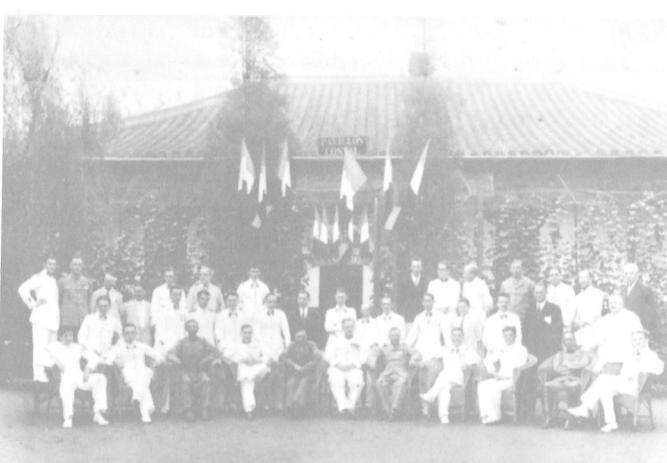
It was very interesting to read The Queen's in China 1930-34 by PHR, we were in married quarters in Tientsin, Peking, and Shanhakwan, my younger sister was born in Tientsin in 1931, my Father being C/Sgt Ashby MM. We lived next to Sgt's Darky Hill and George Hooper both members of the 1st Battalion football team of which my Father was coach. Please find enclosed photo taken at the French Legation in Peking in 1931 my father is 5th from right the Sgt 2nd from left in back row I do not know. I remember well the baggage trolley pulled along the single track by mule power in Shanhakwan.

We later went with the battalion to Quetta and were there during the quake in May 1935, I remember that following the quake we were inoculated, the MI room was down the corridor from the office of a 'Captain Bernhard Montgomery' of the Staff College, and I was promptly sick outside his office door following the jab, I read his memoirs but didn't get a mention.

Later we transferred to Allahabad our immediate neighbours were RQMS Jackson and family and Sgt Philpot, also of very pleasant memories of the Hill station at Naini Tal.

During the war I joined The Queen's at Maidstone the Depot being shared by The Queen's and The Royal West Kents, the RSM being Percy Tasker. On reporting to the guard room the first person I met was 'Jock Plaw' old 1st Bn members will remember him as Provost Sgt in India.

Proud to have been associated with the Regiment for 66 years  
Dover, Malta, N.China, India, Italy and Palestine



French Legation Peking

### A Letter of Thanks to John Luxford:-

On behalf of a number of ex 1st Bn Queen's chaps I wish to thank you for all the work you did in keeping our group together. First by getting the tickets for the Annual Dinner in London and since then for the Reunion at the Union Jack Club, making sure that we met at least once a year.

Best wishes to you and Elizabeth.

T W Major and friends

*John Luxford has been in hospital at Winchester, Southampton and Salisbury for the last year.*

### Stan Brown writes:-

I found the article "Early Territorial Days" by F.E.S. interesting as I had heard most of it from my father, he joined "C" Company at Dorking on 27th April 1912, I recall the Officers names, and in particular RSM Dodger Green, who he mentioned often in his tales, it seems that whatever one forgets, Sergeant Majors always remain to the fore.

### A W V Domoney writes:-

I have today received the November issue of the Association Newsletter and what a fine production it is. I was particularly interested in the article Regimental blood, both my father CSM A J Domoney and myself served in 2nd Battalion The Queen's. I believe the same applied to Gary Lockwood and son.

I was saddened to learn of the death of Lt Col G S Grimston. I remember him joining the 2nd Battalion in India in 1924 and later with 15 Queen's. I have kept in touch with him annually and shall miss his Christmas letter with news of colleagues.

I keep in touch with a number of Queen's families and they do appreciate a Regimental card.

All the best to you and your staff who do such a good job for us all. Having been in and out of hospital over the last two years I am pleased to report I'm well on the mend.

### H G Meatyard writes:-

Many thanks again for the Newsletter full as always with so many interesting items. The "Regimental Blood" section caught my eye and you now have another father and son entry to add to the list. My father now deceased, served with 10th Queen's in France and Flanders 1916 - 18 and was in the Army of Occupation in Cologne afterwards. I myself spent some of my regular service with 2/7th Queen's in Italy (13 Platoon "C" Coy) before being posted to 5th RWK at Lammie Camp near Vesuvius after the war's end.

Time spent with the Hampshires in Palestine, Dorsets in Austria and finally the Gloucesters in Korea has never diminished my regards for the "Mutton Lancers", they remain my parent Regiment. So again many thanks for such an interesting and readable journal I can almost feel that bren rubbing my shoulder again!

### K H Barber writes:-

Thank you for publishing my letter in the May issue and I have just received my November copy.

It is good to have news of the Regiments and past members, of particular interest to me is the item on Regimental Blood. My Grandfather and his brother were in France with The Queen's 1914 - 18. Their family name was BRAIM, Grandfather was killed in action but his brother Fred lives on to his 84th year and told me he was stationed at Dover Castle before going to France.

My own father served with The Surreys between the wars and served in the Far East. He was recalled on the outbreak of World War Two but invalided out in 1942. His brother John was with The Queen's and served in many campaigns from 1939 including North Africa and returned for the Normandy Landings and sadly was killed at Caen.

My own small part was to serve in both Regiments and very proud to have done so. My wife's brother was in The Surreys with me (thats how I met her), but that is another story. Thanks for all the news.

**Mrs M E M Rowe writes:-**

I am writing on behalf of my father - Mr C Churchlow of the above address.

A wonderful old soldier - a good honest hard working man and respected by all who know him.

He is ninety seven years of age - very very sensible - reads five or six "large print" library books a week, need I say - mainly about the two world wars and he can tell some wonderful - some sad - some heroic stories of the two wars.

He was gassed on the Somme - was one of the first "Home Guard" soldiers and he served his country well - so proudly - so honestly.

He tried to teach us about the horrors of war - the sadness and the tender moments. I remember as a small child how he would tell of the time that a Lance Corporal and himself captured six German soldiers in 'No Mans Land'. He always says that they gave themselves up as they were battle weary. The pathos comes when he tells how they showed the photos of their loved ones (wives and children) to the British soldiers. He never teaches us to hate - always to help.

Anyway enough of this - I just wanted to try to let you know what a GOOD man, our Dad is - this unknown man that you have so overwhelmingly helped. I would be very grateful if you could pass all our thanks on to the people who so kindly gave their own money to help my dad. It is a great responsibility spending other's money. It will not be wasted. Our dad has a lovely quality of life - he is our No 1 priority (and he is still the head of the house).

We also looked after our darling Mum who was 98 years of age when she died a year ago - intelligent - clean - honest - very very poor in monetary values but they both gave us wealth untold in their great love for their children. One day - believe me - we will pay you back - in kind or deed - that I promise you - If any of your contemporaries are interested to want to talk to dad our door is always open and they will be very welcome. Our home is very humble but we do try to keep it spotless and clean.

You know - I find it very difficult to really thank the two ladies - and they were two ladies in the true sense of the word - who took the trouble to visit Dad at home - you know they really cared - really really cared about him. I never knew that such wonderful genuine people existed. On reading a letter from them at SSAFA & FHS, Old Ford Rd I can see by their signatures that they are both titled ladies. Our mother used to tell us about Madame Burdett Contes - a wealthy lady who looked after the poor - and cared greatly about them - during the first world war. She (Mum) would have loved to have met these two really wonderful ladies.

Dad has been reading your Association Newsletter with us for the last two hours, we've only reached page six, we are saving the rest for after dinner this evening.

It is the first Newsletter of it's kind that we have seen. It should be compulsory for it to be read in upper sixth forms., not to glorify war but to remember the sheer guts of the British Service men. My own husband served right throughout the Burma War - right through to Rangoon just before the BOMB was dropped. I am very proud of his discharge reference, military conduct - exemplary -

Unfortunately he suffered till he died from intestinal troubles but I cared for him and loved him to distraction. Forgive me for sharing him with you.

From our hearts we all thank you - for giving our Dad pleasure - we thank you.

*Sadly since this letter was written Mr Churchlow has died, see Regimental Deaths.*

Editor

**S M Still writes:-**

It was with great interest that I read the article by D. Challis in the May issue of the Newsletter.

Being an ex-member of the 1st Queen's (Corporal in 'B' Company during World War II), it brought back many memories of my time with the Regiment in Bangkok.

I can remember many of the faces in the photograph reproduced at the foot of the article; in particular, the young buck with his arms folded, on the right of the picture, is Pte. A. (Alan) HAMMOND, a good friend of mine for many years.

Alan emigrated to Australia in 1949 and became a successful businessman. He now lives in N.S.W. Sadly he became a widower in 1980, but had the good fortune to meet a charming lady whom he married in October 1986. I had the pleasure of attending the wedding in Sydney, and of making up for the lost years since I saw him last. (It was three days before we stopped talking!)

I have myself been retired for the past four years, and am enjoying every minute of it. I always look forward to the Association Newsletter and the Annual Regimental Reunion.

**R Hill writes:**

Many thanks again for my new newsletter which I look forward to very much, I hope you will excuse the writing as I'm writing this letter in my hospital bed after a heart attack, but I hope to be home very soon.

In reading my Newsletter I notice at last names that I know from 1/6th Queen's, names such as Capt Thomson, John Noble and OC Yeo. I also was in the Carriers from 1937 till 1941, the Platoon Officer was Capt Cox next came Sgt Decks my pal who has been trying to find Cpl Ron Bennett.

I left the battalion to go to the 7th Armoured Brigade as transport Sgt.

The other letter I found was from N J Dyer about Boston in Lincs. I was billeted in the docks with the Carriers. My wife and I visit my sister in Louth every year and we go to Boston on market day (Wednesday). I also remember Capt Trench who I must say was a fine gentleman.

I must close now as the Sister has told me off. It was good to see some old names that I knew.

**S A Blay writes:**

Whilst on holiday in Scotland recently I met a dear lady from New Zealand. She tells me that in 1960 she sailed home from Alexandria to New Zealand on the Dutch Liner "Johan-Van-Oldenbarneveld". Many ex-members of 2/7th Queen's and 169 Brigade travelled on this ship when 56 London Division went overseas in 1942. She was then known as HMT 09.

When the local Maori people got to know this lady was going to visit Europe they brought small envelopes of New Zealand earth to her and asked her to scatter the earth on certain New Zealand graves.

She visited several War Cemeteries. This lady had among her friends the wife of General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC who you may recall was commander of 2nd NZ Division in North Africa and Italy during the Second World War. I was able to tell her that both the General and Lady Freyberg are at rest in St Martha's Church-yard just outside of Guildford.

This lady tells me that this great soldier and his wife were married at St Martha's some years before.

I am told the General presented the church with a silver plate or salver, which I understand is used for collections, as a momento of their marriage at this church. This lady seems to remember a plaque on the "Johan" from officers and other ranks commemorating the regiments link with the ship.

I was asked to take a photo of the graves and to place some flowers there on her behalf. This I was proud to do, and I have since written to her in Christchurch N.Zealand and sent her the photos she requested.

I realise that only a small part of this letter may be of interest to members of 169 Queens Brigade, but I felt that the contents were worth passing on to you.

**T Nunn writes from Farnham:-**

I really look forward to receiving my Newsletter, I served with the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1952 to 1955 in Tel-El- Kebir, Shorncliffe from where we took part in the 1955 Royal Tournament in Brunswick, Germany.

I would particularly like to hear from anyone who served with the Battalion during this period.

My address is:- 8 Wentworth Close, Weybourne, Farnham, Surrey. Telephone:- Aldershot 26837.

**F Roberts writes:-**

Thank you for publishing my letter, I have heard from a few members. I am sorry I cannot attend any functions owing to bad health, but I know at least there are still a few of us left.

**W C G Martin writes:-**

I very much enjoyed meeting Col Mieville at the Wolfe dinner and it was good of him to remember his offer to introduce me to the Association.

I must compliment you on the Newsletter. I found it most interesting, accurate too, in regard to experiences in which I participated. In 1940, I was collected on the 4th June by the last destroyer to battle in, the gallant HMS Codrington, and on landing us at Dover a naval officer expressed similar sentiments to those mentioned on page 19 of your newsletter.

I felt proud to be serving with The Queen's.

I look forward to the next Newsletter and would indeed like to join the Association. How good it is that the names of The Queen's and East Surreys will continue.

I enlisted in the 5th Queens. My late father was with The East Surreys on the Somme during the Great War.

**Major Hobrow MC writes:-**

I was very interested to see the photograph of No.1 Platoon, Jan. 1940. Sgt G. Lockwood was my platoon commander as he was in your photo for January 1940.

I too have a similar group photo of No.1 Platoon for March 1940 which may interest others. Those in the photo are (I have no record of initials) as follows:-

Andrews, Low, A Thomas, Taylor, Dyer D J (your initial correspondent) Patient, A H Coombe, Hill, Herd, Dyer T, Sibley, Bailey, Lake, Stevens, Dodd, Gosling, Leach, Ormonde, Dook, Lylis, Fuick, Norwell, Sawara, Coppard, Scarle, L/C Bailey, Sgt Lockwood, L/C Heath, Sasco, Kelly, Gould, Brooks, and myself A Hobrow.

After leaving Stoughton I had no further contact with any, as I was posted off to Wales and then to 1st Bn. Queen's in India and Burma.

I hope this may be of interest to those of that era.

I was very sorry to learn in the Newsletter of the death of RSM Lockwood recently.

**J W Rutherford writes:-**

I write again not to hog your letters page however but because I am intrigued by the contribution by R F Watson. The Faversham days are as clear in mind as any that followed in the war years ahead, and what I find strange is that in 1940 we shared the same oasthouse and fifty years later in 1990 we have shared the same letter page. I remember 'Curly' of course and others referred to particularly Wigmore who had a very boyish, happy face. He was small in stature and always stuck on my mind as being a jockey which is why no doubt I always enjoyed putting the gloves on and going a few rounds with him! Regrettably I lost touch with him and others when I was transferred to HQ Coy (Signals).

However the good news is that I have the company photo outside the oasthouse. The bad news (for me) is that I'm not on it! I was sent off to Canterbury to have a tooth yanked out on the big day. It was yanked out without ceremony so dead centre any grinning made me look an idiot. I spent the rest of the war with a hand at the ready to cover up the obscenity.

I don't want to risk losing the photograph in the post so I'll get a copy done and let our friend have it as soon as possible.

They were a great bunch of lads at D Coy, if you will pardon the expression, a great pity tragedy had to strike when we moved to Hythe where twelve to fourteen were killed in a minefield accident on the beach.

**A W E Hitchcock writes:-**

The Newsletter is always interesting but the last one perhaps more so to me as there were several references to the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment which were linked by Lt Col (later Brigadier) Armstrong. He may have been known as 'Wix' in

the 1st Bn, but in the three years he was with us in the 1/6th he was, and still is, always referred to as 'Nipper'.

The account of his action with the 1st Bn DWR is typical of him. In fact if the action at Mouscron is the one I think it is he was similarly involved there. Although not of great stature and older than most of the Bn, he would never expect anyone to do something he was not prepared to do. Of course there is the well documented story of the stray guardsman who wanted to tag along with us to get to Dunkirk. He was told to get shaved and smartened up first - and he did!

We were one of the few units to actually march - in aircraft formation along the beaches to the wooden jetty.

Before we left 'Nipper' insisted every man be fully armed and equipped "If you've lost your own there's plenty lying on the beach".

On a more humorous side while we sheltered during the day there were two French soldiers with a small tank in a garage across the road brewing coffee all day! When I and L/Cpl Moore lit a fire to brew some Bovril somebody suggested we put the fire out in case the Jerries saw it!.

#### Major Roy Thorburn writes from Queensland Australia:-

My friend Jack Allison in Sydney recently forwarded me the November issue of the Association Newsletter, together with copies of the other correspondence you sent him regarding the Association.

Jack and I were officers in the Australian Imperial Force who transferred to the British Army in India during the war. We were re-commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment and posted to the 2nd Battalion, with which I had had brief contact in the Middle East earlier on. When the War ended we felt it was not the best time to visit U.K., and in any event we had to set ourselves up in civvy life again, so we took our discharge back in Australia.

I was very interested in the comments on the unveiling of the Memorial in London to the Chindit Columns, and the photos of the Memorial and the three gentlemen from 2 Queen's. I wish I could recognise them, but it's been a long time and we may never have been together in the unit at the same time and place.

In case it is of interest I enclose a copy of "1661 and All That", a "publication" put out regularly in 2 Queen's while at Pashan in India in 1946. Probably the Regimental History shows clearly why the N.C.Os of 2 Queen's wore blue chevrons, and whether or not it applied in any other Queen's battalion. Anyway, we thought it was peculiar to us, and nobody out there had the courage to say otherwise.

#### Dr. Seigleman writes from Bury, Lancs:-

Thank you for writing to me and for sending a copy of the Newsletter. I found this to be most interesting and evoked lots of memories.

I joined The Queen's in a roundabout sort of way. During my G.S.C. training, I was sent to War Office Selection Board No.21 at Wrotham in Kent. Some passed, some failed, others, like myself, were deferred for "Pre-OCTU Training", and for this training we were sent to a special company in the oldest ENGLISH infantry regiment - namely The Queen's at Maidstone, in Kent.

I was reminded of all of this when I read the name R.S.M. Tasker in the article by R.S. on page 6.

R.S.M.Tasker was indeed a formidable character, we were all scared stiff of him. However, he had a great sense of humour, and I can still recall one of those Saturday morning parades, when we had made a complete mess of things, he said (and at this time all the talk was on when the Second Front would start) "Open a Second Front - you couldn't open a tin of milk", (We laughed - and we were all confined to Barracks).

The years have a habit of dimming one's powers of recall. I'm not clear of events, but after Maidstone, we went to Battalion training, and it was only after hostilities had finished that I was told that I would be sent to O.C.T.U. I had been accepted to study Medicine and I really wanted to start this. The thought of further army training did not exactly excite me - so I stayed "in the ranks".

Once at Medical School, I had little time for outside activities, so I didn't join the Association. I qualified, then specialised, and recently I retired. Only now can I start to "catch up" with neglected reading. Hence my interest in Regimental History.

"Better late than never". Yes, I should be delighted to join the Association and subscribe to the Newsletter.

#### Cop Shots

In 1925 to encourage rifle shooting and competitions in the Police Force, Captain (later Brigadier) Roupell V.C. (East Surreys) presented a cup to the Surrey Constabulary to be won yearly by the best shot in the Force. Captain Roupell was the son-in-law of the Chief Constable, Captain M.L. Sant (formerly of the Northumberland Fusiliers).

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:-

Mr and Mrs A V Rhodes who celebrated their Golden Wedding on April 6th 1990.

Mr and Mrs K Kettle who celebrated their Golden Wedding on March 19th 1991.

Captain and Mrs T Blumson who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on September 20th 1990.

Colonel L C East who celebrates his 90th birthday on May 22nd 1991.

Mr 'Clarrie' Jarman who celebrated his 94th birthday on May 7th 1991.

#### Best wishes to:-

Jack Homersham now recovering from an eye operation (1/5th and 2nd Queen's later 5th Queen's and 3rd Queen's Surrey's).

J J Moloney recovering from his second heart attack (1st Surreys).

A Elms recovering from a leg amputation (1/6th Queen's).

E. Lockwood recovering from a heart attack, and now retired from the Post Office.

#### Donations:

The President and Trustees wish to thank the under mentioned for their very generous donations to our funds:-

Mrs Manders in memory of a favourite nephew and other relatives who served in The Queen's.

V Longley, W Jeeves, 'Yorky' Atkins and all members who sent "a little extra for Association funds" with their subscriptions.

*Letter from Officer Commanding, Depot, The Queens to  
Guildford Town Council*

Stoughton Barracks,  
September 25th, 1905.

Dear Sir,

*This morning, Lance-Corporals Williams and Gould reported that their tunics had been damaged in rendering assistance at a fire in Friary Street.*

*I have inspected the tunics and find them to be very badly damaged, apparently by fire and water. The Master Tailor tells me that it will be impossible to clean them.*

*The tunics will therefore have to be replaced by new ones, on payment by these Lance-Corporals, at a cost of 15/- each.*

*I am therefore writing to ask if it is possible that these men could be compensated to the amount they will have to pay. They are both good Soldiers, and I think their version may be taken as correct.*

*Should the Guildford Urban Council be unable to deal with the case, perhaps you would kindly forward to the right person.*

Yours truly,  
CAPT. A. W. TRINGHAM,  
Officer Commanding  
Depot, The Queens

*Letter from Second Officer of the Guildford Fire Brigade to  
Officer Commanding Depot, The Queen's*

2nd October, 1905

Dear Sir,

*I have made enquiries into the circumstances of the case of the two soldiers referred to in your letter.*

*It appears that the two soldiers were, in the early stages, at the fire, and did what they could to help, with other volunteers, to put the fire out, but on the arrival of the Brigade, they only assisted in running out a line of hose from an hydrant and then turned their attention to the salvaging of some furniture which was being removed from a house occupied by Mrs Edwards.*

*Beyond running out a line of hose above referred to, I cannot find that their services were made use of by the Brigade, certainly they were not asked to assist by any officer of the Brigade.*

*I have enquired of the Police as to their statement that they were requested by the Police to assist them in keeping the crowd back. I am informed by Supt. Worlock that no such request was officially made.*

*I would suggest that their claim, (if any), should be made direct to the County Fire Insurance Company through their agent Mr. W. Emery, Auctioneer Guildford, as most of the property at risk is insured in that Office.*

I am Sirs,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
Arthur Wm. Hall.

### The Huntingdon Gun

Many of our readers will have seen the Prime Minister, Mr. John Major with other local civic dignatories assemble on the 15th February to witness the dedication of a replica gun which had been installed after the Crimea War. The original gun was removed during the Second World War to make munitions. Major Peter Hill has written to the County of Huntingdonshire's Archivist in an attempt to discover more details of how the original gun came to be installed in Huntingdon.

The association of The East Surreys with the County dates back to 1782 when it was decreed Infantry regiments should bear the name of a county in addition to its number. Thus the 31st Foot became the 31st Huntingdonshire Regiment. It was intended the regiment should draw recruits from the County, but there is no evidence of this being done. The 31st were never stationed in Huntingdon and we are not aware of any close association between them. This we believe was due to the regiment being overseas most of the time.

At the outbreak of the Crimean War in April 1854, the Regiment was in Corfu. They did not go to the Crimea until May 1855. They then took part in the siege of Sevastopol which fell in September 1855. For the next seven months, during the terrible winter of 1855/56, the 31st was employed in the destruction of the great docks and defences of Sevastopol, and in preparation for the Spring offensive, which, fortunately, did not materialise. There, presumably, they had access to the guns of the fortress, and may have acquired one as a war trophy.

Peace was concluded in April 1856 and the 31st were posted first to Gozo, then to Gibraltar and, in May 1858, to South Africa. After service in India and in the China War of 1860, the Regiment returned home in 1863. It is inconceivable that they were accompanied by this enormous gun, so how did Huntingdon get its gun, and was there any connection with the 31st? It is, of course, possible that guns were shipped home from the Crimea and erected in county towns at some later date.

There is an identical gun outside Ely Cathedral. The Queen's Regiment was represented at the ceremony by Colonel John Francis an old Surrey, three drummers from the 2nd Battalion, two in the uniform of today and the third one dressed as a drummer of the 31st in period uniform. He was carrying the Sevastopol drum which was captured by the 50th in the Crimea War.



## Croydon Airport

CROYDON will proudly remember their Queen's battalions in the 21st century. The Paschal Lamb cap badge was, together with the badges of the Royal Air Force, The Royal Regiment of Artillery and The Middlesex Regiment, buried by the Speaker of the House, Bernard Weatherill in a time-capsule under a new war memorial to be built on the old Croydon airfield, on March 16, 1991.

All badges were pinned to a button-stick. It is appropriate that the two services are linked together. For it was from Croydon airfield that the Few flew to meet the onslaught of the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain and amongst other Regiments The Queen's, Middlesex and men of AA Command RA guarded the landing strips.

Mr Alan Savage a former RAF pilot was the moving force behind the new memorial. He became Chairman of the appeal and with the help of his wife and a former Queensman Tom Mackrell the venture took off.

The War Memorial is to be in the shape of a twenty one foot high pillar surmounted by a golden albatross. Croydon Council have supported the project and donated the land. Many local firms have already been involved in the planning and preparatory work. The memorial will be surrounded by flowers. It is hoped that it will be opened later this summer. A further report will be in a future edition of the Newsletter.

TM



*Down it goes: Speaker of the House, Bernard Weatherill, buries a time capsule containing the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment and other items, into the unfinished War Memorial on Croydon airfield.*

*The 12th Queen's, who were an anti-aircraft defence battalion, manned the guns and searchlights on the airfield during the Battle of Britain*

## Evidence 45 years on.

Having served for some thirty-five years in the Devon Constabulary, later the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, I was interested in the letter published in the November 1990 Association Newsletter from the Superintendent of Police at Tavistock to Major Smalley of the 1st Surreys. There have always been and there still are police officers of all ranks who have held military commissions. However over the years the rules have been changed and it would not now be permissible to sign a letter in the way that Superintendent Gordon did in 1910. In the years of demobilisation after 1945 a number of returning police officers did attempt to combine their military and their police ranks, and also to display such ornaments as aircrrew or parachute wings upon police uniforms. Both practices were speedily prohibited by Home Office Circulars. Medals continued to be worn. At the present time only Chief Constables may properly combine any military and police ranks.



*'The Queen's Guard of Honour march past like Guards down the Mall after having stood at ease from the slope. K.K., Dizzy, C.S.M.Jones and me'.*

As is well known policemen tend to rely heavily upon 'notes made at the time'. After I read Bob Strand's account of the Guard of Honour provided for the King of Siam and Lord Louis Mountbatten in Bangkok in January of 1946 I could not for the life of me recollect Bob's giving the wrong word of command although with Dizzy Kirby I was one of the supporting officers on that parade. When, however I looked out one of my personal photographs of the March Past, which was as Bob Strand said a great success, what do I find written on its reverse in my own fair hand?

*'K.K.' is an abbreviation of 'Khristmas Knight'... a favourite saying of Bob Strand's!*

*(I enclose the 'evidence' for you to use if you wish but I would like it returned to me in due course please as it is unique and much treasured).*

A J P

## Golf Society

The Autumn meeting of the Golfing Society was held at Woking Golf Club on 4th October 1990. 16 members played in the morning round - the winners of the competitions being:-

Autumn Bowl:	H.P. Mason Esq.	(73 Net)
Glasgow Greys Cup:	Lt. Col. P.G.F.M. Roupell	(75 Net)
Heales Memorial Trophy	Lt. Col. F.B. Herd	(32 Pts)
Veterans Halo:	Lt. Col. G.S. Abbott	(35 Pts)
Petri Plate:	Colonel J.G.W. Davidson	(146 Net)

The afternoon Foursome competition was won by Brigadier M.J.A. Clarke and Major R.A. Green with 27 points over 14 holes.

The sweep was won by Colonel H.G. Greatwood.

VS

## Reminiscing By 6105316

'Down the lane of memory light is never dim,  
as long as life and memory lasts'

A quote which is most applicable to contributors of our Newsletter. But in some contradiction, I regret to admit, at present I am unable to recollect the origin of those few words. Suffice to say it now prompts me to try and recall some of the events back down that lane.

As a former Queensman and with apologies, may I mention I have only been a member of the Regimental Association for the past two years. So far in the Newsletter I have not come across mention of any former colleagues. If I recount a little perhaps it will jog a few memories somewhere?

I first became aware of the fine traditions and high standard of The Queen's Royal Regiment at the age of sixteen. On the 1st of July 1940, I joined the 3rd Cadet Battalion The Queen's based at The Barracks, Mitcham Road, Croydon.

We were issued with khaki service uniform including puttees, which thankfully were soon replaced with normal trousers. We wore peaked caps; tunics with the small Paschal lamb badges each side of the collar, and for a time the wide webbing belt until replaced by the narrow one. The smart regimental buttons glittered and set off so well after a good buffing for Sunday morning parades.

One Sunday the 18th August 1940, after returning to my home at Coulsdon, I experienced my first sight of a fatal wartime casualty. The Luftwaffe made determined attempts to wipe out our airfields. The fighter stations, Kenley and Biggin Hill only a few miles away each suffered two successive bombing attacks.

From the second wave of aircraft over Kenley, bombs straddled across Coulsdon North Railway sidings and vicinity. I ventured on my cycle to the town and saw damage to houses, buildings and some of the shops in Brighton Road. Shop windows shattered by the blast. A lone off duty Canadian soldier of Princess Patricia's Light Infantry was killed in the slip road outside 'The Red Lion' off licence. Units of that regiment and another Canadian unit, the Saskatchewan Regiment were stationed in the area at the time.

I left the cadets on the 7th November 1941, after enlisting to serve in the Queens. After signing on I received the King's shilling, a custom which I believe ceased some time ago? November the 13th gave me the first day and taste of actual Army service. This was on joining the 13th ITC at Invicta Lines, Maidstone, Kent.

Early in 1942 some of us were posted to join what was then known as The Young Soldiers Battalion: 70th Queens at Exmouth, Devon. There we continued training and to carry out duties in connection with coastal and home defence.

On the night 23/24 April 1942, the bombing raid on Exeter took place. Following that for some days we were transported to the city daily; to assist the AFS and Civil Defence Services in search for survivors, recovery of remains, clearing rubble and salvage of belongings from the ruins. Prior to that date one lunchtime, a lone raider flew in low from the coast and dropped bombs in a residential area near our billets.

We subsequently moved northwards in the county to Lincombe near Ilfracombe and under canvas. Our training continued. We marched in file up and down the hills and dales, along field hedgerows and across moorland of that beautiful county. The occasional breaks would see many pairs of legs raised up against the grassy banks. A short respite for them and the feet, sometimes after quite lengthy spells on the move.

On the 25th September 1942, we moved to the adjoining county of Somerset, to St Audries Camp, Bicknoller, where we were stationed for a short time.

Came the time to move on again by train to London, followed by a longer rail journey north to Stranraer. Thence across the Irish Sea to Larne and eventually to our destination, Ballykindlar Camp, County Down, Northern Ireland. There the 17th Primary Training Centre was formed and I became a Junior Instructor. Cadre and other courses took place and in time promotion to Sergeant followed.

Many Queensmen initially formed the bulk of instructors, but gradually officers and NCO's from other regiments came.

Amongst the Queensmen, I remember some names as follows: Capt. G. E. Grimsey, CSMs Moore and Cheeseman. Sgts. P. McAdam, Tom Perry, Ted Pemberton, Dougie Luff, Sadie Sadgrove, Bill Muir, Ned Elkins, Norman Reader, Bill Everett, Bill Langridge and Dunkeld. The latter put us through gruelling exercises in full kit at Exmouth, after he returned from a Battle Training Course. Cpl. West, Lewis and Jimmy Ling (PTI) and L/Cpl. Thornton. Those names might bring back memories to contributors of the Newsletter, and possibly mine will ring a bell or two because of the unusual surname.

The only time in my service I actually entered the former Depot, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, was for kit out with civvies on the day I was demobbed.

In concluding I wish to add congratulations to all those responsible for producing the Newsletter and the high standard maintained. Also to mention the lapel badge. The Paschal lamb set on such a neat background has given rise to many favourable comments of the attractive design

GFB

*Any reader wishing to contact GFB please write direct to*

*G. F. Battams*

*25, Roakes Avenue,  
Addlestone,  
Surrey. KT15 2HF*

## Laundry

Slumped in my armchair one afternoon lazily dreaming of the war years it suddenly occurred to me that those unsung heroines, the laundry girls of Hampshire, have never received their due recognition. Their role in raising the morale of the soldiery of The 1st East Surreys stationed in Bournemouth, Ringwood and surrounding areas deserves to be told.

During 1940/41 it was the custom for troops' laundry to be handled by civilian firms. The clean washing was returned in rolled bundles neatly, but not always correctly, labelled with the owner's name, or one roughly resembling it.

Occasionally a soldier would discover a note rolled up between his socks and underpants. The message contained in the note was usually unmistakeable and succinct. An example: 'Dear soldier, meet me at 7.30 on Friday outside the George and Dragon and I'll give you a good time'. What was meant by a good time was left to the imagination, but it could reasonably be assumed it would not involve an interminable game of ludo with an elderly laundress smelling of Sunlight soap and Robin starch. Sometimes the message was more explicit and contained a graphic description of the writer's physical attributes.

I am not aware of the number of soldiers who availed themselves of these offers but I understand it was not inconsiderable. I believe at least one permanent liaison resulted from these wartime blind dates.

HWS

## David Clemens, 2 Surreys.

Ex Japanese Prisoner of War, Ex top class athlete, Ex civil servant and currently the Great Tey Postman and President of Colchester Joggers Club Mr David "Clem" Clemens has just had 1,000 copies of his autobiography published to help two local charities.

The book at £5.00 describes his early life in London, army life and prisoner of war experiences in some detail, he also records all of his major races and times for half and full marathons worldwide.

He hopes to raise £3,000 from the sale of the book to give away to the North Essex Branch of the Far East Prisoners of War Association of which he is Vice Chairman and Hamilton Lodge the local charity for handicapped people. Now 75, Clem has been fund-raising for these and other charities for several years and hopes to continue doing so for many more to come. Books are available from Mr Clemens by telephoning Colchester (0206) 240374 or by sending a cheque for £5.00 + £1.00 postage to him at - 28 Erle Havard Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex - Cheques payable to Clem Book Account.

The book contains 96 pages is printed on very good quality paper and would make a perfect present.

## Nothing Changes

In January, 1921 the 2nd East Surreys moved to Dublin for duties in connection with troubles caused by "a fresh outburst of the Sinn Fein Movement".

On June 1st a light lorry in which members of the Regiment were returning from duty at the Customs House was ambushed by rebels. L/Cpl Goddard was mortally wounded and Sgt Crowley was slightly wounded. The driver of the lorry, Pte Lineker, R.A.S.C., displayed great courage in that, although

seriously wounded in the legs and face he drove the vehicle back to Marlborough Hall, where the Battalion was quartered, a distance of about two miles from the scene of the ambush, and then collapsed on arrival. His wounds necessitated the amputation of a leg. He was awarded the BEM for his courage and devotion to duty.

RF

## Museum Notes

The museum opened for the 1991 season on Good Friday and will remain open until 30th October when the National Trust house at Clandon Park closes for the winter. We look forward to another good season and especially to those occasions when the museum comes into its own as the focal point for the Regiment - The President's reception for Mayors on 31st May and the Open Day on 28th September.

There were many favourable comments about the excellent appearance of the museum by the large number of visitors over the Easter weekend which were a tribute to the volunteers who had worked so hard during the winter to clean, polish and meticulously replace the several thousand medals and other items on display. We were greatly helped by a team from the Walton-on-Thames NADFAS and we were very glad to welcome a newcomer to our own group, Mrs Ann Cullis whose first husband, 2/Lt M.A. Edwardes MC was killed in action with The Surreys in May 1940. His award of the Military Cross was one of the first in the Second World War.

Thanks to generous financial support from Regimental and Territorial funds it was possible during the winter to complete two major structural improvements. One was the insertion of attractive looking cupboards under the display cabinets. They now provide easily accessible storage space. The other was the refurbishment of Room 2 which now appears far more spacious, and is a more striking presentation of our former regiments in the colonial wars at the turn of the century and in the First World War. Both have been major enterprises which could not have been successfully completed without the dynamic support of Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson.

Various other activities have also occupied us during the winter. As a result two attractive booklets are now on sale in the museum shop. They are 'The Queen's in Burma 1943 - 1945' and 'The Surreys in Malaya 1941 - 42'. They have replaced the previous booklets which had the same titles and they contain a good deal of new material. Also nearing completion is Lieutenant Colonel Anson Squire's monumental compilation of an album containing photographs and a summary of service of former commanding officers between 1939 and 1967. A request for photographs of the few which he has been unable to obtain is going out with this Newsletter. Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis's book, 'Salerno Remembered' continues to attract much interest in the shop.

The museum also benefits from donations. We have immensely appreciated a bequest to the museum by the late Colonel John Kcally, and we remember the great pleasure he gave to the many Old Comrades who knew him by his steadfast attendance on Open Days. We also received a substantial donation from Lieutenant Colonel E.C. Mansel RA (Rtd) who visited the museum at Easter. He had two brothers in The Queen's - J.W.M. Mansel in the 2/5th, and Major M.L. Mansel in the 1st Battalion who was killed at Kohima.

From the foregoing remarks it will be apparent that our dedicated working party spends a lot of time on improvements. We also have to look to the future and of particular interest in that respect was a report compiled recently by Admiral Sir David Williams, a former Second Sea Lord, for the Museums

and Galleries Commission on the future of military museums. Sir David considered that many museums would close without proper funding on the basis of a co-ordinated museum service. He said "In terms of educating tomorrow's citizens, keeping the services in the public eye and improving public understanding of their role and importance, the museums are part of the fabric of the services; not a desirable extra, but a quintessential part. We believe it is in the defence interest to acknowledge this". Elsewhere in the report he recommended more involvement of Services museums in the local museum community and he criticized some museums for being too narrow in their outlook. He considered that "Too many army museums, despite paying lip service to the need to attract and educate the general public, are still aiming their displays primarily at the regimental family and at the military historian. Few try to show how a regiment, historically and now, fits into the wider structure of the army". For our part he would always welcome new ideas and suggestions in the display of our exhibits, particularly from our old soldiers and their families.

MJAC

### A Penny For Them

By the time this is published (and I leave that decision in the capable hands of your Editor) I shall have completed my first full year at the Clandon museum. Firstly, I should like to thank the surprisingly large number of people who said such nice things about my previous contribution. This only confirms my suspicion that I am surrounded by extremely supportive and polite people!

During this first year, I have encountered many challenges. Being married to an educationalist has taught me to embrace the concepts of "the best way of learning is by doing" and "learning is an experience which continues throughout life". Bearing these in mind, I found myself precipitated headlong into the "open" period of the museum (between Easter and October). After only a week or two of induction into the mysteries of medals and regimental history I was plunged into the situation of having to answer visitors' queries, look after the shop and the day to day admin. tasks, not to mention attending the regimental social activities which take place on site. Here I should like to pay tribute to our gallant band of volunteers who so cheerfully gave their time to help us over busy weekends and from whom I have learnt a great deal. I had to find my way round the archival material very rapidly but with the constant support of our Curator, I began to be able to cope with some of the queries by myself. I discovered also that there exists an enormous backup of help and information from the Hon. Archivist (John Woodroffe) and the Trustees whose devotion to the smooth running of the museum never ceases to amaze me.

One strange incident sticks in my mind: what is the answer to the question "what do they do with retired army officers?" A visitor to the museum and I explored this in some depth and I am afraid that it was some time before I realized that this particular visitor had arrived fresh(?) from one of the excellent liquid lunches available from the restaurant next door! The options/suggestions we came up with eventually are not really repeatable here.

After having stated in my last article that my background was Naval, I have since discovered from my father that I am more "kosher" than at first believed. My great and great great grandfathers were both regulars in the Army, the former being a Major. It was his son, my grandfather, who broke the tradition and joined the Navy. He actually rose to quite elevated heights, becoming Paymaster Director General. My father has given me his own and my grandfather's medals and papers and

photographs which I am proud to possess and which I intend in due course to hand on to the Royal Naval Museum.

Our own museum's hectic "open" season ended on the last day of September and I laboured under the misapprehension that the "closed" season would be a quiet period - a time in which to catch up on research, increase my knowledge of regimental history, visit other military museums etc., etc. This was not to be. As visitors to this coming season will discover, enormous plans have been put into effect to completely refurbish one of the rooms. This has to be incorporated into the normal winter routine of cleaning the contents of all the display cases and medals. The ensuing challenge was made the more possible by an intrepid group of volunteers from NADFAS who braved everything the weather and I could throw at them and cheerfully worked their way through case after case of medals and priceless objects d'art in order to render the museum fit for another season of viewing. One of the volunteers christened me "Percy" after a well known Sergeant Major - I hope he did not really mean it!

I believe I owe something to my strange hobbies for having kept me physically and mentally fit (although my colleagues may disagree with the latter!). During the winter season I have had to handle and catalogue approximately 200 heavy albums of photographs, remove cases of medals for cleaning which contain upwards of 50 medals apiece, crawl into display cases, create a new filing system and generally attempt to retain some degree of sanity during the refurbishment referred to above. However, due to the incredible commitment of the people involved - Trustees, volunteers, carpenters, decorators, regular staff and other devotees, the work was to all intents and purposes completed and ready for viewing by the public by March 29th.

Amazingly, also, I did manage to fulfil some of my self-appointed aims of inservice training and during days off visited other military museums and joined a trip to Ypres during which we visited many sites which had hitherto been only names in the regimental histories. This trip also included the Armistice Day Service at the Menin Gate and an association with four marvellous veterans of the First World War whose reminiscences and very presence brought history alive for me. I am intending to go to the Somme in July.

P.S. As some of you know by now, the unusual hobbies which I referred to in my last article and in this one are a Japanese and Chinese Martial Art and the ancient country craft of hedgelaying. Although I have not as yet had to use the martial arts in self defence, they did stand me in good stead on one occasion during the winter period. A volunteer and I had unlocked a showcase and were walking away to fetch help to remove a piece of plate glass measuring about 6 feet x 5 feet when it started to fall out from the top. I found myself using my "zanshen" and "ki" and executing a "tenkan" and was able to catch it before it hit the ground!

PJ

### Commanding Officers

An album is being prepared for the Museum containing photographs and a summary of service of every officer who commanded a Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment or The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment between 1939 and 1967. There are 144 Commanding Officers in that period and photographs have been obtained of all except the following:-

2/5 Queen's  
B C Pincombe (Beds & Herts)

13 (HID) Queen's  
P H Macklin (RWK) \*

1/6 Queen's  
E P Sewell (SWB)

11 (HD) Queen's  
J P L Mostyn

12 (HD) Queen's  
A B Passmore

1 Surreys  
W B S J A E Wilberforce (KOYLI)

2 Surreys  
K T Roper (Dorset)  
H N C Wyburd (KRRC)  
W M Knatchbull (RWK)

1/6 Surreys  
C G S McAlester (KOSB)

2/6 Surreys  
P H Macklin (RWK) \*  
D C Coates (Buffs)

From an earlier period photographs are wanted of the following Commanding Officers:-

1 Surreys  
P B Stafford 1923

5 Surreys  
W H Hatchard-Smith 1930-34

If anyone has a photograph of any of the above mentioned officers whether as an individual or in a group will he please lend it to the Muscum for copying and safe return. The address is The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7RQ.



## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?

### The Surreys in Italy

This is the title of the latest Regimental booklet, now in course of preparation by members of the Regimental Museum Committee. It will cover the 1st Battalion in Sicily, and the 1st and 1/6th Battalions in Italy.

As before, the intention is to record what it was like to be in an infantry battalion in and out of the line, in winter and in summer, in good times and in bad.

Reminiscences would be welcomed by Mrs Daphne Hill, C/O The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford, GU4 7RQ.

**Mrs S. Hodgeson** is seeking assistance to trace her Father. Captain Kenneth Hardy served in 1/5th Queens and was present at the battle of Medenine and the capture of Tunis. Mrs. Hodgeson never knew her Father and does not know if he is alive or dead. Any information on his present whereabouts, if alive, or, if any of our readers can assist Mrs. Hodgeson with any information concerning him and are

14 (HD) Queen's  
A C Pegg (Ret Indian Army)  
A Cor R A Wilkinson

70 (YS) Queen's  
E R P Berryman

10 Surreys  
H J S Brooke (RWK)

70 (YS) Surreys  
W G Horton (Scot Gds)  
T A Martin (Essex)  
A T le M Utterson (R Leicesters)

12 I T C  
C R Howe (Buffs)

prepared to contact her, please write to her at Ormonde House, Bere Ferrers, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7JY.

**P Rose** is trying to contact old mates from his wartime days:- I am writing to ask for some information about the Regiment's Association with the hope of maybe getting in touch with some of my old East Surrey mates. I enlisted in May 1940. I was posted to the 70th Bn (Young Soldiers) and reported to Rochester Airport for kitting out and the same day went on to Milton Barracks Gravesend Kent for basic training.

After training we then went to the RAF aerodrome at Gravesend for Ack-Ack and guard duties and remained there through the Battle of Britain.

Next we went to Redhill (Surrey) RAF airfield, and then to Friston near Seaford Sussex.

Finally a spell in the area of Vickers aircraft works at Weybridge, Surrey.

This area was my last posting with The Surrey's. Altogether I had spent two very happy years - if somewhat hectic, sown in "Bomb Alley", except for a few days, with the Regiment.

Battalion HQ, at that time, was at Byfleet, and from there at the end of April I was transferred to the RAC 54th Training Regiment at Perham Down, did my training I was posted to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards with whom I served till I was demobilised in Sept 1946.

Any member who may be able to assist is asked to write to Mr P Rose direct at:-  
35 Durant Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7SR.

**Mr B Hann** is trying to find out details of his Father's service during the Second World War. His father was 5729937 Leslie George Hann. He enlisted on 18th April 1940 and is believed to have served with the 8th Army in North Africa & Italy. It is known that he served with the Queen's but his rank and battalion are not known. If you can assist please contact Mr Hann at 2 Butlers Gardens, Frome, Somerset BA11 1LZ Tel No: 0373 - 71467.

**A Fielder** also wishes to contact old mates:- As one of the survivors of 17 Platoon D Company 1 Surreys, he is anxious to contact any other member who was at Fort McGregor, North Africa on 26th February 1943. Since those days he has met one other Surrey Private "Wag" Harris. Any member wishing to contact Mr Fielder can do so by writing to 197 Field Road, Feltham, MX. TW14 0BQ.

### New Publications

The Regimental booklets on the operations of The Queen's in Burma, 1943-45, and The 2nd Surreys in Malaya, 1941-42, have been revised and second editions are now available.

The narratives are naturally based on our excellent Regimental Histories, but are augmented by a number of personal accounts which give a good impression of what it was like to be a foot soldier in those campaigns. There are additional maps, photographs and reminiscences and each booklet now has an index of personal names.

The booklets are obtainable from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Clandon Park, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ, price £2.50, post free.

STAND  
EASY!

THANK  
YOU!



## Regimental Deaths

*Allred* - On 3rd March 1991, Sergeant Frank Allred, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Barnes* - On 22nd November 1990, Lieutenant Francis Harold Barnes, aged 96 years, Honourable Artillery Company and 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Bellows* - On 1st November 1990, Private Ron (Tich) Bellows, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Bunhill* - On 17th September 1990, Colour Sergeant Alec Walter Bunhill, aged 73 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Carpenter* - On 23rd October 1990, Private John Carpenter, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*Churchlow* - On 6th March 1991, Private Charles Churchlow, aged 97 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Craig-Adams* - On 8th April 1991, Major Ian Maxwell Craig-Adams, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Cruse* - On 5th November 1990, Captain Edward Alfred Cruse TD, aged 73 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the 1/5th and 2/5th Battalions.

*Desmond* - On 2nd April 1991, Sergeant Harry Desmond, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Edney* - On 16th November 1990, Major John Edward Edney MBE, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*French* - On 10th December 1990, Major Edward "Tiny" Martin French MC, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The Queen's Royal Regiment. Major French served with the 1/7th Bn The Queen's in the desert, Italy and NW Europe. He was wounded in France.

*Gatcum* - On 23rd January 1991. WOII CSM Ted Gatcum, The East Surrey Regiment and The Royal Sussex Regiment.

*Gostling* - On 22nd February 1991, Orderly Room Sergeant E W A Gostling, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Gunton* - On 23rd January 1991, Private Tom Gunton, aged 90 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Guy* - On 7th March 1991, Major Reginald Charles Guy MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Hall* - On 1st November 1991, Colour Sergeant Francis "Jack" Hall, aged 75 years, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hazelton* - On 15th February 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Hazelton.

*Hulbert* - On 3rd April 1989.

*Kealy* - On 24th November 1990, Colonel John Basley Hope Kealy DSO DL, aged 83 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*King* - On 26th October 1990, Private Alf King, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Kirk* - On 9th February 1989.

*Lancaster* - On 10th November 1990, Sergeant Harry Lancaster MM, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Mitchell* - On 9th April 1990, Major Marcus James Mitchell, aged 76 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Roseman* - On 4th November 1990, Lance Corporal Henry Albert William Roseman, aged 67 years, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Sims* - On 18th April 1990, Sergeant Ernest Harry William Sims, aged 80 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Snowdon* - On 26th January 1991, Colonel Douglas Challenor Snowdon TD, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

*Warren* - On 11th March 1991, Lew Warren, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Watson* - In June 1990, Ronald Watson, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Regimental Families

*Coughlan* - On 2nd November 1990, Mrs. Flora Coughlan, beloved wife of Paddy Coughlan, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

*Gaywood* - On 4th January 1991, Mrs. Catherine Rosemary Gaywood, widow of Major F J Gaywood MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Kealy* - On 1st February 1991, Mrs. Eve Muriel Kealy, widow of Major Peter Kealy, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Leyland* - On 1st October 1990, Mrs. Peggy Leyland, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Roy Leyland OBE.

*Ling* - On 13th December 1990, Mrs. Sheelah Phyllis Ling, aged 74 years, wife of Major General Fergus Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL.

*Newton* - On 30th December 1990, Mrs. Helen Marjorie Newton, wife of Major Arthur H Newton, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Reindorp* - On 25th January 1991, Mrs. Bridget Reindorp, wife of the late Bishop George Reindorp. Previously Lady William Mullens, President of The Cranleigh Company 1/5th Queen's.

*Wenn* - On 7th January 1991, Mrs. Olive Eva Wenn wife of Captain G. Wenn, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Obituaries

### Colonel J B H Kealy DSO DL

When Nancy asked me to read the lesson at John's funeral service it was, to me, a very special privilege. John Kealy had been my Commanding Officer in 2/6th Queen's in 1943 when I was the junior subaltern in the Battalion. He was one of the few natural leaders I have met in my life. He assumed command at a particularly difficult time when Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Wilson was killed at Enfidaville in Tunisia in

April 1943 during our first battle. Yet in little more than four months he had restored the morale of the Battalion to a peak for the assault landing in Italy at Salerno.

During the critical battle for the beach head he created an incredible atmosphere of calm and confidence. Although often frightened I never feared the outcome, because I think we all had an instinctive trust that the boss would see us through. He always seemed to be at hand in the tight corners with a quiet word. Indeed I never heard him raise his voice; he spoke to his men with a civil tongue and, unbelievably to the rest of us, seemed to be able to address them all by name. In a crisis he acted swiftly with courage and conviction. In the first major counter-attack against the Battalion, he did not for a moment accept the faint hearted view that our position was lost because it had been infiltrated and out flanked. He countermanded the order which someone had given to the gunners to fire on our own, supposedly abandoned positions and when he found men coming back from the forward companies, in his own words, "I got hold of Joe Ridings, a tough Yorkshireman who commanded the Anti-Tank Platoon, and put him in command and sent them back on carriers". For all his quiet and unassuming ways, at the critical moment of the battle he acted with resolution and everyone knew the form. So we were all delighted when subsequently he was awarded the DSO for his leadership of the Battalion.

Sadly in November 1943 he was severely wounded by an anti-personnel mine at Monte Cassino. He never fully recovered and was restricted to Home service for the rest of his military career. But for this I have little doubt that he would have risen to high rank.

After the war he commanded 5th Queen's (TA) at Guildford from 1947 - 51 when he retired from the Army to become Secretary of Sussex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association. In 1976 he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Sussex. During retirement he was also Honorary Colonel of 5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) and later of 3rd Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).

John and Nancy married at St Paul's Camberley on 3rd July 1937 and over the years their love and devotion to each other has been clear for all to see. In 1948 their daughter Elizabeth died and on 1st February 1979 their son Michael, who was commissioned into The Queen's Regiment and awarded the DSO in Oman, tragically died while on training. Yet despite, or perhaps even strengthened by such sadness within their family they maintained an infectious enthusiasm for life.

The Kealys have always been at the centre of our Regimental life. John's brother Peter also served in the Regiment and his sister Betty married another distinguished and very popular Queensman, Brigadier Jimmy Sykes-Wright, while his younger brother Nigel provided the gunner support.

John's enduring love of his Regiment will probably be especially remembered by those who served under his command in the 2/6th and 5th Queen's. To us he remained "the boss" and we shall continue to talk about him at the reunions which he enjoyed so much, moving among "his lads" and still addressing them by name.

He will be greatly missed and our very sincere sympathy goes to Nancy and to Betty and Nigel.

GBC

### Commander R.J.L. Hammond OBE RN

Members of The Queens Royal Regiment, particularly those who played cricket, will have been saddened to read of the death in the New Year of "Wally" Hammond. In the obituary in the Daily Telegraph he was described as the Royal Navy's finest sportsman of modern times. And as a gunnery officer he played for H.M.S. *Excellent* against The Queens whenever he could between 1935 and 1958, being only unable to play in the last match in 1959 due to injury. As a distinguished sportsman - he gained 50 Royal Navy rugger caps, played cricket for the Navy over 22 years and Squash over 20 years - he liked to win and didn't take to sloppiness kindly. On his last appearance at Stoughton Barracks in 1957 he was run out for a smallish score and retired to the pavilion with the remark to his partner "Commander - if you had any eyes in your head you would have seen that you had called for a run to the only member of the Queen's who can field" - that fielder, who threw the wicket down from extra cover, was our present President.

However asperity was entirely passing - Wally Hammond was a man of humour and kindness, who graced very many sports grounds, including Lord's and Twickenham, in addition to Stoughton Barracks and "Whale - y".

JWS

### Major I M Craig-Adams

Ian Maxwell Craig-Adams, affectionately known in the Surreys as 'Bundo', died on 8th April 1991. He had led a colourful and adventurous life, and this warm hearted and popular man will be missed by many friends.

Ian was born on 3rd October 1917 in India, his father being in the Indian Army, and was educated at Cranbrook. From school he went on to Art College, his special interest being calligraphy, and at one time was torn between an artistic and a military career. Fortunately for his future soldiers he chose the latter and (in 1937) enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment, where he became a junior NCO and distinguished himself in the Battalion boxing team.

Following the outbreak of the war Ian was commissioned into the (7th Battalion) Rajputs and fought in Burma. After the war he gained a regular commission with his old Regiment, the Surreys, and served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, and with the 1st Battalion in Greece and Somalia before returning to Barnard Castle with the Battalion in 1950.

Ian however soon yearned to be back in the warmer (in more than one sense of the word) climes, and in 1952 volunteered for Malaya; there he served with the 5th Battalion the Malay Regiment in operations against the Communist insurgency for two years. In 1955 he rejoined 1st Surreys and served firstly in Shorncliffe and then in Brunswick in BAOR as Commander of 'A' Company.

It was not long before Ian's adventurous spirit nudged him again, and in 1956 he joined the Trucial Oman Scouts, and served in the Arabian Gulf, based in Sharjah, for ten years. There are many stories of his successful soldiering with the T.O.S. many reflecting his humour and individuality.

In 1966 Ian volunteered for service in Zambia, and after a short time with the Headquarters of the Zambian Army he moved to the 3rd Battalion The Zambian Regiment to serve once more with soldiers which he preferred to working on the Staff.

In 1970, after he had left the Army, Ian became the Military Recruiting Officer for the United Arab Emirates, working in the Abu Dhabi Government Office in London.

Our sympathy goes to Ian's wife Rosie and their family, at this time.

JBR

#### Colonel D.C. Snowdon, TD

Douglas Challoner Snowdon, who died unexpectedly at the end of January 1991, was a distinguished and popular Officer.

Douggie was born on 20th November 1919, and educated at Dulwich College. He soon entered the military life, joining the Territorial Army at the age of 17. He was commissioned as a Territorial Officer into The Queen's Royal Regiment on the 15th January 1938; in 1940 he fought in France with the 1st/7th Queens, returning with the same battalion via Dunkirk.

It appears that his potential as an outstanding staff officer was recognised early in his career; after an appointment as ADC to Major General James Steel, GOC 59th (Staffordshire) Division, he moved on, in October 1941, to become GSO 3 in the same Division, and in November 1942 he was appointed GSO 2. He was a key figure in the training of the Division for the Normandy invasion and its subsequent success was a reflection of his excellent work.

Douggie attended Staff College Camberley in 1944 and from there, after a few months with The Royal West Kents in the Shetland Islands, joined Admiral Mountbatten's Staff in Ceylon, helping to plan the liberation of Malaya. After the collapse of Japan in August 1945 he was sent to Siam where, as a Major, he accepted the surrender of a Japanese Division. This, he said, included hundreds of horses and 21 elephants!

A fortunate posting followed; he became ADC to the Governor of Singapore, Sir Franklyn Gimpson. Judy was Sir Franklyn's younger daughter and Douglas and she were married when he returned home in 1950 to be Adjutant of 1 Queens.

Following staff appointment in Egypt and Washington, and regimental soldiering with The Queens in BAOR and as Battalion second-in-command with the Ghanaian Army, Douglas was appointed Commanding Officer of 1st Royal Sussex in Shorncliffe on 17th September 1962. This period of command was both highly successful and busy. It included public duties in London (when Douggie lunched with HM The Queen) and a tour in Malta with training in Libya. His battalion's performance was acclaimed by all, and this was a great source of pride to him.

In March 1967 he was appointed Regimental Colonel of the then recently formed Queen's Regiment at Canterbury. He was ideal for the post, having served in three of the six former regiments, and having commanded one of them. All his qualities and his personality helped ensure that the new Regiment got off to an excellent start.

After retiring from the Army on 2nd May 1974 Douggie served as an RO in MS HQ South West District for ten years; finally leaving the Queen's Service in 1984.

He continued to be fully active, helping the Salisbury Cathedral Spire Appeal with outstanding effect, as Chairman of the Fovant Branch of the Conservative Association, and as a Member of the Fovant Badges Society Committee.

He was also Treasurer of the Brimclose Fishing Club.

Douglas was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1950, became an Officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in May of the same year, and was made an Officer of the House of Orange in 1963.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Judy his wife and to Christopher and Catherine his son and daughter.

JBR

#### Major R.C. Guy, MC

Reggie Guy was educated at Rutlish School where he made a strong impression both academically and on the sports field. He became School Captain and went on to read Physics at London University.

He joined 1/6th Surreys in 1939 from the Supplementary Reserve of Officers, and by 1940 was commanding a Company in action with the BEF in France and Belgium. During the withdrawal to the Dunkirk beaches Reggie displayed the qualities of courage and tenacity linked with compassion which were to be his hall marks throughout his active service.

On return to the UK Reggie was appointed acting Brigade Major of 10th Infantry Brigade until 1942 when he was detached for a few months as Chief Instructor to an American Army Corps. It was here that a further characteristic became evident - his outstanding talent as an instructor - which was to influence his later career.

Back with 1/6th Surreys as "C" Company Commander, Reggie was with the force which landed in North Africa on 23rd March 1943 and which took part in the Spring Offensive in Tunisia. The fighting was fierce and on 20th April 4th Infantry Division, of which 1/6th Surreys was a part, was facing determined resistance by a strong German force from a hill known as Jebel Jaffa. This stronghold, with command of the pass, had to be cleared and the Surreys were ordered to do so.

On the afternoon of 21st April "A" Company began the assault but was pinned down by overwhelming fire on the flanks of the Jebel. With covering fire from "B" Company, "C" Company, under Reggie, continued the attack. The Commanding Officer, Colonel Bruno, accompanied the advance and, after bloody fighting, the Company was within twenty yards of the top of the Jebel. Every attempt to continue, however, proved impossible and Colonel Bruno ordered "C" Company to withdraw under cover of smoke. A few moments later the CO was killed. Reggie withdrew his Company coolly and successfully although the situation was desperate. On the following day the Jebel was taken by the Surreys. Reggie was badly wounded during this engagement, but this did not deter him. For conspicuous leadership during this and a previous action on 13th April, Reggie was awarded an immediate Military Cross. He was finally discharged from hospital a year later, but was medically downgraded thereafter. However this did not prevent him from taking over command of a company of 2/6th Surreys on his release from hospital. From August 1944 the accent in Reggie's career was very much on training, where he had so much ability. He commanded 12th Infantry Training Centre and 31st Primary Training Centre, became Chief Instructor at the Army Methods of Instruction Centre and finally, his last job on the active list was to be appointed GSO2 Training at RMA Sandhurst. Major Toby Taylor, commenting upon his ability as an Instructor has written:- "Whatever Reggie did, or those under him, had to be of the highest standard. He would never accept anything second rate. As a result when I served under him at AMIC, he was meticulous in everything which he did, and of course we followed his example. When lecturing at the War Office he was always streets ahead of his audience and his lectures largely formed the modern training methods in the Army".

In between post war postings to establishments concerned with training and instructing Reggie served on the Staff in Egypt (1949-52) at the War Office (1953-55) and at the Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence (1959-62). He also served Regimentally as 2 i/c to the 1st Bn. Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment (1948/9) and with 1 Surreys in BAOR initially as HQ Company Commander and then as Bn 2 i/c in 1955-57. Major Noel Pepperall has written a tribute concerning this period and which appears in the Newsletter Postbag.

On his retirement from the Army in 1970 Reggie became RO3 Training at RMA Sandhurst up to 1981, an ideal post in every way. He then continued on a voluntary basis at Sandhurst as Honorary Archivist right up to 1991.

It is fitting to end on a further note from Major Toby Taylor's letter:- "To have served with Reggie was a privilege: he was a great regimental officer and of course Joan was a terrific support. He was badly wounded in Tunisia but he never mentioned it although it hampered him in many ways. He was a marvellous man".

Our sincere sympathy goes to Joan, Rowland and Tuffy at this time.

JBR

#### A Personal Tribute Major R C Guy, MC

When Reggie came to 1 Surreys in Brunswick to command Headquarters Company in 1955 those of us his juniors, who had not previously known him, were nevertheless aware of the high reputation he had earned on active service. He soon impressed us with the thoroughness and good humour with which he came to grips with his sprawling command and with the hospitality he and Joan showed to his subordinates.

Perhaps an abiding recollection I have of Reggie will serve to illustrate the kindness and consideration so many would wish to acknowledge. When I was appointed skiing officer Reggie did everything possible to spare me the considerable administrative problem of rotating Companies to the Harz camp leaving me solely with the pleasure of the ski training. This he achieved efficiently and cheerfully allowing himself only the occasional visit to the slopes with his family.

We served together less than a year some 35 years ago and contact since has been limited to christmas cards and brief encounters at Regimental re-unions; yet I feel the loss of a close friend and extend my deepest sympathy to Joan and to Tuffy and Roland of whom he was so proud.

NGP

#### ORQMS E W A Gostling

I first met Ted Gostling - or Goz as he preferred to be called - in the hot summer of 1940. He breezed into Battalion Headquarters to apply for a position as clerk in the Orderly Room which at that time was under the benevolent administration of ORQMS 'Dusty' Roads and his henchman, Sgt R H (Matty) Mathias. He got the job and thus I began an association with him that lasted until 1945 when he was posted to Greece and I to Trieste to await demobilisation.

During the intervening years Goz applied himself to the various duties connected with the administration of an infantry battalion and his diligence was eventually rewarded when he was promoted ORQMS in North Africa, Dusty Roads having remained in England when the 1st Battalion went overseas and Matty posted to GHQ Algiers.

Goz's droll sense of humour endeared himself to all who knew him. He was particularly amused by the quaint Army phraseology such as the somewhat ungrammatical 'Get fell in' and 'Boots, black, soldiers for the use of' etc. Nevertheless he was proud of the regiment and was an ever-present at the annual reunions of the 1st Battalion.

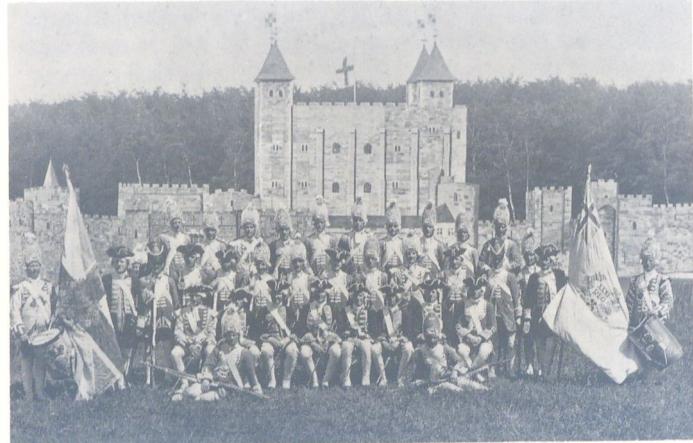
What was he like as a disciplinarian? Well the closest comparison I can think of would be with Sergeant Wilson of 'Dad's Army'.

As far as I know he never put anyone on a charge or even threatened to. I believe he once politely pointed out to someone that one of his anklets was upside down only to discover later that he himself was similarly improperly dressed.

Goz died suddenly on 22nd February last and the sympathies of all who knew him go to his wife, Rene, and his children, Pam and Stephen. We shall all miss him.

HWS

#### FROM THE PAST



Sergeants Mess, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, Aldershot Tattoo, 1935.



Signal Platoon 1st Jan 1915 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, Lucknow. The signaller 5th from left later became Sgt T. B. Holdforth and he was awarded a Military Medal in Mesopotamia. His family live in the Guildford area and western Australia. Can any reader identify any others in the photo?



## 78 Division Battle Axe Club

The Club was founded by Major General R K Arbuthnot, the Divisional Commander, in Austria at the end of the 1939-45 War. The object was, and still is, the maintenance of comradeship of those who had served in the Division in war. The first Honorary Treasurer was Captain Harold Payne, who had been Adjutant of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Harold held this post until his death from war wounds in 1983.

The Annual Reunion and Dinner is held at the Victory Services Club in London on the first Saturday in November each year. Members can attend the Reunion only if they wish. However, the Dinner is a very enjoyable occasion. It is served at 6.45 pm to allow members with trains to catch to leave early.

The Battleaxe Club is well supported and the Annual Reunion is very enjoyable. Of the three Infantry battalions in 11 Infantry Brigade, 1st Surreys are not very well represented. On the 45th Reunion and Dinner in 1990, 280 members attended, of which only 8 were from the Surreys. Captain Ian McKee (5 Northamptons), the Honorary Secretary writes, 'It should be possible to raise this number considerably in 1991, and we should aim to raise at least 24 so that the 1st Surreys can occupy two tables'.

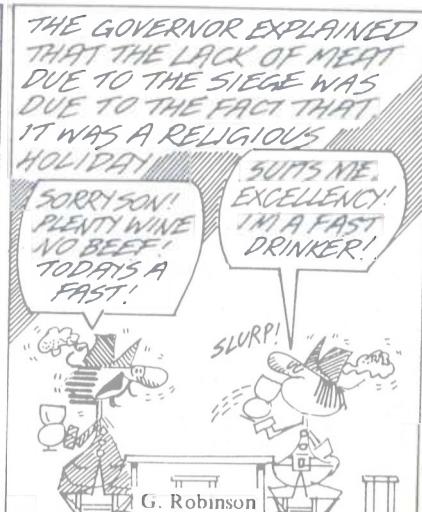
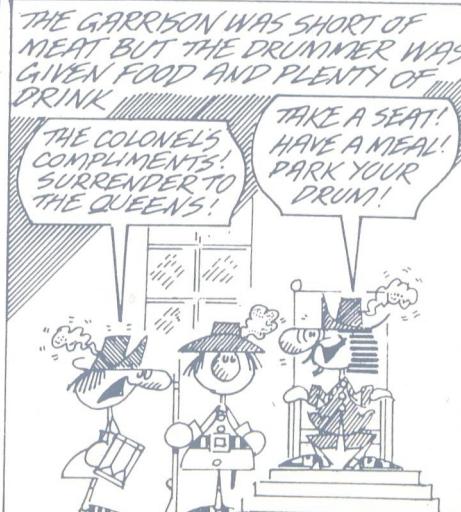
It is hoped old members of 1st Surreys who do not belong to the 78 Division Battleaxe Club will consider joining. Please write to the Honorary Secretary, Captain Ian McKee MBE, 5 Park Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8DJ, sending a small donation to the Club (£2.00) for the Annual News Letter.

### Any Old Iron

In October 1944 the 1st Surreys were on operations in northern Italy, Hill 508 Monte Piero. During the assault on the razor-backed ridge CSM W G Attewell DCM was wounded. He was taken to the General Hospital at Assisi and three weeks later was discharged, still with a bullet in his leg.

Some 43 years later Bill Attewell had to go to hospital for a minor operation, and took the opportunity of asking if the bullet in his leg could be removed. The surgeon duly obliged, and presented Bill with the personal souvenir he had been carrying about for so long.

PGEH



### France 1940

During the 'Phoney War' of 1940, there were a number of alarmist rumours of enemy action circulating. One of the more ludicrous was that German troops were parachuting into Belgium, disguised as nuns.

However, the fact that there were nuns in the forward area is confirmed by Major B du B Finch White MC of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. He writes, 'On one occasion during the withdrawal from Brussels to Dunkirk, Major General D G Johnson VC, the Divisional Commander, sent a staff officer to tell me to let through a group of nuns who were being held up with other refugees on the far side of a bridge.

I understood that these groups of nuns wanted to get to France, and presumably did not realise that the Germans had crossed the Maginot Line and occupied a large part of France. Incidentally, some of them were given ammunition boots to help them in their long march'.

History does not relate if the nuns were marching in step.

### Young Buffs

Deal July 23rd. Arrived here today from Tynmouth Barracks, The Leighton, Stamp and General Elliott Harper, with The 31st Regiment or young Buffs under the command of Lt Col Cotton, on their way to serve as marines on board the fleet. The Leviathan, a third rate, pierced for 74 guns, will be launched this day at Chatham yard. She is already commissioned being given to Lord Mulgrave and is to be copper sheathed and rigged immediately.

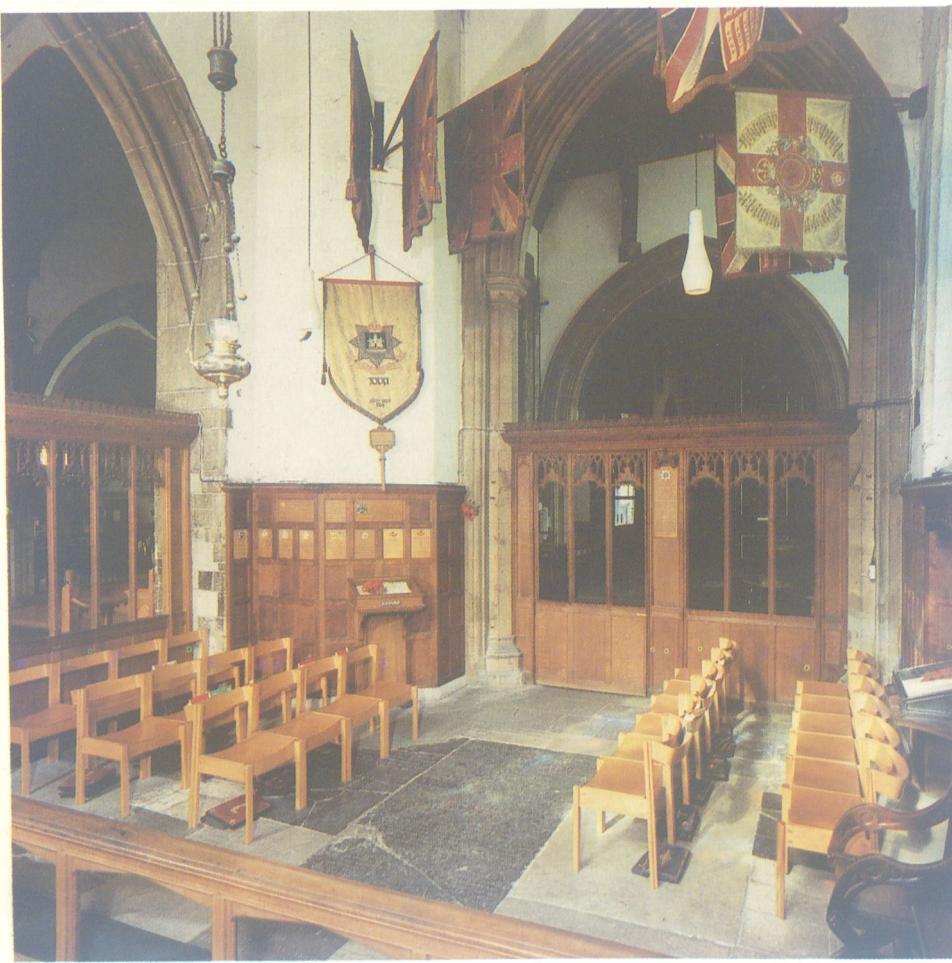
Kentish Gazette July 27th 1790.

### Nice Way To Go

Commenting on the burial at sea of a soldier from the troopship *Alaunia* en route to Mesopotamia during the First World War, J.E.B. Jardine, an officer of the 1st Queen's, stated, "Our buglers played the Last Post very finely though one of them fainted. Altogether I thought it was a very good sort of burial - much jollier to be planted in the sea on a sunny morning than in a depressing cemetery".

RF

## ALL SAINTS Church Kingston-upon-Thames



On the 4th May 1921 the Chapel of the Holy Trinity was dedicated by the Bishop of Southwark. The Chapel had been restored by The East Surrey Regiment as part of its War Memorial. Three years later the Bishop of Kingston dedicated the Memorial Gates at the entrance to the Church. The picture shows a view from the altar of the Regimental Chapel. To the right of the picture is the casket containing the Book of Remembrance which contains the names of over 6,000 officers and men of The East Surreys who died in The Great War.

Cover colour photographs Ben May, Canterbury.

## SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

The Colours of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA). The Colours were presented to the two battalions at Woking on 12th July 1963 by Her Majesty's Lieutenant of and in the County of Surrey, the Right Honourable The Earl of Munster, PC., KBE. They were laid up in the Cathedral on the 16th November 1980. The Colours are similar to those of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, which are laid up in the Regimental Chapel, Guildford Cathedral, with the additional Battle Honours "Festubert 1915" and "Gaza" and on the Regimental Colour of the 4th Battalion the badge of The Royal Tank Regiment, which commemorates part of the history of 23rd London Regiment when they were a tank regiment. The Colours have recently been cleaned and netted by The Royal College of Needlework for The Association.

