

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUEENS SURREYS



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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Regimental Chapel.

The picture is of the altar in the Regimental Chapel with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment altar cloth, and the new limed oak wooden altar cross and matching candlesticks presented to the Cathedral by the Regimental Association on 4th October 1991. The cross and candlesticks are to replace two silver candlesticks which were stolen some years ago. The Dean of Guildford, The Very Reverend Alexander Wedderspoon dedicated the cross and candlesticks and gave a short, but very moving address to those present in the Chapel. The Chapel was full with many officers, their wives and guests on their way to the Officers Club luncheon, and Doug Mitchell and several members of 5 Old Members Association also attended.

*The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.
Regimental Chapel, Guildford Cathedral.*

A Festival in Flowers.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the dedication of Guildford Cathedral, the Cathedral authorities held a Flower Festival. Many local firms and organisations took part and the Cathedral was a mass of flowers.

The Association took part and our contribution was a military wedding with a dummy dressed as an officer of The Queen's Royal Regiment, his bride and page boy in regimental uniform.

It is proposed to commission a Cathedral Flower Festival Calendar for 1992 from photographs taken during the Festival.





FORECAST OF REGIMENTAL AND QUEEN'S SURREY ASSOCIATION EVENTS



Details

1991

20 December BRITISH BATTALION DAY (50th Anniversary)

1992

10 February	SOBRAON DAY
28 March	Queen's Surreys Trustees and Association meetings Clandon
23 April	YPRES DAY
7 May	Spring Meeting - The Golf Society, Richmond Golf Club
9 May	Annual Dinner - 5 OMA - Sandfield Terrace Guildford
16 May	ALBUHERA DAY
29th May or 5th June	Presidents Reception - Clandon TBC
1 June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE
14 June	Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral
1 July	Royal Marines Match - The Golf Society - Northants Fleet
5th July	Annual Reunion Bassingbourn
9 September	SALERNO DAY
1 October	Autumn meeting The Golf Society - Woking Golf Club
2 October	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Luncheon - Clandon
6 November	Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club
20 December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY

Editorial

The last few months have been dominated by the now infamous words "Options for Change" which has dealt such a cruel and unjust blow on The Queen's Regiment. I have received so many letters and phone calls from our members and their wives, all asking the same question "Why this unjust treatment?"

I only wish I could answer the question, and I know that despite many letters and phone calls The Colonel of the Regiment is just as puzzled and angry, that no logical explanations have been given. It is so sad also that his letter to you all is dated on the 330th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment.

Enough of doom and gloom, we have been fortunate in this edition to include articles from descendants of our former regiments who went to Australia after service in England, Ireland and India. The number of letters from Australia from descendants of these men has been on the increase now for some time.

This period has been a very busy one, but so very well supported by you all. Long may it continue. I hope you find something of interest for you all within these pages, above all keep writing your letters and we will do our best to publish as many as possible.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and The New Year.

Les Wilson

Donations

The Trustees wish to record their thanks and appreciation to the following for their donations to our funds.

The Family and friends of the late Major R C Guy MC who sent cheques to his memory totalling £720.00.

Mrs M Rowe in memory of her Father Private C Churchlow who died earlier this year aged 97, and Captain R E Dowson.

In addition to those donations we wish to thank all those members who add "a little more" to their subscriptions towards the funds.

Presidents notes

Since the May Newsletter we have heard the result of the Ministry of Defence Options for Change study into how the Army is to be reduced in size. It is extremely sad to learn that the Queen's Regiment is to suffer so severely compared with other infantry regiments and is to lose one battalion as well as having to amalgamate with the Royal Hampshire Regiment. I have asked General Mike Reynolds to write in this newsletter, for as the Colonel of the Regiment (and of course a member of this Association), he is best placed to inform us all of the current situation.

It was splendid that so many members of the Association supported the Queen's Regiment by marching along Whitehall to Downing Street to protest about the decisions. It was noticeable too that many more members than ever before attended the annual Grand Reunion of the Queen's Regiment at Bassingbourn at the end of June. These clear demonstrations of this Association's very close links with our successors in today's Queen's Regiment are excellent.

I feel sure that whatever the result of the amalgamation ahead, we as an Association will retain the closest affinity with any new Regiment. We are proud of being members of old regiments whose history is now part of today's Regiment. Nor should any changes affect how we as an Association work. We will continue to care for those ex members of our regiments who need help, and do all we can to maintain our heritage.

Please continue to support all Association events as you presently do so well.

The very best for Christmas and 1992

Mike Doyle



Major General M F Reynolds CB.

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

14th October 91

"Your President has kindly asked me to write a few words about the sad events of the past six months. May I first of all sincerely thank all members for their very strong and heartwarming support during these very difficult days. I have received scores of letters; please forgive me for not replying but there just has not been enough hours in the day. A big thank you as well to all those who joined us in the March on Downing Street - it was a fun occasion even though the reason for it was so very serious. The tragic fact is however, that despite our vigorous campaign the unjust and incomprehensible decision to both cut and amalgamate the Regiment stands and by March 1993 will have taken effect. We did manage to wrest some important concessions from the Army Board but in the final analysis we have to admit that we failed to preserve the Regiment of which we are all so proud. It is particularly painful that the Ministers responsible and the Army Board have refused to offer us any explanation for our totally unjust treatment. I wonder why? Where are we today? On 8th October I met with the Colonel of the Royal Hampshire Regiment to discuss the forthcoming amalgamation. I regret to have to tell you that we could not agree one single point of substance. He would not even countenance the word "Queen's" in the title!"

On 28th October our Regimental Committee will meet to discuss this tragic situation. It is likely that the Army Board will have to be brought in to resolve the problem. However, subject to the views expressed at the Regimental Committee, it is my intention to preserve the essential heritage of the present Regiment and strive to create a Regiment in which our officers and soldiers are proud to serve and with which your Association (and I am of course a member!) will wish to be associated.

We are now in the midst of the battle to save our Territorial battalions.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your wonderful support. The Queen's Regiment could not have asked for more. I am sure we can rely on you during the worrying days ahead."

Mike Reynolds.



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1661

Future of the Regiment

It was confirmed in September that the Regiment is to be reduced to two Regular battalions and, by February 1993, is to amalgamate with The Royal Hampshire Regiment. The latter order came as a severe blow, especially as no explanation for this decision was given.

Serving Queensmen were particularly grateful to all our forbear Regimental Associations for everything done on their behalf, not least the march on 13th August to 10 Downing Street to hand in a Petition to the Prime Minister appealing for "Justice for The Queen's Regiment".

Now it is known that no reconsideration of this amalgamation plan is likely, the Regiment is working for the protection of its soldiers and is looking to the future. We will strive to maintain all we hold dear, including our many links with the local communities in Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex and aim to form a new regiment worthy of all our famous forbears.

Join The Queens and see the world

All three Regular battalions have travelled extensively for overseas commitments and training. Half the 1st Battalion, based in Minden, trained at Sussfield, Canada, in August and September. The 2nd Battalion from Canterbury had a large company group deployed in the Falklands from March to July and then in August and September the whole battalion trained at Wainwright, Canada. The 3rd Battalion, currently stationed in Cyprus, sent a large company group to the Falklands from July to November and carried out some adventure training in Kenya with the remainder in July and August. The TA battalions have also had their share of travel, with training in Germany and Cyprus. Details of moves of our Regular battalions in preparation for the forthcoming drawdown will be promulgated when they are settled.

Exercising freedoms

A contingent from the 2nd Battalion commanded by Major Mike Hurman exercised three of the Regiment's Freedoms this summer. On 30th July they marched through Lewes, on 1st August through Kingston-upon-Thames and on 3rd August through Folkestone. All three parades received a warm welcome from the local mayors and hundreds of spectators, particularly in Kingston where the QUEENS SURREYS Regimental Association supported the occasion in strength. The parades were followed by a Beating Retreat by the Albuhera Band under WO1 (B/M) I Peaple and the 2nd Battalion Corps of Drums, while in Lewes the Flying Dragons under Lieutenant Tom Major also gave a superb free-fall display.

Refurbishment of drums

The Regiment's appeal for £8,800 to our Freedom Cities, Boroughs and Towns for the re-emblazoning of drums has reached its target, largely due to a few substantial gifts but also to many smaller yet generous donations. These demonstrate how very much appreciated the County Regiment is in our home area.

Regimental Grand Reunion

This year the Regimental Grand Reunion was held earlier than usual, on Sunday 30th June, at Bassingbourn. The Drumhead Service was conducted by the Regimental Honorary Chaplain, the Venerable Peter Mallett, the Flying Dragons gave their customary excellent display and the usual competitions took place. There was a record attendance and the occasion proved yet again the tremendous value of these gatherings.

Sporting successes

Among other sporting successes since the last Newsletter, our Regimental Free Fall Team, the Flying Dragons, beat the Red Devils and Royal Marines in certain disciplines to win one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze Medal at the National Free Fall Championship in June and followed this by winning one Gold, one Bronze and two individual titles at the Army Parachuting Championships in August. Secondly, the Regimental Golfing Society Team composed of Captain Charles Bromfield, Brigadier Stuart Anderson, Colonel John Davidson and Major Reg Ford, beat all-comers to win the Argyle and Sutherland Bowl for the best Infantry regimental team at the Army Officers' Golf Meeting in June.

1st Battalion, The Queen's.

The announcement by the Secretary of State for Defence in July that the Queen's Regiment is to amalgamate with The Royal Hampshire Regiment has hit the Battalion hard and overshadowed what has been a busy, varied and rewarding period of training which culminated in the deployment of two companies on exercise to Canada. The news has been made doubly bad by the fact that it will be 1 QUEENS that is to be split up as we return to the United Kingdom in Feb 93. After having fought and conquered the ravages of undermanning, coped with the pressures and uncertainty of life in BAOR during the Gulf crisis and mastered extremely successfully our new role as a mechanised battalion, the news was a bitter pill to swallow. That we have done so is due to our knowledge of the magnificent fight put up by Brigadier Doyle, the Colonel of the Regiment, President of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association and many others on our behalf. We could not have asked for more.

Unfortunately the announcement was not the only unhappy news we received in the last six months. Tragically, Captain Simon Burnett, the Mortar Officer, died in a car crash in which Captain Jon Wright, the Adjutant, was also very seriously injured. Captain Burnett had only just rejoined the Battalion after a posting to the British Army Training Team in Zimbabwe where he had been a great success. To lose such a promising young officer was a tragedy and it was a measure of his popularity that so many of his friends, both from inside and outside the Battalion, attended his funeral. There is no doubt that this support gave considerable strength to his parents at a particularly difficult time.

Life in the Battalion had to go on and it was very gratifying to see the way every one picked themselves up after such devastating news. The potential NCOs cadre, which Captain Burnett had been running, continued and proved extremely successful. The Glorious First of June was celebrated in traditional style with a series of parties and a cricket match. Unfortunately we were unable to find eleven people with even the remotest Royal Navy connection and held the Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess match instead. The game was extremely close with the Sergeants running out winners and so regained the trophy they had lost in Tidworth. A sports and families day was held on the Sunday and, in glorious sunshine, we were able to enjoy some of the events we had not managed to squeeze in on Albuhera day including the 57-a-side football match. The stitch count this year was less than is normal on this occasion!

Hardly had the celebrations ended when we had to reorganise the Battalion in preparation for sending two companies with the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards to Canada. Tangier and Kirkes Company each took on a platoon from Sobraon Company along with elements of the MILAN and Mortar platoons. The companies also received additional reinforcements from Albuhera company as well as a few soldiers from other Brigade units. Training started in June and July at Soltau, culminating in a Brigade exercise. Block leave was then taken before the group left in mid August for the plains of Alberta and Exercise 'MEDICINE MAN'. To a man they enjoyed what is the best live firing training for

mechanised forces in the world. The rear party, which included the Commanding Officer and Second in Command were not quite so ecstatic!

However Battalion HQ got its revenge, organising the busiest week of the year for the week they got back! This included a visit by the Albuhera Band who currently reside with 2 QUEENS in Canterbury. They gave a number of outstanding performances, the most memorable of which was a Beating of Retreat held at the Kaiser Wilhelm I Denkmal with our Corps of Drums, and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The next day saw the arrival of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Mike Reynolds. His visit included a supper party in the Officers' Mess, a parade in the rain at which he not only addressed the Battalion but also presented The Queen's Regiment Meritorious Medal to Cpl Gallett for his professionalism in finding an explosive device in Belfast last year, and Boxing Colours to our Grade 3 Novice Boxing Team for winning the Army Grade 3 Championships in April this year. He also found time to address both the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' and, the Corporals' Messes before departing for the Ardennes where he conducted a memorable Battle Field Tour for the more senior officers of 11th Armoured Bde, including nine from the Battalion. The week ended with the finals of the Inter Company Novices Boxing Competition which was a tremendous evening and won this year by Tangier Company. It brought out all that is good in the sport at a time when it is under considerable pressure from the media. We now have a good nucleus of young boxers on which to base our team for the Army Grade 3 Competition and at Grade 2 which we have also entered. The Corps of Drums and the Band played during the evening, and at a Beating of Retreat and Ladies Night for the Officers' Mess the next day.

It would be reasonable to assume that after this the pace might slacken but not a bit of it. In October the companies are getting away on adventurous training camps to the Harz mountains and Bavaria; November will see our second potential NCO cadre, the Divisional CPX and Kirkes Company will be leading a KAPE tour in the London area. December sees the normal round of Christmas parties and a Nuclear Site guard before we gain a little respite and the Christmas break.

This has been a quite unprecedeted year in the life of the Battalion. Despite considerable manning shortages we have converted to MK1 AFV 432s, then Warrior and back again. We have prepared for deployment to the Gulf in various numbers and then did not deploy. We have had a full BAOR training season culminating with two companies going to Canada. We have won the Army Grade 3 Novices Boxing Competition and entered numerous other sporting events. Throughout, the shadow of 'Options for Change' and our future has hung over us but has not been allowed to affect our morale or performance. Next year will be a further step into the unknown. What will the new battalions look like? How many will be made redundant?

To say that we intend to carry on as if nothing was about to happen would be wrong but I have no doubt we will maintain the high standards that we achieved this year and which our predecessors have set in the past. My focus now is very much on the future, of the men in the Battalion and those leaving. Our programme for next year is still uncertain but the aim is to make it as fun and as varied as possible. It will be the last one for this fine Battalion as we remember it but its traditions and heritage formed as they have been from the Regiments that came before us will, I am sure, be carried forward to the new battalions and so live on. We must not waste everything that we have built up over the years but do everything we can to make sure that those that come after us get the support and help they deserve and from which we have all benefited. I sincerely hope that the close ties with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association will continue. It is something we cherish and would be as sad to lose as the Battalion.

5 Queen's OMA

As Autumn draws nearer we can look back on another memorable year with many old friendships renewed but, sadly the inevitable loss of some of our members. A good contingent of our members were present on Thursday 2 May at Holy Trinity Church for the Memorial Service for Colonel John Kealy who was a great supporter of all the OMA events and a past Chairman and Secretary.

On the evening of Saturday 11 May the annual dinner took place at Sandfield Terrace attended by 160 members. Numbers were a little down on 1990 due to our serving territorial members being on exercise. A number of members we have not seen for some years attended and we look forward to seeing them again next year. Our guest of honour was Cllr Doreen Bellerby MBE the Mayor of Guildford. We were also pleased to welcome Clarie Jarman now 95 years young and Lt Col Les Wilson. Our thanks as always must go to the committee for their tireless work and for once again arranging an excellent evening.

The 18 July saw our secretary Doug Mitchell and his wife attending the garden party at Buckingham Palace, our congratulations to you both for representing 5 Queen's OMA at such a prestigious event.

Many of you will have heard of the impending amalgamation of our regular battalions with the Royal Hampshire Regiment. On Tuesday 13 August six Members of the OMA took part in a march to 10 Downing Street to hand in the petition 'Justice for The Queens Regiment'. It was good to see so many old friends from The Buffs, Queens Own Royal West Kent, Royal Sussex and Middlesex Associations parading with us, we are only sorry to learn that our petition was not successful.

FBH



5 Old Members Association dinner. Sandfield Terrace Guildford. They were joined by the Mayor of Guildford, Mrs Doreen Bellerby pictured here with association members including Maj. Gen Fergus Ling, Doug Mitchell and Lt Col Foster Herd.

1/7th Queens (Southwark) Association.

The Association received a cordial invitation to the ancient town of Sint Nicklaas, Belgium for the annual remembrance and peace celebration.

This year there were 14 members of the Association accompanied by their wives and led by Major J M A Tamplin.

Saturday the 7th September we were invited to a dinner hosted by the town and graced by the Burgomaster F. Willockx and the board of Aldermen, also in attendance were the Sint Nicklaas Patriotic Association and the Domincile 1st Polish Armoured Association. The Burgomaster made a speech of welcome to which Major Tamplin responded, the dinner ended by a loyal toast to the Belgian and British Monarchs, we were then entertained by a wonderful display of fireworks in the Square.

On Sunday all the delegations assembled in the principal church of the town for Mass - and from the church marched to the Belgian Memorial thence to the 1/7th Queens Memorial at the Romain De Vidspark and on to the Polish Memorial where wreaths and floral tributes were laid, and at each Memorial the appropriate anthem was played and sung. We were then taken by coach to Belsele for a very impressive and solemn service to commemorate the 12 members of the Resistance who were killed by the Germans on the 5th April 1944 - the day before the liberation and others who were killed during the occupation, many floral tributes were laid and the names read out followed by the 'Last Post'. On returning to the Town Hall there was a reception given by the Town attended by the Burgomaster and Aldermen. We were then taken to a venue for a luncheon given by the Patriotic and Secret Army.

During the afternoon and evening we were entertained by Mass Bands and a display of Parachute dropping, also with the taking off of the Balloons.

On the Monday we were entertained by the Patriotic Association on a conducted tour of the Museum at Sint Nicklaas, and thence by coach to the De Ster Theme Park for coffee, also a train ride to view the enormous park with all the facilities for outdoor activities, this was followed by a tour of the Botanical Gardens. We were then given an excellent lunch at the Belgian Army Officers Mess in lovely surroundings by the kind invitation of the Colonel of the Belgian Regiment. A trip by coach followed for sight seeing of Antwerp, returning to an Inn at Sint Nicklaas for a convivial evening and finale.

Our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Burgomaster F Willockx, the Patriotic Association for their generous hospitality and friendship. Also to the Commandant Rene Van Den Bergh and his Committee and to Major J M A Tamplin for all the planning for such a memorable and successful weekend.

L.U

96 Not Out

A sprightly visitor to the Regimental Museum was Mr Sidney Gibbs, who was born on 22 March 1895. He joined the 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment on 11 August 1914 and remembers King George V inspecting the Battalion at Canterbury prior to embarkation for India. The 1/5th reached Bombay on 1 December 1914 and were employed on garrison duties at Cawnpore and in the North West Frontier Province. Three years later, the Battalion, over a thousand strong, embarked for Mesopotamia for active operations against the Turks. Later they saw some hard fighting against the Kurds. Sidney Gibbs, now a drummer, particularly remembers the intense heat of Mesopotamia. The Battalion was not released from the Army of Occupation until December 1919, that is, five years from their leaving home. Eventually their 'long service in bad stations' came to an end and the 1/5th Surreys returned to Wimbledon for demobilisation.

PGEH

The Tangier Communion Plate at Portsmouth Cathedral

After locating and viewing the historic Communion plate from the English church at Tangier 1662-1684, I was intrigued to know why and how it had finished up at Portsmouth.

It soon became apparent that one needed to refresh one's knowledge of post Restoration England in the 17th century, and study the development of Portsmouth over the centuries in particular. I am most grateful to Mrs Sarah Quail BA and the staff of the Portsmouth City Records Office for their kind assistance and encouragement of my researches.

The Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 is one of the most remarkable events in British history, and has been the subject of much scholarship. In a period of only five months an irresistible change in public opinion swept away the grim and repressive post - Civil War government of the Parliamentary Commonwealth, and later the army dominated Cromwellian Protectorate. It all happened so swiftly, so bloodlessly and without any foreign assistance or intervention that it took the whole of Europe by surprise.

King Charles II Declaration of Breda and his covering letter to The House of Commons were remarkably conciliatory documents seeking to heal the rifts of the Civil War. Pardons were promised for anyone appealing to the King within 40 days for "his grace and favour", to leave "all good men" in possession of their properties, and religious toleration. The only exceptions to the King's forgiveness were the surviving regicides who had tried, and then beheaded his father King Charles I in January 1649.

King Charles II sailed in the British Fleet to Dover and landed on the beach on 25th May to be greeted by General Monck before journeying through Kent via Canterbury and Rochester. The 29th May was the King's thirtieth birthday, and on this memorable day he rode to Blackheath on horseback where the Cromwellian Army was drawn up in review under General Monck to salute its returning sovereign. At Deptford the King was met by the Lord Mayor of London who escorted him through cheering crowds across London Bridge into the capital. The noise and popular acclaim were tremendous as the church bells rang and the cannon fired salutes at the Tower; so much so that in the evening the King cheerfully complained of disorientation and ringing in the ears. Turning to those about him, he said with a smile that it was undoubtedly his own fault that he had been absent so long, since he had met no one "who did not protest that he had ever wished for his return"! Until the middle of the last century the 29th May was an official public holiday in England known as Oak Apple Day. It commemorated the King's birthday, his Restoration and the Boscobel oak in which he hid after the battle of Worcester in 1651. The In-Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea still honour him by wearing oak leaves in their hats at their annual Founder's Day parade.

After the excitement and emotion of the Restoration had subsided there were many serious and complicated problems to be addressed by the King, his Council and the Houses of Parliament after 18 years of civil war and the Interregnum. For a start, the King was unmarried and there were the questions of finding a wife and the succession to the throne; in the meanwhile he was crowned alone on St George's Day 23 April 1661. In the courts of Europe, which had been caught wrong footed by the suddenness of the Restoration, there was much diplomatic activity to find a bride for the King of England who would help promote alliances and their own interests. It was a time of intense commercial rivalry between the major maritime nations of Spain, Portugal, France,

England and the United Provinces of Holland all seeking to establish colonies and trading posts overseas. Portugal, which had led the way as discoverers and pioneers in the New World, had the most to gain by a royal marriage, for an alliance with England seemed to be her only hope of independence from Spain. It was only in 1640 that Portugal had freed herself (and her huge colony of Brazil) from sixty years of subjection by her larger neighbour, and in 1660 Portugal was hard pressed to defend herself against another Spanish invasion. In February 1661 when the Portuguese Ambassador had arrived in London with special powers to arrange the royal match, he found Spanish diplomacy working hard against it. However, he had "to offer His Majesty £500,000 sterling in ready money as a portion with the Infanta, and likewise to assign over and forever, to annex to the Crown of England the possession of Tangier.....a place of that strength and importance as would be of infinite benefit and security to the trade of England.....free trade in Brazil and the East Indies.....the island of Bombayne". This was a tempting dowry for the depleted coffers of King Charles, and when our Consul at Lisbon reported discreetly and favourably that the Infanta Catherine was "As sweet a disposition pricess (sic) as ever was born, and a lady of excellent partes (sic) and bred hugely retired", the King's mind was made up. On 8 May 1661 he announced to Parliament the conclusion of a Marriage Treaty with Portugal; it was formally signed in June and the Earl of Sandwich sailed on the 19th of that month with a fleet of 18 men-of-war and two fire-ships. His instructions were to "settle the business of Algiers" (e.g. the suppression of piracy which was rife off the coasts of North Africa), and then to sail to Lisbon to escort the Queen to England. In the meantime he was to guard Tangier until the arrival of the British garrison.



Lt Col Peter Collyer examining the Plate

In fact, the Dutch and the Spanish regarded the Earl of Sandwich's squadron with deep suspicion, and De Ruyter shadowed it with the Dutch fleet throughout the autumn and early winter until it became too late and hazardous for the Portuguese bridal party to sail. In January 1662 the British garrison arrived at Tangier and had to be supported and provisioned by the fleet for nearly a month, so that it was not available as an escort until the Spring when the Bay of Biscay was more amenable.

It was to Government House that Princess Catherine of Braganza was conducted in state when she arrived at Portsmouth on 13 May 1662 as the bride for the King, and there she stayed until her wedding on 21 May. As a strictly brought up ("hugely retired") Roman Catholic princess she was accompanied by a large retinue including Portuguese priests and confessors, servants and cooks, and her ladies in waiting - unkindly described "as six frights"! She was firstly

married privately to the King in her suite of rooms by the Roman Catholic rite, and immediately afterwards in the Great Chamber of Government House by the Bishop of London using the Anglican service in the presence of a large congregation. The Governor's chapel (formerly the Domus Dei) was too small, and the parish church of Old Portsmouth nearby was probably considered unsuitable and unsafe as the tower and nave had been badly damaged by Parliamentary cannon fire at the outset of the Civil War in 1642. To add insult to injury, the six cannon used had been captured from Charles I's royal pinnace named the "Henrietta Maria" after his Queen, and she was present at her son's marriage. King Charles marked his wedding by presenting an embroidered altar frontal to the Governor's chapel, it had a view of Lisbon from the sea out of deference to his bride; it was still in use in the last century. The royal Marriage Certificate is held by the Cathedral (formerly the parish church of Old Portsmouth); it is regrettable that a document of such national importance has not been well treated over the years. It is very faded, dog eared and has been scribbled on the back, so that it has not been possible to produce a legible copy for this article.



The Tangier Plate now in Portsmouth Cathedral



There is a tradition that the Communion silver for the Tangier church formed part of the Queen's dowry, and although of English make, it may well have been purchased on account in late 1661 or up to May 1662. There is an outside chance that it may be possible to find the relevant entries in the Audit Office Declared Accounts for 1660-1668 held in the Public Record Office at Kew, and with dim memories of auditing the PRI accounts I do not relish the task!

The first photograph shows a pair of silver patens for the Communion bread hallmarked London 1661-62, and a chalice for the wine incompletely hallmarked, but with a London maker's mark also for 1661-62. The left hand flagon is hallmarked London 1639-40 and predates the Tangier

occupation by over 20 years - was it perhaps a gift from the Bishop of London to a new overseas church in his diocese? All four pieces have the religious motto IHS on them. I now turn to the right hand flagon in the first photograph/left hand of the two in the second photo. It is what I call the "Mc Math flagon" and the one which led me to Portsmouth. It is not a pair with the other one, but very similar and in typical English 17th century style. Underneath is stamped an unknown maker's mark ELS, but also underneath the foot rim is engraved - "Alderman John Mc Math his gift to the Chirrch (sic) of Tangier November the 10 1672". This is most interesting as it is the only named piece, and links the church with the civil government after Tangier was granted a Charter in 1668 with a Corporation of a Mayor, six Aldermen and twelve Common Councillors modelled on English boroughs.

John McMath, who was a Scottish trader, was elected a Councillor in 1668 and a lay member of the Court Merchant which met every day except Sundays and Holy days to settle cases of commercial and merchantile dispute at the seaport. He became successively a Churchwarden in 1670; an Alderman by 1672 which he marked by presenting the flagon with his coat of arms on; and Mayor in 1678. He died in 1682 leaving £800 and half his plate to his exector and fellow Scot, Captain Archibald Douglas of the Earl of Dunbarton's Regt (later to become the Royal Scots) then stationed at Tangier.

I do not wish to become embroiled in writing about the deeply felt religious differences in Britain at this time. They contributed in part to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642, and dominated much of the political thinking after it for the rest of the century. The King's promise of religious toleration in the Declaration of Breda was thwarted by Parliament who twice rejected his Declarations of Indulgence. The House of Commons was bent on re-establishing the Church of England, its bishops and The Book of Common Prayer which had been suppressed during the Commonwealth. It was only in his overseas possessions, including Tangier, that King Charles II personal tolerance could flourish. In February 1665 Lord Belasyse the Governor was instructed by the Council - "In the church appropriate to the garrison you shall especially take care that divine service be celebrated exactly according to the rules in the liturgy of the Church of England.....but because of the situation of the place.....we are content that you connive at the Roman Catholic worship for the satisfaction of that profession, and also a synagogue for the Jews...".

I propose to write a further article on the Evacuation of Tangier 1663/64 and Lord Dartmouth's instructions for the disposal of things of value. Among them are an inventory of the church possessions and the Town library prepared by Dr Thomas Hughes the last Minister.

PGC

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.
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IF IN DOUBT - PAY!

KEEP IN TOUCH

So There We Were

1701 A company of the Queen's sailed to Bermuda in the troopship *LINCOLN* for garrison duty from which they never returned, remaining there until 1763 when, virtually without arms or equipment, they were disbanded.

1731 The Queen's were at Gibraltar where troops were poorly clothed. This eventually brought the displeasure of the King himself as an Order of 27th February stated that, "The King admits of no excuse on this subject and the field officers who are present with the Regiment are to sign a certificate that the said clothing is issued..." In Ireland the colonelcy of the 31st Regiment changed when Colonel Cathcart went to the 8th Dragoons and was replaced by Colonel William Hargrave of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, "a veteran of Queen Anne's wars". The 31st Regiment were acting in support of the Civil Power in Birmingham where rioting had broken out between people supporting the French Revolution and those opposing it. Officers of the Queen's at Gibraltar were drawing unwelcome attention to themselves by excessive absences on leave. Major Gray, being absent without leave, was "ordered to join at once or be superseded".

1811 The Queen's embarked at Portsmouth for departure to the Peninsular War. Their sea journey to Lisbon was through dreadful gales and took six weeks to complete. On arrival they joined the 6th Division commanded by Major-General Campbell. The 70th Regiment moved their Depot from Ayr to Stirling Castle.

1831 In Ireland the 70th Regiment, while marching a party of arrested rioters from Doonane to Castlecomer were attacked by a mob who attempted to rescue the prisoners. They were only driven off after the troops opened fire, five of the attackers being killed on the spot. The Queen's were in India, marching from Bombay to Fort George to Colaba. Contrary to some previous overseas experiences, the Regiment was in good health, it being reported that "the hospital was at times without a single soldier in it". Drunkenness was also decreasing, being at that time considered an unusual crime.

1831 At sea again, the Queen's were sailing from Ireland to the Cape of Good Hope to assist in quelling native rebellions. On passage, a fire occurred on board the transport *SUMNER*. Captain Lecky of the Regiment re-acted to the situation with "gallantry and discipline", thereby earning the approbation of the Commander-in-Chief. And they were to suffer further heavy casualties from cholera.

1881 Radical Army reforms took place involving, among other things, amalgamations and changes of titles. In India, suffering from the effects of cholera, the "2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment" became the "Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment". The 31st Regiment at Dover and the 70th Regiment at Dinapore were amalgamated to form The East Surrey Regiment. Such changes were not welcomed but few of those involved could have envisaged how history was to repeat itself in later years.

1901 Both the Queen's and the Surreys were in South Africa, engaged in block-house duties and in clearance of Boer farms. It was once reported that "the Boers escaped but an immense number of sheep and cattle were captured". A model of a typical block-house is on display at Clandon Museum.

1911 The Queen's took part in ceremonial duties in London, being present at the unveiling of the memorial to Queen Victoria and at the Coronation Ceremonies. More serious duties were undertaken at Leicester in connection with

strikes. In Burma the East Surreys were subjected to various moves and re-organisations but it was recorded that "nothing but good reports were earned by the various detachments".

1921 The East Surreys in Egypt were undergoing hard training which soon yielded good results from both military and sporting angles. A Guard of Honour provided for the Earl of Reading at Port Said brought congratulations from the distinguished visitor. In Ireland the Queen's, with members of the Green Howards and the Royal Irish Constabulary, engaged about thirty rebels at Ahapuca Bridge, killing two of them, wounding two and capturing three, all without casualties to themselves. This operation brought congratulatory telegrams from the Colonel Commandant of the 16th Infantry Brigade and the G.O.C. of the 6th Division, Cork.

1931 The East Surreys were at Lahore and obviously taking steps to improve the officers' comforts as at the quarterly mess meeting it was agreed to purchase extra rugs for the mess and that "the Mess candelabra be wired for electric light". There must have been some trouble in the kitchen as at the next meeting it was resolved "that the mess cook be given the option of cooking at a reasonable charge or being replaced". Back in England the Band and Drums of the 2nd Queen's visited Croydon where they were officially received by the Mayor. Misfortune struck the 4th Queen's when their Sergeants' Mess was burnt out and nearly everything lost.

1941 1 Surreys tragically had fifteen men killed when a parachute mine fell on D Company Headquarters. They left what were described as "comfortable billets" in Bournemouth and marched to a camp near Ringwood to guard Ibsley Aerodrome. Tragedy also struck the 2/7th Queen's at Hythe, Kent when a party went astray in a minefield and suffered eight fatal casualties.

1951 1 Queen's were with the Rhine Army where they were undergoing some hard training in wintry conditions. A draft of over 150 other ranks were in Korea where they experienced some hard fighting. At home the Roll of Honour of members of The East Surrey Regiment who lost their lives in the Second World War was added to the 1914-1918 Book of Remembrance in the Regimental Chapel and was dedicated by the Chaplain - General to the Forces. While remembering the past, few realized the very changed future that the decade was to bring.

RF

Freedom parade Kingston upon Thames

It was with a certain amount of apprehension we approached the Guildhall on 1st August as we heard rolls of thunder, and



rain showers, some heavy, seemed the order of the day. With 'Options for Change' hanging over us, we had come to support 2 Queen's who were exercising the privilege of marching through the Royal Borough on behalf of the Regiment.

The Corporation had put chairs out for us 'old and bold' and had thoughtfully covered them to keep dry. An attractive girl was dashing around collecting our signatures on a petition to 'SAVE THE QUEEN'S'.

It was not long before the brollies went up, but luckily the rain was spasmodic and light. The marching men must have wondered if they were going to get soaked as at the Lewes parade on 30th July.

Many familiar faces were there sporting the ties of our old Regiments, The Queens and Surreys and Queen's Royal Surreys. Some wearing The Queen's Regiment tie to complete the family. To name a few, Ron May, John Cotton, Fred Jenkins, L Jelley, Frank Peters, Stan Raynor, Mrs Bryce and Mrs John Bedford, Stan Bowell, Mr and Mrs Harman, Peter Henman, Major and Mrs Peter Hill, Lt Cols John Sherrard and Anson Squire, Major John Clarke, and Col and Mrs Nick Nice - it was sad that sickness kept Dave Boorer away. F A W Ramsey, MM., carrying our new Association Standard, with a very fine representation of our badge, was standing out in front next to Lt Col Les Wilson who no doubt was remembering parades long past! Col and Mrs McConnell, Col and Mrs Sewell, Lt Col and Mrs White of RHQ were sitting near, Lt Col and Mrs Wake. Lt Col Wake commands 2 Queens.



It was not long before we heard the beat of the drums. The Mayor of Kingston and Brigadier Bob Acworth CBE, Deputy Colonel The Queen's Regiment arrived at the saluting base. Brollies down as the Albuhera Band swung round the corner followed by two detachments of marching soldiers in No 2 Dress armed with SA 80 rifles. Most wore the General Service Medal for Northern Ireland and some the United Nations Medal for duties in Cyprus. The officers with swords drawn; a Warrant Officer wearing No 1 Dress, carrying a gleaming axe representing the Assault Pioneers; and the Colour Party, in No 1 Dress, with the Regimental Colour uncased, halted in front of the saluting base.

The parade was halted and dressed by the right, arms up and shuffle, shuffle ... that brought back many memories to all of us! The Mayor inspected the parade and in so doing stopped to talk to a number of the men in the ranks. Speeches were made. It was sad that the microphone did not behave, so little was heard by us.

The Mayor did say when he was a National Serviceman he

never dreamed that one day he would be the inspecting officer! His shoes were very well polished - some things stay with one forever. Brigadier Acworth replied. He commented on the 'Options for change' and what a disaster it might be for The Queen's.

The Mayor presented the Brigadier with a framed photograph taken on the same spot in 1919 of the 9th Bn The East Surreys on parade.

The Queens Regiment presented a framed picture of a Villiers' Marine, by Charles Stadden, to the Mayor.



The turn out of the troops on parade was immaculate and many of us commented on their boots which were still highly polished notwithstanding the many puddles marched through. The parade marched off to Fall Out around the corner before all ranks came in to the Guildhall for tea with the local dignitaries and members of our Association. At the top of the main staircase the 4 Queen's Surreys Band Banner, given to the Mayor earlier in the year was displayed by the entrance to the Council Chamber. It looked very impressive.

The arrangements to feed the five thousand were very well organized. A very long table was laden with attractive goodies. A tea and beer bar was nearby. One ex-Mayor said "Look, they have gone straight for the little cakes! Who said men have not got a sweet tooth!"

The Mayor made another speech which one could hear. Altogether it was a most happy occasion. The soldiers were friendly to chat with and one felt The Queen's Regiment deserved a better future than to be carved up by 'Options for Change'.

We returned to our seats outside to listen to the Band Beat Retreat. Considering they only had the width of the street, they put on a very impressive display.

The music was well known, very tuneful and well played. The stick work of the drummers in 'Victory Beatings' was superb. The Royal Marines will have to look to their laurels!

It was so nostalgic to hear again the old marches, 'Braganza', 'A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky', 'Lass O'Gowrie' and finally the march off to 'Soldiers of The Queen'.

D H

The Enrolled Pensioner Force, Western Australia

Any reference to either the Enrolled Pensioner Force or to the Enrolled Pensioner Guards is very brief, if mentioned at all, in most histories of Western Australia. It is only recently that more information and documentation about this little group of 'Old Soldiers' has gradually emerged.

The formation of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in 1850, was not a new innovation, but just another one of the many such schemes that the British Government had put forward to make use of her Army Pensioners. For over a hundred years the British Government had employed veteran soldiers to supplement regular troops. There is documented evidence for this from as far back as the late Seventeenth Century. The pensioners were then known as Independent Companies of Invalids, and were paid and maintained by the Army. This form of recruitment continued throughout the Eighteenth Century as well, when the conscription of suitable pensioners to form new companies, or to fill vacancies in existing ones was recognised as a means by which internal security could be maintained in times of crisis. It was also found to be an acceptable way of reducing Army expenditure.

By 1800, the term Invalid was not seen to be applicable nor was it appreciated by the men of these Companies, seeing that they had to be fit in the first place to join them. So their name was changed to that of the Royal Garrison Battalions in 1802 and then to the Royal Veteran Battalions in 1804, when Addison's Army of Reserve assumed their former title. Although they fulfilled their designated function very well, and were instrumental in the maintenance of order, especially in Ireland and at Peterloo, the ever recurring drive to reduce Army expenditure resulted in their disbandment by 1828.

Between 1830 and 1840, a number of investigations into what could only be described as gross misappropriation of Army Pension Funds resulted in wide ranging changes to that Fund. The most notable of these changes being that pensions were now divided into four classes, men could purchase their discharges, and the Good Conduct and Long Service Medals were introduced. Even with these changes further investigations in the late 1830's, revealed that funds were being misused once more. This was illustrated by the fact that there had been no appreciable decline in the number of men in receipt of pension in the twenty years since Waterloo.

Because of this investigation further changes were made to the pension scheme. A feature of this change was that it enabled accurate information to be gathered as to the where-abouts and the number of all pensioners, thereby making possible the re-establishment of a new form of Veteran Battalion.

During this same period civil unrest became increasingly more widespread and violent in Britain. Yet the public's vehement opposition towards the setting up of a properly organised police force was similar to that of the centuries old objection to having a Standing Army on British soil in times of peace. Inevitably both had to be accepted, and it was with this fledgling police force that the pensioners were used as special constables. They had been employed in this manner since the disbandment of the previous Veteran Battalions. But then as now, because of their Army background and training, they were found not to be that effective in the control of civil dis-obedience. As a result, those pensioners deemed fit enough were formed into a permanent reserve force run on military lines, but quite separate from the civil law enforcement bodies. This method of utilising them was most successful and Pensioner detachments were used during the periods of unrest in 1843, in cities all over the country. With

a rebellion threatening in Ireland, regular troops in England had to be freed from their civil duties. Thus, to ensure the continuing use of pensioners to replace these troops, a Bill was passed through Parliament to formalise their role in the same year.

A quotation from a War Office letter of this time perhaps best illustrates the British Government's attitude towards Her Army and the ever-present compulsion to reduce Army expenditure....Nineteenth Century England having the good fortune to be safe from attack for many generations, conceived that, so long as her Navy was efficient her Army could safely be neglected. This attitude was present from the time of the Napoleonic Wars and it remained unabated and the problem unresolved. Many schemes were proposed by Members of Parliament and others outlining how the reduction of Army costs could be achieved. One such, put forward by the Secretary for War, as early as 1830, recommended that the only way to achieve such cuts was to reduce the number of regiments stationed in the colonies, and replace them with Pensioners. In return for military service and defence of the Colonies the Pensioners were given certain concessions and inducements to emigrate. This idea was not acted upon then, but in 1846 no less a distinguished body than the United Services Magazine discussed in depth a very similar scheme. The government took heed of this suggestion and at the end of 1846 the Secretary of War proposed a Bill, part of which included the authorisation for the formation of Six Companies of Pensioners, each of eighty rank and file for service in New Zealand. The Bill with amendments, due to the objections and intervention of Wellington became law in June of 1847.

For the first two years there were many problems and complaints arising from the implementation of this scheme, but eventually it achieved its objective, the withdrawal of 500 troops from New Zealand. From this success other Enrolled Pensioner Forces were established in as diverse places as Nova Scotia, Hudson Bay, Malta, Gambia and the Falkland Islands.

The function of the Enrolled Pensioner Force that came to the Australian Colonies was quite different to that of the others, but the underlying reason for their use remained the same. The replacement of regular troops with a cheaper alternative.

Australia from its foundation to the mid 1840's could only be described as one vast expensive open prison, where the need to maintain civil order and obedience was paramount. It was not only a prison for those transported there, but for the troops who had the unenviable task of guarding them. Posting to Australia was not a popular one. Over the years the percentage of free settlers to convicts increased and with this increase so the local police forces and militia expanded, and as no serious threat of any foreign invasion materialised, the need to station so many troops in Australia was queried by the British Government.

Throughout the 1840's, seemingly unconcerned by the political disturbances in Europe and India and the civil unrest at home, the British Government continued its relentless drive to reduce the cost of her Army. It was the need for troops to suppress the violent uprisings in India, and the imminent collapse of the economy of the Western Australian Colony coupled with this cost cutting that resulted in yet another scheme for the use of the Enrolled Pensioner Force. Western Australia had been founded as a free colony never to be tainted by the stigma of convicts. But, distance, a hostile and alien environment, a small population and ineptitude all contributed to the dashing of the colonist's hopes. By the end

of the 1840's the Colony was on the brink of bankruptcy and only by accepting convicts and the financial aid that went with them could the colony have any chance of survival.

The use of Pensioners as Convict Guards on the voyage to Australia had occurred many years before, when detachments of the 2nd and 4th Royal Veteran Battalions had volunteered for that duty in 1806. Unlike future Enrolled Pensioners they didn't retain their separate identity on arrival, as they were incorporated into the New South Wales Corps. Forty four years later another group of Enrolled Pensioners, the first of what would eventually total over a 1,000 men with their wives and children escorted the initial draft of convicts to Western Australia. From 1850 to 1868, convicts were sent to the colony and with each ship load, 35 pensioners on average were assigned to guard them. On arrival in the colony these Pensioners were stationed at the two main centres of settlement, Perth and Fremantle, with detachments being sent to various country convict depots and military outstations. Living conditions in the Colony were never easy but they improved as did those of the Enrolled Pensioner Force who were commanded until his death in 1870 by an extremely able and honourable officer Captain, later Lt Col John Bruce, who did everything in his power to improve the lot of those serving under him. It was soon after his death that the eventual disbandment of the Force was discussed by the Colonial, Home and War Offices.

The abolition of the transportation of convicts was due to public opinion both in Britain and Australia condemning its use as a punishment and the costs of transportation outweighing the benefits of their removal. So in 1868 the last convicts to be transported arrived at Fremantle. With the stopping of transportation and the decline in the number of convicts in the colony due to men being granted their Ticket of Leave and death, the need for a special force to guard them became increasingly unnecessary. In early 1876 a report with an all too familiar recommendation was sent to the British Government by the Assistant Commissary General of the Colony.....'to reduce Imperial expenditure I suggest that the Military Force of Enrolled Pensioners at Perth be removed and disengaged....'. This recommendation was acted upon and apart from a temporary reprieve caused by the audacious escape of six Fenians onboard an American whaler the *Catalpa*, the Enrolled Pensioner Force was abolished in 1880. As it was still necessary to have a guard at the Convict Prison and for the Magazine at Fremantle and also at Government House at Perth, the Enrolled Pensioner Force was replaced by a much smaller one known as the Enrolled Pensioner Guard. The last known group of Enrolled Pensioners to come from Britain to join the Enrolled Pensioner Guard was on the Naval Brigade in 1874. As the grant from the Treasury to maintain the Enrolled Guard was to cease in 1887, on the 31st of March of that year they paraded at Government House for the last time.

Also in 1850, at the same time as the Enrolled Pensioners first came to Western Australia, a much smaller force of 222 men were sent to Van Dieman's Land. This was the only group to be sent there and unlike the Enrolled Pensioners Force in Western Australia, extensive records have survived about them. There is yet an even smaller and more elusive group of pensioners known, these are the men from regiments stationed in various colonies who had elected at the end of their service to go to pension in those colonies. What little reference there is about these men is very difficult if not impossible to find.

To date 74 men from the forebear regiments of the Queen's are known to have enlisted in the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia. No doubt over a time a few more will

be discovered. But what will not so easily be discovered is the contribution that was made by these men and their families to the development of the society into which they settled.

MSB

The undermentioned pensioners were from our Regiments. They were all privates and their rates of pay per diem are shown alongside the name. It is not known why there were such differences in pay. The name of the ship and year they arrived are shown where known.

NAME	SHIP	REGIMENT	ARTICLE
Cornelius Callaghan	<i>Robert Small</i> 1853	2nd Foot	6 pence
James Cunningham	not known	31st Foot	1/-
John Day	<i>Scindian</i> 1850	31st Foot	6 pence
William Deadman	<i>Mermaid</i> 1851	2nd Foot	11 pence
Thomas Ellis	not known	2nd Foot	not known
James F Farrington	not known	2nd Foot	1/3
John Gallagher	<i>Merchantman</i> 1864	31st Foot	1/1
John Island	<i>Minden</i> 1851	2nd Foot	8 pence
David Joslin	<i>Hougoumont</i> 1868	2nd Foot	1/3
Henry Kelly	<i>Clyde</i> 1863	70th Foot	9 pence
Robert Lindsay	<i>Scindian</i> 1850	2nd Foot	1/-
Roger Meiklam	<i>Norwood</i> 1867	2nd Foot	1/-
Stephen Milton	<i>Merchantman</i> 1863	70th Foot	1/2½
Peter Murphy	<i>Scindian</i> 1850	31st Foot	6 pence
William Nicholson	<i>Mermaid</i> 1851	31st Foot	1/-
William Oliver	not known	31st Foot	11 pence
John Roberts	<i>Merchantman</i> 1863	31st Foot	9 pence
Stephen Ryan	not known	2nd Foot	1/3½
John Skillen	<i>Scindian</i> 1850	2nd Foot	1/-
James Taylor	<i>Scindian</i> 1850	2nd Foot	1/-
James Whitely	<i>Minden</i> 1851	31st Foot	8 pence
Jeremiah Woolhouse	<i>Ramillies</i> 1854	70th Foot	1/-

The Regiment And HMS Excellent

At a Dinner held at Whale Island on the 30th MAY 1924, on the occasion of the Annual Cricket Match between the Regiment and *HMS Excellent*, the Regiment was asked if they would kindly consent to the Regimental March being adopted as the March of *HMS Excellent*.

This proposal was agreed to pending the final approval of General Sir C.C. Monro, and a wire was despatched to that officer asking his consent. General Monro cordially agreed to the proposal.

A ceremony was arranged for the handing of the March to *HMS Excellent* and took place on the 24th July 1924 at Whale Island. The ceremony was carried out as follows:-

The Band and Drums of the Regiment were drawn up facing the Band of *HMS Excellent*.

The Band of the Regiment played the March and countermarched through the ranks of *HMS Excellent* band playing the March.

The two bands then played the March together conducted by Mr J. Buckle Bandmaster of the Regiment.

Mr. Buckle then handed over to the Bandmaster of *HMS Excellent* a silver cylinder containing a parchment on which the Authority of General Sir C.C. MONRO for *HMS Excellent* to use the March was inscribed.

HMS Excellent Band then Trooped the March through the ranks of the Band and Drums of the Regiment.

After the ceremony the Band and Drums Beat Retreat.

The occasion happened to coincide with the Royal Review at Spithead and was witnessed by a large number of distinguished Naval Officers who had assembled at Portsmouth for the Review.

After the Ceremony, which took place at 7p.m. *HMS Excellent* entertained three Officers of the Regiment to dinner, and a number of officers and their wives went round the Fleet in a pinnace placed at their disposal by the officers of *HMS Excellent*.

R.F.

Colours of the East Surrey Regt. and its forbears the 31st and 70th of Foot

Thirty First Regiment 1848 - 1864

These Colours, presented by Prince George of Cambridge at Dublin in 1848, were the first issued to the Regiment in Queen Victoria's long reign. They were retired in 1864, and laid up in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon three years later over the memorial to those of the 31st. who fell in the Crimea. They were netted in 1926, and hung in the church until about fifteen years ago. On redecorating, the Church Council decided they no longer wanted these venerable relics. A 'faculty' was obtained for their removal. The colours, still affixed to their original pikes with spear-heads, were in a bad way, extremely dusty, though the Regimental Colour showed the central device and all battle honours, save one, in excellent condition. It was appropriate that they hung in St. Mary's, as they constituted one of the few links with the County of Huntingdon, whose name was added to the Regimental Line Number in 1782. There is a photograph of these Colours in The East Surrey Journal for November, 1931, and a reproduction of a contemporary print in Dino Lemonfides' "British Infantry Colours".

They incorporated the changes laid down in the 1844 Regulations, in which the First, or King's Colour, was to be called 'The Royal' (until 1892 when changed to 'Queen's'), and the second was now entitled 'Regimental'. The central design of the latter has the County Title on a red ground, a circle within the Union Wreath of Roses, Thistles and Shamrocks, and the battle honours authorised in 1847.

These Colours had a comparatively uneventful life compared with their famous 'Sikh' predecessors. The Thirty-First arrived in the Crimea in May 1855, and the new Colours were first carried in action at the first battle of Sebastopol a month later.

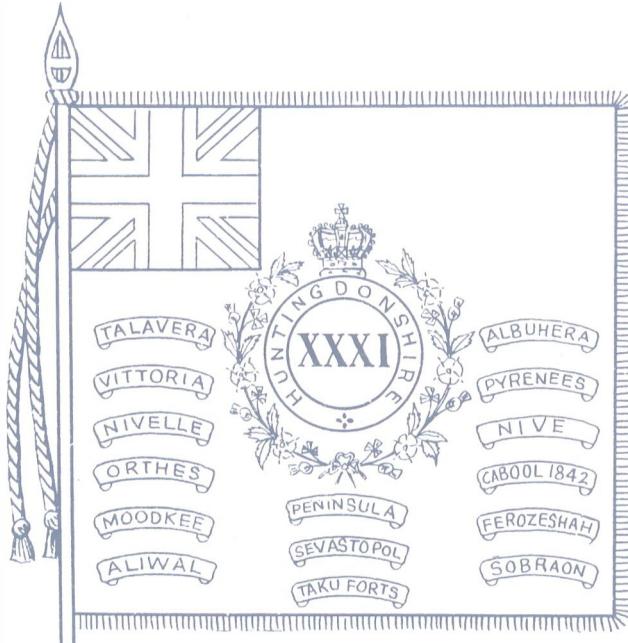
After the Crimea, the Regiment served in the Mediterranean, South Africa and India, and saw action in the fighting leading up to the capture of the Taku Forts in China in 1860, and against the Taiping Rebels in 1862.

The size of Colours was altered to six foot flying, by five foot, six inches deep, in 1855. These Colours appear to be of the six foot, six inches flying, by six foot deep size.

The facing colour of the Regimental Colour is buff.

There is a happy outcome to the fate that awaited the above Sebastopol Colours. After the Church Council had obtained the faculty to rid themselves of the Colours, the writer contacted the Regimental Office of The Queen's Surreys in Canterbury (lineal descendant of the 31st.), and was advised by them to let the Colours "rot quietly away", as this had been the wish of Brigadier George Roupell, VC, the last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment.

Great concern and interest was shown by The Sergeants of 1 Queen's, and WOII Paddy Ryan retrieved the Regimental Colour from Huntingdon. The Regimental Colour has been restored at the expense and initiative of the sergeants of 1 Queen's in whose Mess it now repose, beautifully cased and displayed, with the original pike framed nearby, thus considerably adding to former Regimental ties within the Mess.



70th Regiment - 1831 to 1845

The seventieth was raised in 1756, originally as a second Battalion of the 31st, which was then serving in Glasgow.

It became known, from the facings then worn, as the 'Glasgow Greys', and was numbered in the Line as a separate entity in 1758.

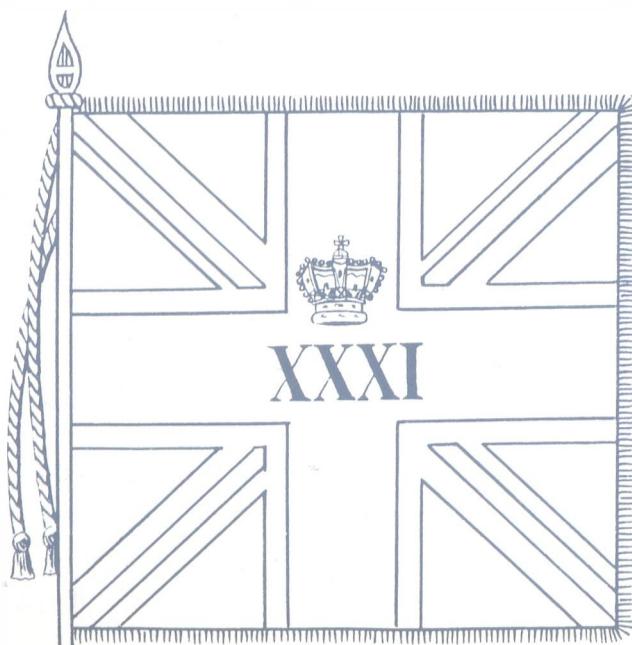
When regiments were given County affiliations in 1782, the title became 70th (Surrey) Regiment, and a depot was established at Kingston-upon-Thames in the same year.

After the Cardwell "linked battalions" reforms of 1881: the 70th were reunited with the 31st (who were formed as Villier's Marines in 1702) as The East Surrey's.

These earliest Colours of the 70th known to be in existence were presented in Dublin in 1831, by the daughter of the commanding officer, Colonel Thomas Evans, CB, who commanded the Regiment from 1829-1838.

The Colours accompanied the 70th to the Mediterranean, the West Indies and Canada, and returned to Dublin in 1845 when they were laid up in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

Here they hung for seventy-seven years, when they were handed over to the 2nd East Surrey's by General Macready in 1922; being finally laid up in Kingston parish church in November 1924.



The Regimental Colour, has a red cross on a black ground, black facings having been adopted by the 70th in 1768.

They are of the size laid down by the Royal Warrant of 1768: six foot six inches flying, by six foot, the staff being nine feet, ten inches overall.

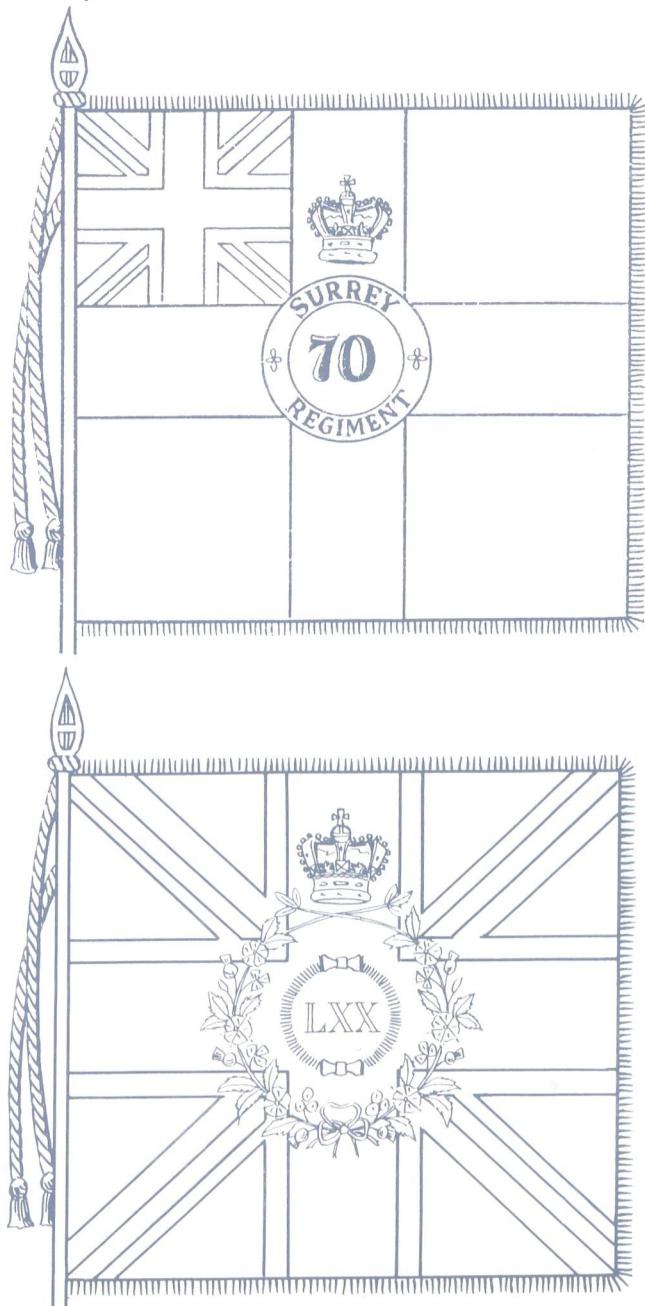
The stand is unusual in that the numerals on the King's (WIV) Colour are Roman (set upon a yellow silk central circle in accordance with the existing regulations,) whilst those on the Regimental Colour are Arabic!

In Milne's "Standards and Colours 1661 - 1881" this stand is quoted as an example of an attempt to beautify the Colours within the scope of the regulations although arabic numerals, though customary at this time, were stated as "incorrect"!

I was lucky in my visit to All Saint's Kingston, to photograph this stand as the Regimental Colour had "fallen down", and I was able to lay it on the church floor and obtain excellent close- ups.

Both netted, these fine old colours bear up well for their one hundred and sixty odd years of age.

Though these William IV Colours were carried in Service for fourteen years, there are no battle honours emblazoned.



70th Regiment 1848 - 1867

Queen's Regimental

Black facings: red St. George Cross: No Battle Honours

These Colours were in All Saints, Aldershot for nearly one hundred years. The remains of the Queen's Colour were in tatters, and have been destroyed. Only the Queen's Crown, Central design, and about one third of the floral wreath are left of the Regimental Colour, with some remains of the black facings. Mrs. Peter Hill has mounted these pieces on canvas for framing and exhibition at Clandon Park.

It is believed this stand was presented to the 70th in Ireland in 1848 prior to their embarkation for India - whether they had been in the possession of the Regiment since 1845, when their predecessors were laid up, is not known - the Regimental History is silent on the point.

The Regiment took part in operations against insurgent sepoy regiments in the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Four years later they were posted to New Zealand and were involved in the bitter actions fought against Maoris in the war of 1864-1865. A year after the Seventieth's return to the UK (at Shorncliffe) in 1866, these Colours were retired and laid up in All Saint's Church, Aldershot, where they hung for about a hundred years.

During a 'clearing-out' operation by the church in the 1960's, the Colours, now only fragments (but once of the old six foot size) were returned to the Regimental Museum, then at Surbiton, now at Clandon Park. Although they are in tatters, large portions having entirely disappeared, the numerals 'LXX' are discernible on both Colours. They were the first issued after the 1844 Regulations of Queen Victoria's reign. These stated that the 'First' or 'King's' Colour was to be called 'Royal' - this rule lasted until 1892. The central design was ordered to be - "Regiments which bear a Royal, County or other title are to have such designation on a red ground, a circle within the Union Wreath or Roses, Thistles, and Shamrocks. The number of the Regiment in Gold Roman characters in the centre". It is assumed that this stand differed little in design from the Colours issued to the 31st in the same year (illustrated in a previous article).

The history of this particular pair of Colours raises the whole question of their laying up in churches. Remembering the hallowed and solemn words of the deposition ceremony, the disinterested attitude of many of the clergy today to such relics might well cause surprise. For example, in St. John's, Croydon, are six Colours of the 4th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Two of these were the 'King's' Colours (with spear heads) issued to senior Service battalions of Regular Regiments in 1919. These were in many cases, carried only for a few months before the battalions were disbanded. Those in Croydon, being in pristine condition in the early twenty's when laid up, are noticeably falling apart, and should be netted if they are to be preserved.

DJ

THANK YOU:

Major J. L. A. Fowler TD. For once again giving us the materials on which this book is printed

Comparisons

Comparisons, so it is said, are odious, but in the light of the recent Gulf episode it is inevitable in the minds of many to compare like with like. In particular, there are many Queensmen thinking nostalgically of "good old desert days", completely ignoring the indignities and difficulties of those days, who must in their minds be comparing their times with both the past and the present.

Since time immemorial, the Middle East has always been a troubled area and, although names of countries may have changed more than once, there have been uprisings and unrest throughout the area many times in this century alone.

During the First World War, British troops were engaged in the campaign led by General Allenby through Palestine and Mesopotamia to the relief of Baghdad. Taking part from our Regiment were the 2/22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) whose Commanding Officer, Lt Col A D Borton won the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Tel el Shiria in November 1917.

1/5th Queen's, 2/4th Queen's and 1/5th Surreys all saw service in Mesopotamia. 1/5th Surreys took part in operations against the Turks on the Tigres. Later they were with the Army of Occupation in Mesopotamia and took part in operations in Southern Kurdistan.

In 1938 with the 2nd Bn. The Queen's active in Palestine (a young 2nd Lieutenant Michael Forrester distinguished himself by being awarded his first Military Cross). The 2nd Bn. was later in action in Syria against the Vichy French (where the 1/6th Queen's finished its War-tour in 1947!). In 1942 came the arrival of 56 London Division (Black Cats) to form part of the 10th Army guarding the approaches from the North to Persia. Two battalions of Royal Fusiliers were in 168 Brigade, while 169 was a complete Queen's Brigade (2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th) which had to travel by various means via Basra and Baghdad to about 20 miles North of Kirkuk; here they suffered the long winter months in uncomfortable surroundings before facing up to the longest approach march in history, from Kirkuk to Enfidaville in Tunisia. (One wonders if the stone building erected by the Queen's Pioneers, engraved with "1661" on the head-stone, is still in being!).

1991 brought the Gulf episode and among the British troops now concerned, RRF followed on the old London Regiment traditions, and whilst no battalions of the Queen's Regiment were deployed a number of officers, NCOs and men were attached to various formations throughout the campaign. Two officers were awarded the MBE. 7th Armoured Brigade wore the famous insignia of their predecessors, the Desert Rat.

So there we have three areas of the Middle East, well-trodden by three different generations of troops, which could quite possibly have been father, son and grandson, all away from their homes and families for much the same causes, or so it seemed - although it is more than likely that the "reasons for" were never understood by anyone actually there - or anywhere else, for that matter!

There was not a great deal of difference between the years 1917 and 1942 in equipment and materials; as far as the Infantryman was concerned, the SMLE rifle and bayonet were the same, as were the Vickers MMG, the Mills 36 grenade and, above all, the food! "Desert chicken" and hard tack biscuits, saved only by the morale boosting mug of 'char', hot and sweet. General Allenby's campaign may have been more mobile when compared with the trenches in France, but it was still slow and mostly on foot. Tank warfare admittedly had improved and in N. Africa was certainly one of movement, but even so three years and more passed before it was finalised.

The next forty five years, however, saw gigantic strides being made in every direction, including defences against the

possibilities of nuclear and chemical attack. Offensive weapons of all kinds and their operation had improved beyond belief with the added use of computers, space satellites and aircraft and bore little relation to previous weaponry and their effects.

But what of the men themselves? Here again there was little difference between the first two generations; living conditions had improved but there was still much poverty about. The growing use of the car had started to widen their horizons but they still remained parochial in habit, with very few having been beyond the shores of England. Indeed, a two-week holiday was all that the worker could expect, and in the poorer parts of S.E. London the only holiday possible was when the locality was almost evacuated in order to go "hopping" down at Paddock Wood. After the 45 war, of course, living conditions improved greatly, and with the introduction of cheaper air travel, holidays overseas gradually became the norm.

So what differences, then, were there between these three generations of men of differing conditions of living, education and outlook when faced with the similar problems of extreme risk, hardship and disruption?

Boiled right down, it comes to this; no difference at all! They all faced up to the difficulties in the same old manner of cheerful acceptance of what had to be done, cheerful, that is, with many a moan and grumble which is part of the make-up, and most likely part of the basic humour which forms such a large part of their characters.

We must be eternally thankful that the same life bloodstream still flows through father, son and grandson, and long may it be so.

NN

From The Past

*B Company 1st Bn The Queens Royal Regiment
Hawalbagh Camp 1940, Dulikhet, India.*



*Standing:- Sgt Nye, PSM Newman, CSM Elkins, Ass. Surgeon, Sgt Boon.
Seated:- 2/Lt JA Hamilton, Lt NAM Marsden, Maj. J B Phillips, 2/Lt MA Lowry 2/Lt B Pegler.*

Golf Society

The Spring meeting of the Golf Society took place at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on Thursday 2nd May 1991. 16 members attended.

The Results of the Competitions were:-

CHALLENGE CUP	COLONEL J.G.W. DAVIDSON	77 gross
DODGSON CUP	MAJOR B.A. CRUTCHFIELD	70 net
HEALES TROPHY	LTCOL. P.G.F.M. ROUPELL	36 points
VETERANS HALO	MAJOR B.A. CRUTCHFIELD	43 points
HARRY ADCOCK TROPHY	COLONEL J.G.W. DAVIDSON	33 putts

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Clubhouse following the afternoon Competition. The President Major W.J.F. Sutton and 14 members were present.

The Spring meeting next year will again be at Sudbrook Park and will be held on Thursday 7th May 1992.

Annual Match V. Royal Marines Golf Society

The 1991 match was played at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on 3 July and resulted in a win by R.M.G.S. by $7\frac{1}{2}$ points to $2\frac{1}{2}$.

A.M.

Maj.Gen. Col.	G A White J W Sewell	0	Maj.Gen. Captain	P Kay D Hunt	1
Major Captain	W J F Sutton B M L Scripps	1	Col. C.Sgt.	D Smith P Prowse	0
Major Major	B A Crutchfield F V Sheppard	0	Lt.Col. Captain	G Perkins R Patterson-Knight	1
Lt.Col. Major	F B Herd P T Carroll	0	Cpl. Captain	M Taylor A Gordon	1
	M J Power C White	0	C.Sgt. Sgt.	R Farley P McCormack	1
		1			4

P.M.

Major Captain	P T Carroll B M L Scripps	0	Maj.Gen. Col.	P Kay D Smith	1
Maj.Gen. Major	G A White W J F Sutton	$\frac{1}{2}$	Lt.Col. Captain	G Perkins D Hunt	$\frac{1}{2}$
Major	H P Mason F V Sheppard	1	Captain C.Sgt.	R Patterson-Knight P Prowse	0
Col. Lt.Col.	J W Sewell F B Herd	0	C.Sgt. Cpl.	R Farley M Taylor	1
Major	B A Crutchfield M J Power	0	Sgt. Captain	P McCormack A Gordon	1
		$1\frac{1}{2}$			$3\frac{1}{2}$

A Penny For Them

After eighteen months on the periphery of H.M. Forces and after reading many books on the subject (I do now know what a Brigade and a Battalion are and the difference between an Officer and an N.C.O.), one can still make mistakes. Labouring under the illusion that a certain person was, underneath it all, a normal human being, I approached him with a suggestion and a request for materials. The fact that I am still sadly lacking in 'know how' was brought home to me by the response: "Don't you know, you should never approach a Quartermaster like that?" Education is a lifelong process and so I welcomed the incident as being a valuable continuation of it!

(I don't know who this could have been - Editor)

While on the subject of such learning experiences: a colleague goes into the museum's store to discuss a carpentry job with a group of interested individuals, one of whom he had not met before. "And you are Mr....?" he politely enquired. "There are no Mr's here, only Brigadiers and Colonels" was the reply (said with a twinkle in the eye, I must add).

I did go to the Somme in July in the company of like-minded people and, this time, six marvellous veterans of the First World War. We were able, from their reminiscences, to pinpoint and visit many of the places where they had fought and been billeted. The most touching moment was placing the ashes of an old soldier in the grave of his brother in Louvencourt cemetery, thereby fulfilling his last wish. We each dropped a few poppy leaves into his grave and those emotive words "They do not grow old..." were beautifully said by one of our veterans.

We were privileged to meet and lunch with "Madame Rose" whose father, a local farmer, was the first person to be killed at Thiepval. More immediately relevant to the history of the Regiment was our visit to Montauban of East Surrey 'football' fame. There we were marvellously entertained by the Mayor's wife, Deputy Mayor and villagers (including children) at a village reception after laying a wreath at the village memorial. One of our group became the owner of the head of the Madonna of Montauban (presumably brought back as a souvenir by one of her ancestors). She had taken it back to the village some time ago and we were able to see it in the church. She told me that from the moment it had come into her possession she was uneasy until she had researched its history and personally returned it to its rightful home. This time she had brought to show to the villagers a beautiful painting of the Madonna as she was before being blown to pieces. The Mayor himself was unfortunately unable to attend because of illness but is known by us as "Monsieur le Magnifique" because on the last visit by the group he stood coatless and hatless in a relentless downpour for two minutes in front of the village memorial. We sincerely hoped that his present indisposition was not a long term result of that experience. However, as we drove past his house and out of the village there he was, leaning out of the bedroom window resplendent in pyjamas, madly waving a large Tricolour!

My travels continue. As you may be reading this, I shall be in Singapore, having spent some time in South Australia. There's something to be said for having a husband who is in demand as a speaker at international conferences!

A word on the future of service museums: having become connected with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum I have been made very aware that there cannot be many indigenous families in the land whose history is not bound up with one of the Services. Therefore, especially in view of the projected cuts and amalgamations about to be imposed on the Armed Services, our military museums must surely carry an even greater responsibility as guardians and exponents of such an important part of the nation's heritage.

Sergeant T B Holdforth Military Medal 1/5th Queens

As a small child I was taught to sing the words of a regimental march 'Braganza' and another popular march 'Soldiers of the Queen'. The words meant little to me but The Queen's Royal Regiment obviously meant a lot to my father, Sergeant Thomas Bertram Holdforth. He was a territorial before the First World War and served throughout that war with The 1/5th Battalion, The Queen's. He was awarded the Military Medal in June 1918 for gallantry in Mesopotamia.

Twenty years ago I began research into my father's military record from when he joined, his war service, and also his service during the Second World War with the 10th Bn The Sussex Home Guard. I discovered very little, usually ending in the way of short but courteous letters from The Ministry of Defence and The Army Records Centre, advising me that a great many documents had been destroyed during enemy action in 1940.

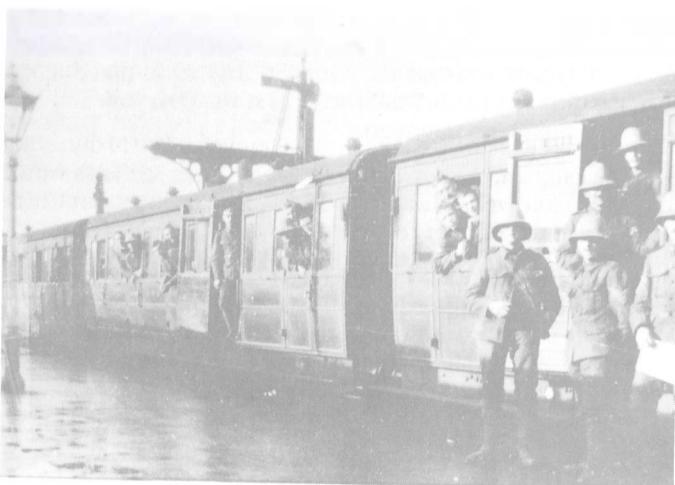
In March this year my five brothers and I re-opened the quest for information and we discussed the problem with The Secretary of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association at Canterbury. He advised us on which regimental histories and books to read, and unearthed copies of diaries of the period appertaining to 1/5th Queens, presenting us with an extraordinary amount of reading material, which certainly kept me employed for weeks.

One afternoon in May, we spent a most rewarding and fascinating few hours in the company of Brigadier Frank Stafford, aged 96 years, who had served in India in The Great War and, it materialised had sailed from Southampton to Bombay, on the S.S. 'Alaunia' the very ship my father had embarked on in October 1914. Brigadier Stafford recalled many incidents and related amusing, courageous and sometimes tragic stories of life in The 1/5th Queens in India, during that time. I am indebted to Brigadier Stafford for bringing alive for me, a female civilian, an era of great Regimental history.

I was invited to visit the regimental museum at Clandon to look at photo albums and pictures of The First World War. I found the museum a fascinating home of treasures, not only to The Queen's Royal Regiment but also I learnt that The East Surrey Regiment records and treasures are also lodged there. I discovered a photo album which showed the battalion leaving Canterbury, embarking at Southampton and also one of the troopship 'Alaunia' which had taken my father to India. Lt Col Wilson showed me several photos and to my amazement I found I was looking at my father's face, staring back at me from a group of soldiers photographed in India in 1915. It was a photograph I had never seen before.

My brothers and I should like to extend our most grateful thanks to Lt Col Wilson for the interest, time and care he has taken with our request for help in ascertaining how our father won The Military Medal.

In thanking him we should also like to thank the staff at Clandon for their time and patience with our endless questions. The museum is well worth a visit and I now feel I know much more about The Queen's and my Father, and I am proud of both.



1/5th Queen's leaving Canterbury station 1915



Southampton docks.



Troopship SS Alaunia



T B Holdforth is fourth from left - rear rank.

Which way did that arrow go?

Over the years a certain amount of confusion seems to have arisen concerning both shape and mode or wearing of the divisional sign of the 7th Indian Division, the formation with which the 1st Queen's fought in the Burma campaign.

Some writers on the subject suggest that the 'Golden Arrow' of this formation's badge was chosen to indicate the Division's origins on the North-West Frontier of India since it is possible to describe it as pointing to the north-west. In the short published history of this Division - 'Golden Arrow - the story of the 7th Indian Division' the author, Brigadier M.R. Roberts, confirms that the Division, mobilised for war in the spring of 1942, had prior to that date formed part of the North Western Army of India. In the spring and summer of 1942 the Division trained for war in the Hazara district of the North West Frontier Province.

The original shape of the Division's badge was round like a compass card and its colour was black. A yellow or golden arrow was placed diagonally upon this. So, if the badge could be visualised as being the shape of a prismatic compass then the arrow or compass needle could be said to point to the north-west. This explanation of the badge's origin certainly has the ring of truth, and on the war-time photographs that survive, the badge is always seen as being round and pointing north-west on route signs and vehicles.

However, when worn upon clothing it was a different matter. Here the arrows were always made to point forward, and so on the left arm the arrow pointed north-west and on the right arm north-east. This could be thought appropriate since most of the Division's active service was on the north-eastern borders of India. In confirmation of this there is to be seen on page 13 of 'Golden Arrow' a photograph of a medical officer from the Division treating a Japanese prisoner. His right arm is visible and upon this is pinned his divisional badge. The arrow points north-east.

For reasons connected with both security and dhobi arrangements the divisional badge was seldom sewn permanently upon uniform clothing. It was usually mounted upon a safety pin of some description and thus one was able to remove it when a shirt was dhobied or when one went out on patrol. The end result of this was that the angle of the arrow tended to vary, a problem not helped by the shape of the badge which remained, until the war was over, circular in shape. That this was so is confirmed by the photos that survive and in particular by an excellent example, taken in 1945, of Corporal R. Price of the 1st Queen's which is in the collection of the Imperial War Museum.

When the war ended the Division flew into Thailand - a land of plenty in comparison with Burma. Here the opportunity was taken to vary the 7 Indian Division badge. The shape was changed from round to square and the arrow embroidered with a truly golden thread. This was the badge nowadays usually depicted as being the emblem of the 7th Indian Division. There is a good picture of the Divisional Commander - Major General (later Lieutenant General Sir) Geoffrey Evans in the front of the Divisional history. From the medal ribbons worn in this photograph it can be dated as being late 1945 or early 1946.

There were Dutch and other allied troops within Thailand at this time and so Major General Evans's formation was enlarged and he was designated Commander, Allied Land Forces Siam or ALFSIAM. No new badge was made for this formation which had but a short life. After the disarming, concentration and removal of the Japanese troops within

Thailand was effected, the 7th Indian Division commenced to wither away. As the C.O. of the 1st Queen's at that time, the late John Terry has written in 'The Queen's in Burma 1943-45'

'The Division thinned out unit by unit during 1946, until only ourselves and the Divisional Machine Gun Battalion were left. In September 1946 we boarded SS Corfu set for Penang, and left the 'Venice of the East' with its Princes, Princesses, Palaces and friendly people'.

In later years the Golden Arrow badge, was utilised as a divisional sign by the Pakistan army.

So, to summarise. During the war the Divisional badge was round in shape and it became square after the war. On vehicles and signs the arrows always pointed to the 'north-west' but on uniform clothing things were always arranged so that the arrows pointed forward.

A.J.P.

SIGNALS

TED JOSLING SENDS
BEST WISHES ON THE
GLORIOUS FIRST TO
ALL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS.



TO QUEEN'S SURREYS
ASSOCIATION PD CO
AND ALL RANKS -
1ST BATTALION THE
QUEEN'S REGIMENT
SEND THEIR LOYAL
AND HEARTFELT
GREETINGS ON
THIS THE 330TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF OUR GLORIOUS REGIMENT
PD UNCONQUERED WE SERVE.

MAJOR TED NEWMAN SENDS GREETINGS TO ALL
MEMBERS 1ST QUEENS 1935- 1940. FROM BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

Nothing Changes

Over a stone sentry box at Prince Edward's Gate at Gibraltar, dated 1790, the following inscription was carved. Fortunately it was copied by Lieutenant Marcus John Slade of the 75th Regiment, as the stone was subsequently lost when the sentry box was bricked up.

*"God and the soldier all men adore,
In time of trouble and no more.
For when war is over,
and all things righted
God is neglected, and the Old Soldier slighted".*

This would appear to be a free adaptation of the short poem by Francis Quarles (1592-1644), which follows:

*"Our God and soldier we alike adore
When at the brink of danger not before
The danger o'er, both are alike requited
God is forgotten and the soldier slighted".*

Guildford Cathedral - 2nd June 1991

I have received numerous messages from members of the Association saying how much they enjoyed attending this service; judging by the numbers attending, it is certainly becoming an increasingly important reunion. Regular members of the Cathedral congregation will soon complain that we are leaving them insufficient room!

Certainly I enjoyed the service very much, and particularly the sermon. For those who did not attend, it was preached this year by Canon Derek Landreth TD, MA, a distinguished old comrade who served during the last war (before becoming a priest) as a gunner, and as a T.A. padre for many years after becoming a priest. He was padre to 4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and ended his service as Senior Chaplain to the Forces (TA). His sermon included a comprehensive enquiry into the purpose of a Regimental Association, starting with the continuity of the Regimental Family, from the youngest to the oldest, how its traditions are maintained and how the Regimental Association forms an integral part of that family by maintaining a bridge between those who do serve and those who have served - all of them being pledged to the maintenance of the Regiments past heritage as well as its present purpose.

Derek Landreth continued his sermon by a detailed examination of the battle honours and badges that bind us and then compared the Association to a family or communion of saints - ordinary soldiers and ordinary people who carry on with their ordinary duties but stand up and fight when required. "For all the saints" and he alluded to the line - "O May thy Soldiers faithful, true and bold, fight as thy Saints who nobly fought of old....Derek finished his sermon with an expression of hope that it would not be twenty years before he was invited to preach at this service again! I for one certainly hope that he will be asked to preach on many future occasions.

WEM

Guildford Cathedral October 4th 1991

Short Address by the Dean The Very Reverend Alexander Wedderspoon on the occasion of the dedication of new Cross and Candlesticks for the CHAPEL OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT



The President and the Dean at Guildford Cathedral.

All of us who have served at any time in the British Army look back on that as a very special experience. With many of you,

your period of service covered many years; I myself can only claim two years as a National Service man in the 1950s.

But whether our time in the Army was long or short, for most of us it was an intense experience. There were times of hardship, stress, danger, unpleasantness and sometimes suffering and sorrow. There were also times of absurd confusion and comedy. But we knew that we were part of a long tradition of honour, gallantry, discipline and service, and we experienced a unique and unforgettable comradeship.

For members of The Queen's Regiment this is a time of sadness, even resentment. You are aware that very shortly the Regiment will cease to exist as a separate unit within the British Army.

Perhaps for that reason our short Service here this morning has a special importance. For when we all have passed on, as we shall, this Chapel will stand - perhaps for centuries - as a silent memorial to much that was honourable, good and great in the history of our nation; it will also remind those who come after us how costly was the preservation of the faith and freedom which we in Britain cherish.

Best Wishes to:-

Colonel John Francis, Regimental Secretary The Queen's Regiment at Canterbury, who underwent major heart surgery in August, now fully recovered and back at work.

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Griffiths who has had a bad bout of pneumonia but now happily is on the mend.

Ernie Lockwood who has undergone heart surgery but now on the mend.

Congratulations to:-

Brigadier and Mrs M E M Mac William who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 26th August 1991.

Brigadier Frank Stafford who celebrated his 96th Birthday on 24th August, Colonel Lance East who was 90 on 22nd May 1991 and Major Peter Hill who was 80 on July 30th.

Major and Mrs. E G Benn who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 4th June 1991.

Glanvill, second son of the late Sir Ernest Benn, served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1940 until the end of the Second World War. In the Regiment he was affectionately known as 'Uncle'. He was adjutant of the 11th (later 2nd) Battalion, and subsequently Brigade Major of 138 Infantry Brigade in Italy. He was Mentioned in Despatches.

After the war he became Chairman of Benn Brothers, the family publishing firm founded by his Grandfather in 1880. He took a deep interest in his old Regiment and was most helpful and generous in publishing matters, particularly the Regimental History, and in giving employment to many retired old comrades.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT AND ITS FORBEARS, 1950 - 1970

The Queen's Royal Regiment

The 1st Battalion left Berlin in November 1949 and moved to Iserlohn in West Germany as part of the 6th Infantry Brigade. From here a draft of one officer and 135 soldiers was sent, as a formed company, to the 1st Middlesex in Korea. This formed C Company of 1st Middlesex and they took part in operations from September 1950 to April 1951.

The Battalion moved to Malaya in late 1953. After training in Singapore and Southern Johore the Battalion moved to Malacca where it was widely scattered on operations. In April 1954 the Battalion moved to South Johore, for IS duties and whilst there, several times was moved to Singapore. The battalion remained in Malaya until March 1957. One officer and six soldiers were killed in action; a further one officer and two soldiers died on active service. Twenty members of the battalion received Honours or Awards.

After leave in England the battalion rejoined 6th Infantry Brigade at Iserlohn in June 1957. Despite being undermanned, the battalion won a high reputation for military and sports. In 1958, a full prowess company joined 1 Surreys in Cyprus, where that battalion was on standby for the crisis in Iraq. The Company also undertook IS duties, and later moved with 1 Surreys to Benghazi and Tobruk before returning to Iserlohn in January 1959.

1959 was the last year of independent life of the 1st Queen's. During that year it won The Duke of Connaughts shield for First Aid, The BAOR and Army Championships in Hockey and Swimming. It was a full training year but will probably be best remembered for its week-long celebrations for the Glorious First of June.

The battalion moved to Bury St Edmunds in September 1959. It had been decided that only those soldiers with more than 7 months service to complete would join the new battalion, and large drafts were sent to 1 Buffs and 1 Middlesex. It was therefore at a strength of only 200 that, on October 14th, 298 years after the first muster of Peterborough's Regiment, the Battalion amalgamated with the 1st East Surreys to form The 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

For the Territorials, the years 1950-59 saw frequent changes. Initially all units were weak, and concentrated on forming an efficient cadre for the reserve training of NS men after completion of their regular service.

The old 4th Battalion, now 598 LAA Regiment RA (Queen's) continued to wear Queen's insignia. In 1954 AA Command was abolished and the Regiment became Q Battery of a new Regiment, 565 LAA Regiment. The Battery continued to be based in Croydon. In 1961 the whole regiment amalgamated with the 5th and 6th Queen's to form 3 Queen's Surreys.

The 5th Battalion, based in Guildford and the country areas of West Surrey, maintained a strength of over 500. It remained with 131 Brigade of 44 (HC) Division. In 1957, it reverted to an all - volunteer basis and celebrated its centenary year in 1959. In 1961 it joined the 4th and 6th Battalions in the new 3 Queen's Surreys.

The 6th Battalion in Bermondsey had, unlike the 5th, a Territorial CO. Two new drill halls were opened, at Croydon and New Cross. In 1957, it was transferred from 131 Brigade to 47 (London) Brigade. In 1961 it joined the 4th and 5th Battalions in 3 Queen's Surreys.

The old 7th Battalion was now 622 (Queen's) HAA Regiment RA, and was still based in Southwark. On the disbandment of AA Comd in 1954 the regiment amalgamated with 577 LAA/SL Regiment RA (1st Surrey Rifles). In 1961 this regiment became one battery of The Greater London

Regiment RA. It did not return to the Regimental fold until 1971 when it became a company of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

The East Surrey Regiment

The 1st Battalion remained only a few months in East Africa before returning to England in 1950 where it was stationed at Barnard Castle, Durham, as part of 2 Infantry Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. In April 1951, it moved to Shorncliffe joining 32 Guards Brigade in the 3rd Division. On 12th October it joined 19 Infantry Brigade and moved with that Brigade to Libya in the biggest ever peace-time airlift yet attempted.

The move, which had included the whole of the 3rd Division, had been made necessary by the nationalisation of the Persian oilfields and trouble in the Canal Zone. The Battalion remained at Tripoli until October 1952 where it celebrated its 250th Anniversary in July 1953.

The Battalion's next move was to Derna, and then in January 1953 to Tel-el-Kabir. From thence it returned to Shorncliffe. A large number of individuals joined 1 Middlesex and 1 Queen's Own for service in Korea and Malaya. In July 1955 the Battalion moved to Brunswick, West Germany where it remained until January 1958 when it again returned to England, this time to Bury St Edmunds, rejoining 19 Infantry Brigade.

From here the Battalion went for 3 months, at the height of the disturbances, to Cyprus for IS duties in Nicosia. Its numbers were made up by gunners from 20 Fd Regt RA and 34 LAA Regt RA, and by a Company from 1 Queen's in Iserlohn.

Just before Christmas 1958 the Battalion returned to Bury where, on 14th October 1959, it was amalgamated with 1 Queen's. The CO of the new Battalion was the CO of 1 Surreys, Lieutenant Colonel G A White MBE.

The old 5th Battalion had now joined the Surrey Yeomanry Regiment RA (T). It rejoined the Regiment in 1971 as a company of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

The 6th Battalion remained at Kingston with outstations across East Surrey as part of 131 Infantry Brigade. In 1961 it celebrated its Centenary. In the same year it joined 47 (London) Brigade prior to its amalgamation with the 23rd London Regiment as 4th Queen's Surreys.

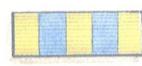
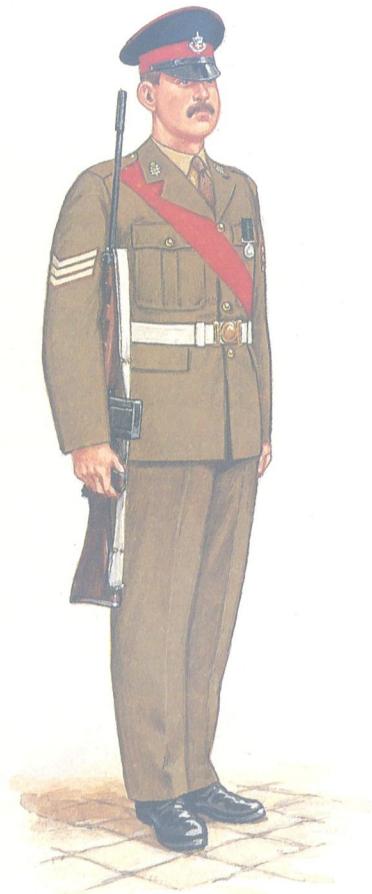
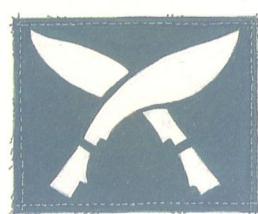
The 21st London Regiment, originally the 1st Surrey Rifles, had been converted to artillery before the Second World War and had joined the 7th Queen's as has already been outlined. The 23rd London Regiment based at Clapham Junction was now the last titled unit of The London Regiment and until 1956 it was roled as a tank battalion. It then reconverted to the infantry role. In 1961 it amalgamated with the 6th East Surreys to form the 4th Queen's Surreys.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment 1959 - 1969

The 1st Battalion held an amalgamation Parade on 14th October 1959. It received its Colours from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 22nd April 1960 after which it exercised its civic freedoms. In May 1960 the Battalion moved to Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester where it joined 19 Infantry Brigade.

In November 1960 now commanded by Lt Col M A Lowry MC the battalion moved by sea to Aden, where it undertook a one year tour of duty based in Aden with a Company outstation at Mukerias near the Yemen border. Whilst in Aden the battalion assisted with the mounting of troops for the Kuwait crisis.

In October 1961, the Regiment celebrated its Tercentenary,



Top, left to right. Headdress worn during the period 1950-1970. The dark blue beret (here with The East Surrey cap badge) superceded the cap, GS in 1950. The blue beret, in turn, was replaced by the coloured No 1 Dress forage cap after 1963. The example shown is for other ranks with the Home Counties cap badge which is also shown centre. The officers' coloured forage cap had a slightly lower crown, a wider chin strap and an undecorated peak. Lieutenant Colonels' and Majors' had a peak decorated with plain gold embroidery 3/4 of an inch wide. On the right hand side is the jungle hat with a blue diamond identity sign. The Divisional signs left, top to bottom 3rd Division, 17th Gurkha Division, 19th Infantry Brigade. Right, top to bottom 44th Home Counties Division, also the 1947, earlier, version of the 44th with the shield of the East Kent District superimposed on the red oval of the old wartime formation sign. HQ British Troops in Egypt. Centre The Queen's Royal Surreys territorial cap badge with, on the left, the officers' collar badge and, right, the other ranks' anodised collar badge.

QUEEN'S

QUEEN'S SURREYS

EAST SURREY



DR

Facing Page Continued: Central figure Drummer of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Aden and Hong Kong. Bottom left Sergeant, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, No.2 Dress. Bottom right Lieutenant Colonel, The Queen's Surrey Regiment (TA), in No.1 Ceremonial Dress. Centre bottom a selection of medal ribbons of the period. From the top, left to right: General Service Medal, 1918-1962, General Service Medal, 1962. UK Korea Medal. UN Korea Medal. Coronation Medal. UN Cyprus Medal. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Territorial Efficiency Medal.

Pictured above: Top Battle dress shoulder titles of the Queen's, Queen's Surrey's and East Surrey's. Equipment 1958 pattern combat equipment and large pack. Anti gas light respirator and case. SLR with wood furniture later changed to black plastic. General Purpose Machine Gun and the L2A3, Sterling Sub Machine Gun with magazine.

the battalion held a Trooping the Colour parade at which HRH Princess Alexandra took the salute.

In January 1962 the Battalion made one of the last troopship moves by a British battalion, leaving Aden for Hong Kong. In May 1962 the last draft of National Servicemen departed. In May and June 1962 the battalion was engaged in IS duties in the New Territories, after which it assisted in hurricane relief. The battalion remained in Hong Kong until November 1963. While in the Colony, two detachments were provided for the Honour Guard in Korea.

The Battalion moved to Munster in West Germany in January 1964 where it became a mechanised battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade, equipped with the Humber 1-ton 'Pig'. In 1965 it trained in Canada and took part in the parade at Sennelager for the State Visit of HM The Queen.

On December 31st 1966 the battalion was redesignated 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys).

In March 1967 the battalion won the BAOR Boxing Championships. In May, HRH Princess Marina, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, visited the Battalion.

The Battalion returned to England and moved to Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield in August 1967.

In October 1967 the Battalion exercised its Civic Freedoms, and at the end of the year undertook MACM duties assisting in an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

In February 1968 the whole Battalion moved to Bahrain for nine months.

On return to Lingfield in December 1968 the Battalion expected to train in Jamaica, but in August 1969 it was sent at short notice to Northern Ireland. The Battalion moved to Londonderry where it completed a highly successful tour of peace-keeping duty before returning to Lingfield.

During 1970 The Battalion completed Public Duties in London. Made up to strength with drafts from the disbanded 4 Queen's (Middlesex), it moved to Berlin in July 1970.

The 3rd Battalion (TA) was formed in 1961 by the amalgamation of 565 LAA Regt RA (formerly 4th Queen's), 5th and 6th Queen's. The Battalion thus represented The Queen's tradition of the Regiment.

It received its Colours on 12th July 1963 at Woking. The Battalion joined 47 (London) Brigade of 44 (HC) Division, and in 1963 won the Major Units Competition in the Divisional Rifle Meeting. In 1965 eleven TAER men for the battalion joined 1 Royal Sussex in Aden. In 1966 the Battalion team led by Captain F B Herd won the Courage Trophy Competition.

In 1967 the Battalion joined The Queen's Regiment. Guildford became A Company of the new 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, while Croydon became D Company of the new 6th (Territorial) Battalion.

The 4th Battalion (TA) represented the Surreys tradition of the Regiment and was formed in 1961 from the 6th Surreys and the 23rd London Regiment. It too joined 47 London Brigade, and also received its Colours at Woking on 12th July 1963. The Regimental Colour bore the badge of the RTR in commemoration of the service of the 23rd London as a tank battalion. In 1965, nineteen TAER men joined 1 Royal Sussex in Aden. In 1966 the Battalion formed the bulk of the 6th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys).

The 6th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) came into being in April 1967 as a Home Defence unit. In October it exercised its Civic Freedoms. In 1968, 47 Infantry Brigade ceased to exist and the battalion was transferred to South East District. In November, it undertook

MACM duties, assisting with serious flooding in the Thames Valley.

The Battalion was reduced to a Cadre in April 1969. In 1971 Queen's Surreys Companies were re-raised in the 6th (V) Battalion at Wandsworth, Sutton and Camberwell, and in the 7th (V) Battalion at Farnham.

Stoughton Barracks

Under a banner headline 'Victorian army buildings get a green mantle' The Surrey Advertiser published the following article on 13th September concerning Stoughton Barracks, the old Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment. We are grateful to The Surrey Advertiser for allowing us to reproduce their article in this Newsletter.

Victorian buildings at Stoughton Barracks which once housed The 2nd Queen's Regiment and The 2nd Surrey Militia now have conservation status.

Guildford Borough Council has decided to designate the southern part of the barracks as a conservation area. This will include the Peterborough and Tangier barrack blocks, the Quartermaster's offices, the Keep, officers' mess and married soldiers' quarters.

The council's conservation officer, Mr. David Clegg, in his report on the issue to a recent meeting of the planning committee, stressed that the high wall and gates around the barracks merited retention if possible.

Stoughton Barracks is owned by the Ministry of Defence. It has been empty and surplus to military requirements for a number of years. There is a current outline planning application for 190 residential units on the 13- plus acres of land at the barracks awaiting decision by the planning committee.

The mostly brick buildings within the conservation area were built in the 1870s, enclosed on three sides the high wall which has survived.

It was common in those days for military building and architecture to be carried out by officers of the Royal Engineers. Stoughton Barracks were built under the direct supervision of Lieutenant Elliott Wood, assisted by Sergeant Major Snelling.

In his report Mr. Clegg said that the Keep and officers' mess were "particularly notable buildings". The Keep was identical to a similar structure in Reading which had been listed by the Department of the Environment.

The borough council has requested the DoE to include the Keep on the statutory list of buildings of architectural interest.

Mr. Clegg said the officers' mess was the "grandest building" on the site. Its handsome entrance porch was supported by Aberdeen marble pillars with carved Portland stone caps and bases.

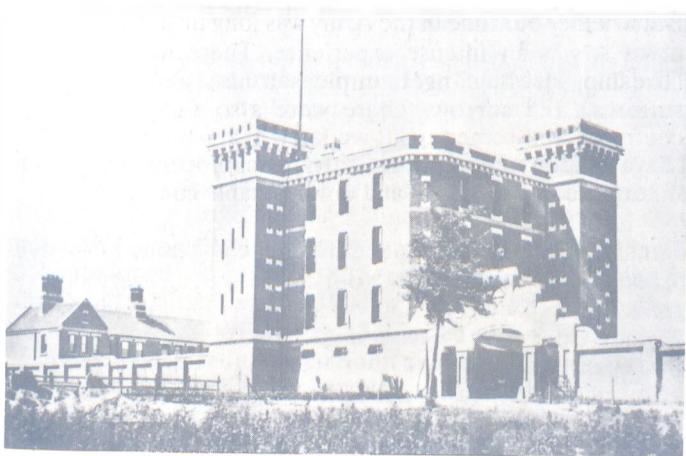
There were also a number of good trees on the site which provided an attractive framework for the barracks and which should be retained wherever possible.

"We feel the area has historic character and distinct architecture. It is up for residential development so not all the buildings will be kept. Some could, perhaps, be converted to residential use", Mr. Clegg told the committee.

Mr. Christopher Fox (Lib.Dem.,Stoughton) said there were other buildings not included in the proposed conservation area that were worthy of conservation - the Royal public house, designed by Henry Peak, and a row of cottages - but his suggestion was not taken up.

The committee agreed that the southern part of the Stoughton Barracks complex which contained all the main

buildings of architectural and historic interest, should be designated a conservation area.



Stoughton Barracks 1876.

In 1873 Edward Cardwell, who lived at Eashing and was Secretary of State for War in Gladstone's government, decided that Guildford like all county towns should have a barracks. At the time the site chosen was open fields. The barracks was occupied in 1876 becoming the 48th Brigade Depot. Under the Cardwell reforms of 1881, the number was dropped and the Depot renamed The Queen's Royal (West Surrey). It is of interest that between 1876 and 1900 neither the 1st or the 2nd Battalion spent more than six years altogether in England, serving in India and Ireland.

The Editor wishes to thank the Surrey Advertiser for permission to print this article.

Major Patrick Ferguson, 1744 - 1780

Rather surprisingly there were two articles on this officer of the 70th Regiment in the last issue of the News Letter, and neither contributor was aware of the other's account.

In the article on how we lost our American Colonies, Major Taylor quoted the following paragraph from Henry Lumpkin's book 'From Savannah to York Town'.

'King's 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.'

This point has been taken up by the Reverend Professor W H C Frend, TD, better known perhaps in the Regiment as Captain Bill Frend who served in 5 Queen's Royal Regiment TA. He writes, In 1984 a visit to a small university in the south-west corner of Virginia, in what was the Watuga country which lay outside the boundary of the Thirteen Colonies and whence the attacking forces came, kindled my interest in this action described by Professor Lumpkin. Having seen this area for myself, I was not absolutely convinced by the Professor's estimate of the battle. It was not decisive in itself.

The attackers themselves lost heavily, particularly Colonel Sevier's column which was repulsed. It was Colonel Campbell's force attacking from the south side that did the damage, and inflicted heavy losses through the superior accuracy and range of their long rifle over the musket and bayonet with which Ferguson's Loyalists were equipped. In consequence the victors, having wreaked their vengeance on the Loyalists by hanging thirty of their prisoners, went back to their own country and did not follow up their victory.

By January 1781, Cornwallis had re-established control of North Carolina. Only at Yorktown were the southern colonies lost irretrievably. The effect of the action however, was to end some 22 months of almost unbroken British success in the south. During this time, from the capture of Savannah in December 1778, the British had reconquered most of Georgia, defeated a French-American counter-attack on Savannah, October 1779, captured Charleston with 6,000 American prisoners and the destruction of what remained of the American fleet (12 May 1780), and defeated the Continental army under General Gates, the victor of Saratoga at Camden, 16 August 1780.'

PGEH

Major Patrick Ferguson

I was interested to read the article on Major Patrick Ferguson 1744-1780 in the May 1991 edition of the Newsletter. One point stands to be corrected in this otherwise excellent article, being that which states that "Captain Ferguson was promoted Major in the 71st Regiment, later the Highland Light Infantry".

In actual fact the Regiment into which he was promoted was the 71st Fraser's Highland Regiment which had been raised in 1775 and served in the American War of Independence, being disbanded in 1783.

The Regiment which later in 1810 became known as The Highland Light Infantry or 71st Regiment was raised in 1777 as the 73rd Highland Regiment of Foot. In 1786 the number was ordered to be changed to 71st, their old number 73 being allocated to the 2nd Battalion 42nd Regiment. Unfortunately the error of confusing the 71st Fraser's Highlanders with the later 71st Highland Light Infantry is perpetuated on the monument at King's Mountain.

I wish to say that the Newsletter is one of the best regimental journals in existence and especially it's stories and anecdotes by past members of the regiments it represents.

John Thomson.

Queen Alexandra Hospital Home

I thought you might like to have the enclosed photograph which shows Jack Homersham and a sample of the garden furniture which your Association so kindly gave us. It has been in constant use both outside and in our Garden Room, your generous gift is giving a great deal of pleasure. Thank you very much.





FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

Eleanor Corpes writes:-

Peter, my husband (yes! he was christened Edward but never called that name by his family) has at last become interested in reading apart from the daily paper, and especially anything to do with The East Surreys.

Our two years at the depot Kingston before moving to Colchester, were two very happy years, and reflecting back, we have such laughs!

I was a young bride, being met at the gates by Peter, then a Corporal, with a huge key almost as large as my hand, to enter our first married quarter and the Quarter Master arriving with a list of items arranged on the floor. One mattress for the use of, one iron pot for the use of and so on until we reached one hip bath for the use of, ha! ha! We decided the best place for this was the scullery wall!!

Then the first war threat and we hurriedly evacuated that home, and after Neville Chamberlain arriving back from Munich waving the document "Peace in our time" we moved into a quarter right by the parade square much to my delight, where I could see all the squaddies drilling.

We had a smashing CO Major Evanson, whose wife had tea with me on occasions. There was a Captain du B F White and Lt Bird. Peter became Sgt Corpes. There was Sgt Smith (Smudger), Sgt Harris (Wompo), (Pop Pop) Sgt Major Birdsall!!! His wife's father was a greengrocer, who came Tuesday afternoons. A Mr Kent, such a dear to me!!

Wednesdays were pay days which including money instead of rations was £2.00.

Dear old Mr Kent would provide a lovely big box of veg and fruit and call Wednesday for his 2 shillings and sixpence.

At the outbreak of war and living in Colchester seeing all the troops marching off to France including my beloved brother Vic and (Peter's brother Bill who died in France). Vic came through Dunkirk and later went to N. Africa and was killed before knowing he had a son just 8 days old, who is now a wonderful Christian Consultant Engineer. How us wives shed tears from behind windows on Abbey Fields Colchester to see our loved ones marching out all whistling "Roll out the Barrel".

Peter had a spell in the Commandoes before being sent to British Guiana as it was known then, and torpedoed going over, and spent with Sgt Neil 5 days in an open boat, and picked up by SS *Coamo*.

"The Lady Hawkins" the liner they were on (Canadian) went down with 275 men, women and children.

I have still the account of the affair, but unfortunately brown and tattered now to enable it to be of any interest.

Peter has found much help with the wheelchair and I'm about to replace the batteries.

*Thank you so much for everything.
God Bless you all.*

A J Park writes:-

Many thanks for the Newsletters you sent me.

I served with the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya and read with interest an extract in your May 1990 edition of a letter Lt J D Carter of the 2nd Bn The East Surreys wrote to his father. I was in that same hospital he was in, with shrapnel wound in my arm, and was very fortunate to be shipped to India just before it fell, I must have been on a ship he could have been due to go on, it was full of wounded and civilians, many ships were being bombed from the air, we landed in Karachi where we were put in hospital.

From there we went to South Africa and then home to Scotland. A remarkable coincidence happened just before we left Karachi, a battalion of the Queens had just arrived from 'Blighty' and were drilling not far from where we were. As they fell out for Naafi break I scanned the men and noticed an old mate of mine who was in the Queens Cadets with me when we were lads, his name was Bobby Jones and he called over another old Queens Cadet mate by the name of Berry. Bobby survived the war and we later had a few drinks together.

Many thanks again for the Newsletters from which I have met a few of my old comrades from The East Surreys.



Maj. Gen Micheal Forrester and In-Pensioner J. Henderson MM

D J Bennett writes:-

The last Newsletter (No 49) is very interesting and I have found several names I recall, also mention of that beautiful Dutch liner "Johann-Van-Olden-Barnvelt". I wonder what became of her? Perhaps someone can tell me in a later issue of the Newsletter, we had a good voyage in her calling at Freetown, Cape Town and Bombay in spite of big detours to avoid subs and being chased by them, then on up the Gulf in smaller ships.

Neville Jackson writes from Australia:-

I recently came across a copy of the Queens Surreys Association Letter and decided I must write to you.

Firstly to let you know of the death a few years ago of my father Bob Jackson and also my mother Molly Jackson. Both would have been known by those who served in the Queens in China and later in India between the wars.

My father enlisted into The Queen's in 1919 and served in Ireland, Hong Kong, Malta, China and India. During that time he rose from Private to RQMS. He was then commissioned just prior to the Second World War serving in the Royal Artillery and the Sudan Defence Force returning to 1st Queen's in Poona. As a Major he served with the 1st Bn Queen's in Berlin and Iserlohn and then returning to the Depot at Guildford. It was at this point he was promoted to Lt Colonel and served with the Education Corps.

After retirement he moved to Australia with my mother and lived in Brisbane until both eventually died.

Some of the Ex Queens will probably remember myself as a child in the married quarters. One memorable event was when I wet myself whilst being carried on the shoulders of C/Sgt Percy Tasker. When later as a snotty nosed 2nd Lt in Shorncliffe I reminded RSM Tasker of that occasion - HE WAS NOT AMUSED.

I enlisted into The Queen's in 1945 but when commissioned was posted to the Royal Artillery. After being discharged with a War Emergency Commission I immediately re-enlisted in the Queens as a Private (Promoted to Sergeant the following day). I served in 1st Queen's in Berlin and later twice in Iserlohn. It was in Berlin and Iserlohn that I served together with my father who was a Major at that time. In Berlin Lt Millman and I trained some of the first National servicemen. Later when Charles became I.O. I became his Int Sgt. Because of my "Gunner" experience I went to the Anti Tank Platoon with their new 17 pounders. Sgts Westover, Tommy Atkins and John Humphries are names that come to mind.

I later served with the Kings African Rifles and returned to 1st Queen's for their second tour in Iserlohn. Whilst there I was promoted RSM and posted to the East Surreys just prior to the amalgamation. Many of the Surreys will remember our Expedition to the Nijmegen March in Holland where Colonel Squires personally ensured we had regular tea breaks on the 100 mile march.

From 6th Surreys I went to The Tanganyika Rifles and served under another Queen's officer Lt Col Mans, later Maj Gen Mans. We had the privilege of sharing the same cell in the guard room when the Tanganyika army mutinied. Colonel Mans was then instrumental in having me re-commissioned and I served in 3 Inf Div with the Intelligence Corps. It was at this point in time I transferred to the Australian Army as a Company Commander in the Royal Australian Regiment.

Whilst with the Australian Army I decided to become an Anglican Priest and having trained in a Theological College I returned to the Regular Army as a Chaplain. I was finally discharged in 1984.

As you can see I am now the Rector in charge of a Parish in Buderim. It was with great surprise therefore when having mentioned my service in The Queen's one day, one of my parishioners fronted up and said, "Do you recognise this Tie". I didn't because it was the new "Queens" tie, but I then discovered that Tony Hewitt was living in Buderim. Tony and I had served together in Iserlohn many years before, but of course the years had changed our appearance. Tony comes from The Middlesex Regiment and will be well known for escaping from the Japanese in Hong Kong. He has written a

very exciting book of this experience. Tony served in the RWAFF after the war and later was promoted to Colonel with NATO and later with the High Commission in Canberra. He ended his career as Deputy Commander of Singapore district. Tony was awarded the MC in 1942 and the MBE in 1950.

Interestingly, Tony's wife Liz is also of the Queens. Her father was Colonel Francis Hayley-Bell DSO who served in the 10th Bn Queen's during the First World war. Liz regularly wears a charming brooch of both the Queen's Paschal Lamb and also of The Middlesex Regt. Liz tells the story that until Tony served with The Queen's her father never really accepted Tony as a full member of the family.

Some ex Queens will no doubt remember my wife Elisabeth from Berlin and Iserlohn days. Elisabeth died of cancer a few years ago, but before she died she made a tapestry cushion depicting The Queen's Paschal Lamb which I still use in my church. It was this cushion that alerted both Tony and Liz Hewitt we shared the common experience of being "Queens". I have since married again and my wife Eileen is being suitably instructed in what it means to belong to the QUEENS by both the Hewitts - although she had already heard the same stories from my mother Molly years beforehand.

I will finish this epistle by telling you of a small incident recently. My step-daughter who did not know Tony and Liz Hewitt answered the phone one morning when my wife and I were out. A voice on the phone said loudly - A GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE TO YOU. My step-daughter paused a moment and then replied "ARE YOU IN NEED OF A PRIEST". Tony Hewitt who then realised it was not my wife apologised and introduced himself. He went on to say haven't you heard about the First of June. "Oh yes" replied my daughter, "I remember Molly telling me about that - its a sports day isn't it"!

One final piece of news is some Ex Queens may remember Roy Thorburn who although an Australian served in The Queen's in Burma and India during the war. Roy lives locally and it was his Regimental Association Newsletter that put me on to you.

Best Wishes from us all here on the Sunshine Coast of Australia.

Fred Watson writes from Walthamstow:-

I have pleasure in enclosing my cheque for my 1991 Newsletters which I still find enjoyable reading, especially those from the Editors Postbag.

I note with interest the following from Mr Puddephatt the change in the blocks at Chulalongkora University together with the two restaurants.

On a sadder note the recent death of Colonel Grimston. Having spent a few happy hours with him playing cricket at Shillong, together with correspondence with him in his days as Secretary of Sussex County Cricket Club. But my most funniest memory of him was on Jail Hill Kohima when he dived for cover under shelling into the nearest trench - the latrine.

From the Museum Notes Lt Col E C Mansel RA (Rtd), obviously I do not know him, but I was in his brothers company. I am sure he was among the many who I with others helped to bury a few days after Kohima on Jail Hill. What a fine officer he was a perfect gentleman and saw no fear. He was if I remember rightly a great friend of Major Lowry and Captain ("Ticky") Taylor.

Perhaps one shouldn't say this but in spite of the sadness, hardships there were many many happy times.

Clarrie Jarman writes:-

Many thanks for May 1991 Newsletter which like so many others I enjoy reading about the experiences of so many Queen's Men who served and are still proud of the Regt. I joined the 7th Batt which was formed at Stoughton Barracks Guildford in Sept 1914. I was 18 years old then but had to say I was 19.

In our civilian clothes we left Stoughton Barracks and went under canvas at Purfleet in Essex to commence our training and turn us into well trained soldiers.

Our Commanding Officer was Col Glasgow who later came to France with the Battalion. I was in B Company, the officer in command was Captain Price and my Platoon officer was Lt Neilson Terry. Other officers I remember were Lt Haggard and his Brother 2nd Lt Haggard. Captain Kemp Welch was our adjutant, there was also Captain Martin who I think was Intelligence Officer.

After finishing our training of eleven months we went to France early in July 1915, taking over Front line trenches from the 1st Norfolk Regiment in front of Albert and facing Fricourt.

We stayed along that front until the 1st July 1916 when we went over the top in the First Battle of the Somme when the Battalion was almost wiped out. I was badly wounded and after eleven days I arrived in hospital at Aberdeen, where my right leg was amputated through gas gangrene.

Hope you are able to make some interest out of this.

In the Newsletter under congratulations it states that I was 94 years old on May 7th, I was 95 on May 9th.

My sincere apologies Mr Jarman - Editor

Leo Duncan writes:-

I have enclosed a photo of ex Drum Major Bennett. You may know I was in New Zealand with him. I thought it would be amusing to put the photo in the Newsletter. We nearly always put photos of ourselves in the past, so I thought this would be a bit different. I know he won't mind. Lance Bennett served with me in India before the war, and after, soldiered on in the First Battalion in Malaya and Germany. While in New

Zealand he became fishing crazy, and nearly drowned when his boat turned over in a rough sea. He was saved by a passing policeman.

R A S Currie writes:-

Thank you for your letter and for the 49th issue of the Newsletter. What an excellent Newsletter it is, full of interesting articles and produced at such a high standard. My regret is that it has taken me so long to get in touch and that I have missed all the previous issues, not to mention the chance to have met old comrades. Perhaps I can now do some catching up.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Colonel Kealy. He was the very best type of Commanding Officer and a fine man. I notice that the obituary was from "GBC". I wonder if this is my Platoon Commander Lt. Curtis? If so perhaps you would be kind enough to convey my very best wishes to him.

After being wounded at Salerno I came back to U.K. and eventually went to OCTU at Aldershot. Not being A1 I could not get back into the Regiment and was posted to the R.A.S.C. in Malaya as a full Lieutenant, at which level I remained until discharged on 5th January 1948.

At Salerno with the 2/6th I recall that our CSM was a Mr. Postlethwaite and the Coy Clerk was Battersby. Various other names I recognised on the head stones in the Cemetery at Salerno. My Company Commander was a Capt. Hooper.

W T Oliver writes:-

Many thanks for the Newsletter, my father Sgt T Oliver served almost 30 years in the regiment and I was born into the regiment. Quite a few items in the Newsletter I can well remember after reading about them. N J Ashby's letter is the same story as mine. My sister was also born in Tientsin. I too joined the regiment at Maidstone, and also lived in Stoughton Barracks. I remember Ross Parker, he started in Dad's Platoon for training. I could go on and on. Once again thank you for the Newsletter it gave me a good lift up.

W T Oliver served in 1/7th Queen's.



On May 22nd Colonel Lance East celebrated his 90th Birthday. Drummer Beaney of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment went along to wish Colonel East 'Many Happy Returns' on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and all members of the Association.

Lance Bennett in New Zealand

Mrs Debbie Bayle working on the restoration of James Wilkins's diary (see article page 31).

A. M. Taylor writes:-

With amalgamations and disbands of regiments the topic of conversations these days and the value of the regimental system, I thought I would recall an incident which happened in the early months of World War II and is now probably only remembered by those that it affected.

When the strength of the territorial army was doubled during the period 1938-39 I volunteered and joined C Company 6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. This was not only my county regiment but also my family regiment, my father served in the 1st and 3rd Battalion during World War I.

After the summer camp at Lympne, Kent in August 1939 the Battalion split into two, the 1/6th and 2/6th.

In the early weeks of the war we were stationed at Richmond Surrey engaged on guard duties, including the prison camp at Lingfield racecourse, and training. In late October we were informed that all men under twenty would be transferred to regiments not liable at that moment for service overseas.

I was one of a party of thirty men transferred to the 65th Searchlight Regiment RA. In his book, "Ack - Ack", General Sir Frederick Pile writing his account of the Air Defence of Great Britain, says, " that the sudden influx in October 1939 of 11,000 immatures - who had been sent back from Field Force TA Divisions as being under age for overseas service - to be trained by the end of December in their new role, when we were to lose a similar number of mature troops, played havoc with all our schemes for resting trained men". put in italics

He goes onto say, " in addition many immature soldiers were resentful of the way the Army had treated them. In many cases they arrived in dirty suits of clothes and told us that their own uniforms and in some cases their underclothes had been removed from them before they left their regiments. Also they disliked their designation "immature" and their withdrawal to what they considered a less adventurous role".

To the everlasting credit of The East Surrey Regiment we kept our uniforms and when we marched into the headquarters of our new regiment we were a smart body of men but sadly without our cherished East Surrey cap badges, collar badges and shoulder titles. We found out that the members of our new regiment had been told that they were having trained infantry men posted to them and in some ways they looked upon us with some awe.

Although we eventually became used to our new role, most of us tried during the next two years to get a transfer back to the Surreys, we were not successful. It is interesting to note, that if the regiment was called upon to provide a Headquarters Guard or some other special guard, it usually consisted of mostly Surreys!

In late 1942, when regiments in the field force started their training for 'D Day' and being brought up to strength, many of us Surreys were transferred to 124th Lt A A Regt RA and served in the North West Europe campaign. It is also interesting to note that a good percentage of us became NCO's.

Although I made many friends in my new regiments, The East Surrey Regiment was my county and family regiment, I volunteered to serve in it, and I never forgave the Army for not letting me do more than the nine months I did serve in it.

Major John Wyatt writes from Cyprus:-

On Sunday September 15th The Quebec Band of The Queens Regiment gave a concert at Paphos Old Fort which my wife and I attended. It was a very enjoyable evening and at the interval the Bandmaster made mention of the fact that I, a former officer of The Queens Royal Regiment was present in the audience. Others present included Major Watson the second in command of the 3rd Bn, Lt-Col (retd) Quinn ex Border Regiment who commanded the 2/6th Queens Royal Regiment in 1944 after taking over from Pat Richardson and Major (retd) R C H Saunders 5th Bn Queens Royal and 3rd Bn Queens Surreys who is out here on holiday.

Major Peter Hill writes:-

Dear Mike,

I was delighted to receive from all members of the The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association and from all members past and present of The Queen's Regiment their good wishes on the occasion of my 80th birthday.

I was hoping to keep a low profile but someone has been talking!

To all members of our Regimental Family I send my warmest thanks for their comradeship and their kindness.

Brigadier Frank Stafford writes:-

It was indeed heartening for me to receive the Telemesage from the Regimental Association conveying congratulations and a special wish on my recent birthday.

It was read out, to applause, at the club rotary luncheon which my patriarchal descendants had organised for me.

May I, through you, sincerely thank the President and members of the Association for their generous thought for an ancient, and still proud, Queensman.

Major Tony Hobrow writes:-

As a matter of historical accuracy, may I point out that the QRR Badge on the Topee as illustrated on the centre pages of Number 49 of the magazine is on the wrong side of the helmet. We always wore same on the right.

With the pending changes in the Army, this nicety probably is of no moment, but I thought I should point it out as a once proud member of 1st Queen's.

F C Sutcliffe writes from Malawi Africa:-

My wife and I were celebrating the Glorious First of June yesterday by giving a small birthday party to a young African boy of eleven years of age. I'm sure that has the merit of being a little unusual.

Our national chairman of CELOM (Commonwealth Ex-Services League of Malawi) phoned me the other day. We are to have a visit in August of someone from British Legion H.Q.

The last visit was by Brigadier Mike Doyle the President who was delighted to be met at the airport by a fellow member of the 2nd of Foot.

It is too much to hope that a similar coincidence will be repeated.

Sir Peter Trench CBE TD writes:-

The article "Fighting Patrol" on page 15 of the May issue of the Association Newsletter was of particular interest to me as I was in command of the patrol in question in May 1940 when 1/6 Queens had taken up a defensive position on the ESCAUT CANAL.

The writer of the article is, I believe, confusing me with my older brother A. R. Trench who was 2 i/c B Coy at the time. We both joined the TA on the same day in 1936 as Platoon Commanders in the 22nd London Regiment (The Queens) which subsequently was re-titled 1/6 Queens. I still have the swords we carried on our first ceremonial parade. They are fairly unique in that they have E VIII R on the hilt. Wilkinson & Co struck these swords somewhat prematurely for E VIII never did become R. or to be more precise was never called R!

It was the ground in front of B Coy, my brother's, that the fighting patrol in May 1940 was ordered to clear. B Coy was getting a pasting and were soon to be overrun. I cannot remember whether the patrol achieved its objective, although I doubt it!

Within two weeks I was back in England in the Mount Vernon Hospital in N. London not knowing whether my brother had been killed or taken prisoner, when I received a telephone call from him suggesting we had lunch together. He had been taken prisoner and sent back to Antwerp. In his words "I didn't enjoy it much!" and together with Cpl. (Later Sgt.) Horwood proceeded to escape. He received an MC.

The 1/6 Queens regrouped first at Oxford and then at Boston, Lincolnshire. Arthur was promoted to Major and given the command of B Coy. He was still in command when the Battalion went to the Middle East in 1940. He was seriously wounded a few weeks before Alamein and died of his wounds. He was buried in the war cemetery at Tel-el-Kebir. He was 26.

Bert Guynn writes:-

Reading about the Boxing championships in the last issue, I wonder if any of the 1/7 Queen's old comrades remember the 7th Armd. championships held in the Desert at "Home", when the 1/7 Queen's won the championship in 1943.

The team were given a slap up Dinner, and a Medal which I have still got, and a week's leave in Tripoli. If any of the team read this, lets hear from you. Your old Comrade.

March on Downing Street



Colonels 'Mac' McConnell, Peter Durrant and Major Peter Hill.



Our Standard Bearer Mr F. Ramsey MM before the march on Downing Street.



John Roll runs each year in the London Marathon. Money raised is for the OCA 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment



Jack Chaffer explains the finer points of drill to Brigadier Pielow.



Rear Rank - left to right- George Gee, P Spring, S Johns, J Hedges, Yorkie Atkins, B Reiley.

Front Rank - left to right- L Jamieson, D Knight, E Wilcocks, M Taylor, Major General Reynolds, T Noonan, B Soffe, D Havers.

Officers' Club Luncheon

The annual luncheon at Clandon Park is always a popular event and, with ninety-five present, the 4th October this year was no exception. Indeed it is a function that goes from strength to strength and each year one or two who have not attended before appear and are given a warm welcome.

Amongst these this year we were delighted to see Major General and Mrs. Desmond Gordon and Major Peter Bridgland with his wife Pamela. General Gordon commanded 1/7th Queens during the 39-45 war and Peter served with the Surreys for many years before transferring to the RAPC. It was also very good to see Ralph and Adele Ewart again - looking amazingly fit despite having spent the previous night at the President's house!

As is customary the President, Brigadier Mike Doyle, received members and their guests in the salon at mid-day. Many had come straight from the service at Guildford Cathedral in which the Dean dedicated the new cross and candlesticks in the Regimental Chapel.

Luncheon was later served in the marble hall. Grace was said by the Dean of Guildford Cathedral the Very Reverend Alexander Wedderspoon and, following an admirable meal, the Loyal Toast was proposed by the Officers' Club Chairman Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Ray.

In his address before proposing the toast to the Regiment, Brigadier Mike Doyle welcomed everyone and recorded our special pleasure and appreciation that the Dean of our Cathedral was able to be present. The President said that the Colonel of the Regiment was sorry not to be there but was not returning from abroad until that evening. Brigadier Doyle expressed his pleasure at seeing so many old friends in such gracious surroundings, and he was particularly delighted to see General and Mrs Gordon and Mrs Nancy Kealy on this occasion. He paid tribute to Mr Christopher Allen, the Administrator at Clandon, who had been so helpful to the Association but unfortunately was retiring from the post in November. He also thanked Major John Fowler for his very generous help in providing the paper for the Association Newsletter for many years.

The President touched on the proposed amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment with The Royal Hampshire. Whilst it was difficult to find any logic behind such a one-sided union he emphasized strongly that The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association would continue to flourish in its present form.

In conclusion the President on behalf of all those present warmly thanked the Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson who had, once again, made all the arrangements and organised such a successful luncheon.

Those members present included Major Generals Fergus Ling, and Michael Forrester and Major General and Mrs. Rowley Mans. Guests were: Major General and Mrs D S Gordon, Mrs D Patterson, Mrs B Sykes-Wright, Mrs. B Swanson, Mrs. N Kealy, Mrs. J A Stock, Mrs. J Kimmerling, Mrs. L Clowes, Mrs B. Hill, Mrs. R Roupell, Major and Mrs. J L A Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. C G Allen and the Curator of our Museum, Mr. R Ford.

Finally, it was good to hear those who had attended for the first time say as they took their leave "see you here again next year"!

JBR

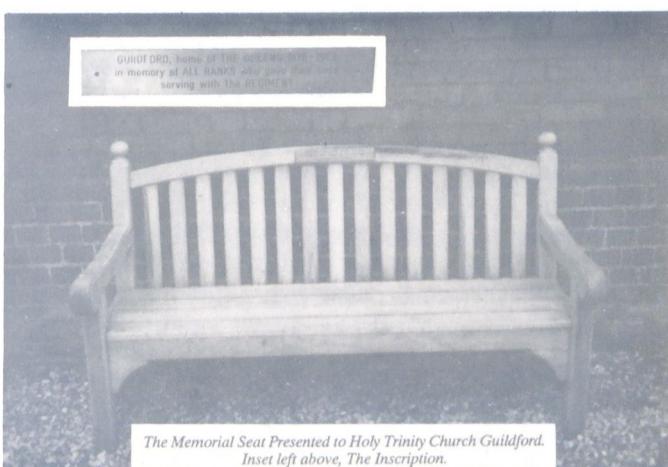


Officers Club Luncheon.



Jock Haswell 'briefing' John Davidson!

Memorial Seat Holy Trinity



1818 Private James Whitely 31st Regiment of Foot

On the 14th February 1843, at Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny, James Whitely, a shoemaker, enlisted in the 31st Regiment of Foot for a bounty of three pounds, seventeen shillings and sixpence. James was born at Paulstown near Whitehall, Co Kilkenny in September 1823. At the time of enlistment he was described as being 5ft 7in tall, fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.

James was baptised James WHITELEY and this is how he signed his enlistment papers. When signing for his first Army pay he noticed that his name was spelt WHITELY; a mistake of course. Like other young recruits he was more interested in receiving his pay than the spelling of his name so thereafter he signed his name WHITELY as shown in his pay book. He continued to sign this way during the rest of his Army career and after his discharge. All his children and his descendants since have been WHITELY without the E. (A minor mistake lives on forever!)

To achieve his goal of becoming a schoolteacher on his return to civilian life, James took advantage of the opportunities offered by the Regiment and spent his off duty hours in study. He was posted to the East Indies soon after his recruit training. Little is known of his service in India, however records show that he fought in the First Sikh War, being slightly wounded at Sutlej and more seriously injured at Moodkee on 18th December 1845. He suffered deep sabre wounds to the right shoulder and arm, and to the left arm. These injuries caused James to be repatriated to England for treatment. After a year of convalescence it was decided he was medically unfit for Army Service and he was discharged on 26 March 1847 with a pension of 8d a day for the rest of his life.

James was a civilian again but retained pleasant memories of his service years. His Grandchildren remembered him speaking with respect of Sir Hugh Gough, Brigadier Bolton, Captain Wheler, Lt Col Byrne, Major Grant and Sir John McCaskill. He mourned his fallen friends throughout his life and was always proud of his Colours and uniform.

Upon returning to Whitehall he realised his ambition to become a schoolteacher. At the same school he met a young trainee teacher named Johanna Walsh and in 1850 they married. At that time the British government was offering ex-soldiers on pensions the opportunity to apply to join the Enrolled Pensioner Force. This force acted as guards on the convict ships travelling to Western Australia and on arrival in the Colony carried out military duties as required. The Conditions offered to the Pensioner were:-

1. *Free passage to Western Australia for themselves, wives and children. The Pensioners acting as guards on the voyage.*

2. *Employment on Military Pay for a period of 6 months from the day of enlistment. Rates of pay for this period on the regular duty scale:-*

Private 1/3 per day

Corporal 2/6 per day

Sergeant 3/6 per day

3. *Land grants after seven years service.*

James accepted this offer. The chance to obtain land of his own was very attractive so he, his wife and baby daughter embarked on the convict ship *Minden* at Plymouth on 21 July 1851. The journey of 85 days was favourable by the standards of the time with only 4 deaths, two young children, a sailor boy and one convict. A wife of one of the Pensioners gave birth to twins, mother and babies surviving.

The ship's Surgeon Superintendent was John Gibson RN, who maintained a strict schedule regarding the cleanliness of the convict barracks and crew quarters. He paid particular attention to dryness ventilation and fumigation to preserve good health. Regular bathing with Marine Soap and exercise above decks was considered by John Gibson to be essential for the well being of all.

Fortunately for those on board, the voyage was "a fine weather one with moderate heat within the tropics and very little rain. Temperatures in the South Latitude were mild ranging from 48 to 84 Fahrenheit."

The only mishap of the journey occurred as the ship approached Fremantle, Western Australia. Just off shore she struck a rock. Luckily no damage or injury to passengers was sustained. The rock has since been known as the Minden Rock.

On arrival in the Colony, settlers were helped by the Government. For every 2/6 in assets they possessed they were granted a freehold acre of land. James was able to take advantage of this offer and was granted 10 acres of land in March 1852, the land being at York, a rich farming region 60 miles from Perth, the Capital of Western Australia.

He joined the York detachment of the Pensioner Force and remained on the roll for many years fulfilling his obligations of Military exercises and duties. The uniform of the Pensioner Force was a double breasted blue frock coat with red cuff and collar, loosely fitting thus allowing it to be worn over the man's civilian jacket in cold weather. Trousers were dark grey with a red stripe similar to those worn by Sappers and Miners. A black forage cap with red band and brass star was worn. The privates were armed with muskets and bayonets. The sergeants with swords and cavalry carbines, adapted to infantry service by removing their side ribs and rings and fitting them with bayonets.

James led a varied life of farming, shoemaking, teaching, and cutting and exporting sandalwood to India. During the years 1863-1875 he employed 39 ticket-of-leave men (convicts) including 10 shoemakers, 2 teamsters and a thresher.

The Whitely family increased to 13 children during these years. Four babies died young however 3 boys and 6 girls survived to become the first generation of Australian Whitelys. Today there are over 1000 descendants of James and Johanna.

These years were busy ones for James and Johanna. Apart from bringing up a large family both were teachers at the first Catholic school at York. James was said to have been blessed with considerable oratorical powers and was often called upon to read the prayer or conduct a burial service in the absence of a Priest. He was also active in the community affairs of the town and was a pioneer member of the Hiberian Society of York. He was however a firm believer that old world feuds should not be perpetuated in Australia. To demonstrate this belief, he would wear both green and orange on St. Patrick's day.

The Pensioner Force was disbanded in 1880. Fifty of the youngest and most trustworthy Pensioners were offered positions as Prison Guards. James of course was not amongst these as he was by then aged 57.

In 1886 he sold his property at York and with his wife and most of his children retired to Fremantle, Western Australia's main port. Here he died on 30 June 1894 in his 71st year.

His years in the Army were few but the impact upon his life was significant. Whilst he was seriously wounded this never the less opened up a new life for him. His Army days were an experience he remembered with affection and he always remained proud of being part of The 31st Regiment.



The line drawing depicts a soldier of the period, wearing a peaked forage cap with a white quilted cover. It should also be noted that two artists impressions of The 31st of this period show different cap styles, one shows it as here, the other artist shows a peaked white forage cap. Mr. Stadden has shown the quilted cover as this same cover was worn by other regiments.

The shell jacket was of red cloth with pale buff collar and cuffs, and pewter buttons. Once again there is a difference between artists drawings of this period, one showing all buff shoulder straps, whilst the second one shows red edged with white.

The trousers were an oxford mixture, (dark blueish black) with a red stripe down the outer seam.

The equipment was whitened buff leather, pouch belt and waist belt with bayonet frog, waist-belt clasp brass with 'XXXI' in centre. Breast plate brass having laurel wreath with crown above, with 'XXXI' in the centre. Below the crown and wreath were shown the battle honours TALAVERA, ALBUHERA, VITTORIA, PYRENEES, NIVELLE, NIVE and PENINSULAR.

A wooden type water canteen painted blue/grey with brown leather strap and brass buckle. White canvas haversack with brass slide, leather 'ammo' pouch, black bayonet scabbard with brass chafe. 1842 pattern percussion musket with white buff leather sling.

RR

James Wilkins, Soldier: 2nd Queen's Royals.

In 1965 a book was deposited in a rubbish bin for disposal in Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. A curious senior NCO examined it and decided that it could be of some importance. The book deals with Wilkins' career whilst a soldier and apart from day to day incidents he has written several pages on the restoration of the Third Colour, in 1825. For many years the idea was to have the book or extracts of it reprinted, but time and cost proved prohibitive.

It is very well written and illustrated, sadly, the inks have faded considerably over the years. The copper plate writing is very difficult in places to read because of the fading.

Wilkin's book will be placed in the regimental museum at Clandon as a testament to one of our soldiers period of service in The 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment from 1823 - 1846. We are indebted to Mrs Deborah Boyle for her painstaking work in cleaning, repairing and washing the book. She also has kindly made a photocopy of the pages so that the original book will not be damaged.

The Editor is most grateful to Captain Erik Gray, for his interest in this soldiers history and for writing this article for the Newsletter.

Editor

But for the find of "His Book" on a pile of rubbish awaiting disposal, James Wilkins would have been one of the millions of soldiers who have passed into obscurity since the Regular British Army was raised at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. While there could be no doubt about its authenticity, its discovery called for a little research in the seven shelf-miles of old war office records that survive at the Public Record Office at Kew, as well as in other sources. As a result, we know just a little more about James Wilkins than he chose to tell us in his diary about his service with The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot at the battles of Ghuznee and Khelat-i-Ghilzie during the first Afghan War and in later operations to quell disturbances in south Mahratta country.

On 12th December 1809 the incumbent of the Parish Church of Warminster, Wiltshire, recorded in his parish register:-

"James, son of Joseph Wilkins of the Parish of Warminster, and Suzanne his wife, was born on 6th April 1909 and baptised this Day by me."

James Wilkins' birth took place in a disasterous year for the British Army. Not only had the soldiers of its Peninsular Army been obliged to suffer the appalling privations of the retreat to Corunna, in defence of which the 2nd Foot took part; but thousands of those who survived the evacuation from Spain had died from a form of Malaria, as a result of the ill-fated expedition to Walcheren the same year. However, before James had reached the age of five, the British Army had returned to the Peninsular; and the 2nd Foot had fought at Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle and Toulouse, battle honours that were later to be awarded and displayed on its Colours.

Nothing is known of James Wilkins' childhood, save that his father was a schoolmaster, so it is probable that, unlike most of his contemporaries, he learned to read and write at an early age. The social conditions of his time were such that the vast majority of children were born into a miserable life of poverty and want. But James was a trifle more fortunate than most, for he eventually became a humble clerk. Whether he pursued his apprenticeship in Wiltshire or London must remain in doubt; but the facts point to the Metropolis, as he enlisted there on 29th October 1825 for unlimited service in the 2nd Foot. His original discharge document survives in the collection at Kew to prove the point.

He was attested at Queen's Square near Soho, an area of London, which, equally with Westminster, was very much favoured by recruiting parties from numerous regiments. While the 2nd Foot are likely to have had a semi-permanent party, comprising a sergeant, drummer and several privates, beating for recruits in and around London at the time, it would have accorded with custom for similar parties to be beating in other parts of the country, and perhaps also in Ireland, where the Regiment had been garrisoned in 1823 and 1824.

We can never know whether James Wilkins offered himself for enlistment voluntarily; or whether, having been generously entertained by a crafty old serjeant, he awoke to find the King's shilling in his pocket and to realise that he had gone for a soldier. Recruiting was then, as well as before, a remunerative and sought-after duty. So, whatever the circumstances, his recruiters would have been well pleased with their catch. The payment of levy money then included a half-crown for each recruit aged 18 or over, and a florin for boys, with the serjeant and drummer taking the lion's share. From James' stated age of seventeen at enlistment and his description at discharge, it is not unreasonable to deduce that he looked considerably younger. Otherwise, he would have

been 'advised' to make himself eighteen for very obvious reasons. Gnarled and wily old recruiting sergeants of the Queen's Royals were no more honest than those of other regiments, as all had an eye to their 'bringing money'. With a private soldier's pay fixed at one shilling a day, and theirs a little more, coupled hefty deductions from all, who could blame them?

The quarterly muster returns of the 2nd Foot for 1825, when James Wilkins enlisted, reveal that all ten of its service companies had sailed in divisions from Gravesend for service in India. It had disembarked at Bombay on 7th June after a voyage lasting four months. For the British soldier bound for the East Indies at that time, so long at sea represented the short route! The longer, which fell the lot of many regiments proceeding to India, and entailed a voyage of six months or more, took many via New South Wales with cargoes of convicts which were disembarked there, before the voyage continued to Bombay or Calcutta. However, the muster returns evidence that, after the departure of the 2nd Foot from England, its depot company, which was responsible for recruiting, training and drafting, had meanwhile remained at Chatham but had rotated to Canterbury during the December quarter of 1825. It was to that place that James Wilkins was marched from London, and the returns evidence that by the end of March in the following year he had joined the Regiment at its encampment at Poona.

It is not the purpose here to reveal the contents of James Wilkins' account in "His Book" of his travels and experiences in India and Afghanistan. Suffice it to say that, Queen's Royals' musters evidence his presence on duty at Poona until 1830, at Colabah to the north of Bombay until 1834, as well as to the time that a march was made to Poona before the Regiment moved to Belgaum, some 200 miles to the south, in the early part of 1837. Neither is it the purpose to record the operations of the 2nd Foot in Afghanistan and later. For those who seek a deeper knowledge of them, there is a detailed account of the part played by the Regiment in Lieutenant Colonel John Davis' History of the Second, Queen's Royal Regiment, now The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment', which was published in three volumes between 1887 and 1906.

However, it was in 1837, while the 2nd Foot was at Belgaum, that the greater part of Afghanistan, 1500 miles away to the north, was ruled by Dost Mohammed of Kabul, whose actions had filled the East India Company with alarm. Against the background of the increasing influence of the Russians in Central Asia, there were considerable fears that this treacherous ruler would admit them to India via the great mountain passes that his territory commanded. These fears led to the First Afghan War and caused the 2nd Foot, and James Wilkins and his comrades, together with a mere handful of other regiments, to be marched northwards in a pitiless climate through the parched, sandy deserts and narrow mountain passes of Baluchistan and Afghanistan, first to Kandahar and then onwards to Kabul.

The muster returns of the Queen's Royals, each testifying to James Wilkins being on duty, record its presence at Bombay in October 1838, at Bominacole in November, and at Tatta near the mouths of the Indus in December. They reveal its march northwards via Larkhana in the following February, via Soone in March; and its time at Kandahar in April and May. More relevant, while not referring to specific engagements, the locations they yield are absolute proof that James Wilkins fought at the battles of Ghuznee and Khelat-i-Ghilzie; and they illustrate the remainder of his sojourn in Afghanistan and India until 1845, when, after more than 18 years' service on the subcontinent, he was invalided to England.

At Chatham on 10th March 1846, James Wilkins, having been found unfit for further service, was discharged to out-pension of one shilling a day awarded to him by the Commissioners of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Leaving aside his non-reckonable, under-age service, his discharge document credits him with total service of 19 years and 134 days; and it states that his character and conduct had been good. Of his medical condition, Surgeon William Harvey of the 2nd Queen's Royals says in the discharge:-

"I hereby certify that No. 660 Private James Wilkins, 2nd, or Queen's Royal Regiment, suffered a great deal from fevers and chest complaints in India, and was injured in the chest by a plank of wood falling on him at the Capture of Ghuznee in July 1839. His general health is very much impaired rendering him quite unfit for the active duties of a soldier. His disability has arisen in the Service and on duty, and has not been brought on or aggravated by any vice or misconduct on his part....."

James Wilkins' final description at discharge records his being aged 38 years, 5 feet 5 inches in height with brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion, and a clerk by trade.

The head-dress was the forage cap with a white quilted material cover. This cap was peakless, but the quilted cover formed a false peak.

The shell jacket was the same as worn by The 31st except collar, cuffs and shoulder straps were blue. The trousers were a light blue nankeen colour.

The equipment was whitened buff leather, bayonet and pouch belt. Belt plate brass, the design a crowned star showing seven points, in the centre the Paschal lamb surrounded by a garter with the motto 'PRISTINAE VIRTUTIS MEMOR', below this the number '2'. On each of the star points the battle honours: top left 'EGYPT' on the right 'VIMERIA', centre left 'CORUNNA' and 'VITTORIA', centre right 'SALAMANCA and PYRENEES', bottom left 'NIVELLE', bottom right 'TOULOUSE', bottom point and below the number '2', 'PENINSULAR'. The rest of the equipment was the same as used by The 31st.



EG

Who used the Tangier Plate?

I read PGC's excellent article on the Tangier Plate in the May 1991 issue of the Newsletter with very great interest and excitement. I have nothing but admiration for his detective work, and I hope to make an early pilgrimage to Portsmouth in the hope of seeing this historic plate, a tangible link with the earliest days of the Regiment.

The article prompted me to comment upon an assertion often made, that the Tangier garrison regularly worshipped in the Anglican cathedral of King Charles the Martyr. Although some elements may have done so, the religious mix in Tangier which mirrored the different political allegiances of the garrison, was a complex and at times tense affair. Even a brief examination of the officers, for we know little of the soldiers except in a general way, shows that the majority would never

have set foot in the Anglican cathedral, let alone worshipped there or used the Communion Plate (1).

The Tangier garrison provides a striking contrast to the religious state of affairs in England where, although Catholics and Independents could gain places in the army if they had supported either the monarchy or the Long Parliament rather than the Protectorate, the purges of 1666 and 1667 made things very difficult for them. On the other hand, Routh (2) points out that 'Popery was no bar to promotion in the garrison (of Tangier) and the religious toleration practised at Tangier was regarded with deep disfavour at home'. An example of this disfavour is provided by a debate in the House of Commons where Mr Harbord commented that Tangier was 'a seminary for Popish priests and soldiers too' (3) and he dreaded the return of the garrison troops to England.

It can be said with some certainty that religious toleration was the rule at Tangier if not in England; the city was governed by Teviot, Fitzgerald and Middleton, all Catholics; and Teviot's instructions as Governor allowed the Portuguese monks mentioned by PGC to continue their work. As an aside, the Catholic Cathedral was dedicated to the honour of St. John Baptist and it is to this fact, and the known devotion of the Braganza family to the Saint, that we must look for the origin of the Lamb as the Regimental badge rather than to some of the far-fetched speculations which have appeared from time to time in the Newsletter.

Detailed evidence of religious diversity comes from an examination of the garrison. The four regiments (not one regiment) which went out under Peterborough in 1662 were, in religious and political terms, distinct. Peterborough's own regiment, a new regiment raised in London, seems to have contained mostly Anglicans, supporters of the monarchy. Only one Catholic officer, Quarter Master John Nevil, can be identified. The regiment of Harley, a Protectorate regiment from Dunkirk which had been purged of extreme republicans, contained at least eight Independent or Presbyterian Officers. The two Irish regiments, which had fought in the Low Countries for the King against Harley's regiment and others, were commanded by Colonels Fitzgerald and Farrell and were wholly Catholic; unusually we even know the names of the Catholic Chaplains. Thus the initial religious makeup of the garrison was around 16% Anglican, 8% Independent, and 76% Catholic. The percentage of Catholics in the Army in England, for comparison was around 2% (4).

This high percentage of Catholics caused considerable disquiet at home, and the King and the Privy Council clearly had misgivings about Fitzgerald and the Irish gaining control of the place. The reduction of Fitzgerald's and Farrell's regiments into one Irish regiment of five companies in 1663 was thus logical, and the places of the expelled Irish Officers were taken by incoming Protestants from the disbanded Protectorate regiments of Rutherford and Alsop after the evacuation and sale of Dunkirk.

By May 1663, only twenty-one Catholic Officers remained - around 22% and their decline coincides with a rise in influence of old Protectorate soldiers. Of the fifty-three Protestants, twenty-three were probably Anglicans and thirty Independents or Presbyterians - rough parity, therefore, in numbers and rank structure.

After the disastrous ambush on the Jew's Hill on May 4th 1664 in which Teviot died, the position of the old Protectorate men was much weakened. A full breakdown of the Officers is available in the Sloane Papers (5). The original four regiments, joined by elements of two others, had now become two - the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's Regiments.

Of the fifty-two Officers listed in the MS, twenty-three were Catholics (45%); seven Independents (11%) and twenty-two were Anglicans (44%). Again a comparison is in order, and in the same year the Holland Regiment, stationed in England, contained only two Catholic Officers and no known Independents.

By 1668 the two regiments in Tangier had been reduced to one, and gaps in its ranks filled by soldiers from the disbanded English brigade in Portugal. Originally the men of this brigade had come from the New Model regiments in Scotland, but between 1662 and 1668 it had been reinforced with English and Irish recruits. An examination of the Officers of the Tangier Regiments (as it may be called at this point for the first time) shows ten Catholics, four probable Independents, and nine probable Anglicans. Thus once again, only one year after the crack down of 1667, Catholics were dominant in the garrison not only in numbers, but also in that the Colonel and five company commanders were Catholics. Moreover all but two were English Catholics, a different state of affairs from that prevailing in 1662. The rumblings at home are thus understandable given the political climate of the times.

The situation in Tangier continued little changed under the Governorship of Inchiquin and although it is possible that the number of Anglicans increased under Kirke, the moral tone of the garrison certainly diminished, as Pepys testifies (6).

Who therefore used the Tangier Plate? Clearly some members of the Regiment and its forebears did, but just as clearly they were a minority for much of the occupation of Tangier by Catholics in particular. To complement PGC's brilliant piece of detective work one is tempted to start a quest for the plate of the Cathedral of St. John Baptist.

ovid

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1. For a more complete resume of the religious and political situation in Tangier see JP Riley 'Catholic Officers in the Holland and Tangier Regiments' in *Continuity in the English Army 1658-1668*. (Leeds University 1989).
2. EMG Routh *Tangier 1661-1684, England's Lost Atlantic Outpost* (London 1905) p239.
3. Architel Grey *Debates of the House of Commons Vol VIII*, (London, 1769), pp 4-21.
4. John Miller 'Catholic Officers in the later Stuart Army' in *English Historical Review LXXXVIII* (1973) p 41.
5. British Library Sloane MSS 3509 ff 139-140.
6. *The Diary of Samuel Pepys ed HB Wheatley (8 Vols, London, 1904-5)*.

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John Childs 'The English Brigade in Portugal 1662-1668' in Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research Vol III pp 135-147.
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President's Reception, Clandon

Presentation of a framed Band Banner to the Mayors of Guildford, Kingston-upon-Thames and Reigate and Banstead.



East Surrey Reunion.



Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral



Mr Bellerby receives a regimental tie and is told to get properly dressed by the President!

LETTERS Continued:

Harry Southcott writes:-

I read with interest the item in the Association Newsletter page 49 about the action at King's Mountain N.C., involving Major P. Ferguson and his subsequent death and burial.

There is another regimental connexion to the east of King's Mountain at New Bern N.C. - the Tryon Palace Complex which was the home of General William Tryon the Governor of the colony. His name appears on one of the honours boards near the entrance to the Museum at W. Clandon. At another stage in his career he was a Governor of New York and his name is perpetuated at Fort Tryon Park in Manhattan. The park has within its precincts the Cloisters which have been used to provide background for one or two thriller movies.

General Tryon is buried at Twickenham in the churchyard which holds the remains of other notables such as Sir William Berkeley at one time Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Alexander Pope. In another area of Twickenham is the grave of General William Howe who was Major Ferguson's commander at the time of the action at King's Mountain.

Harry Southcott

Harry Southcott is the cleaner at Clandon Museum. He is keenly interested in Regimental matters and the high standard of museum cleanliness which he maintains is the subject of much favourable comment by visitors.

R.F.

P Rose writes from Hextable:-

Being a very recently joined member of the Association, I was very pleased to see my request for news of my old comrades in the 70th Bn published so quickly.

I'm sure you will be very pleased to hear that already I have been contacted by George Thornton of Camberley. George reported to Rochester Airport the same time as I did, to join the 70th Bn, afterwards he was posted to the 1st Bn.

I will be contacting George, and in October I shall be on parade at Camberley very near his home.

I go there each year with my branch of The Royal British Legion for the SE area service and parade, at Sandhurst Military College, for the annual re-dedication of the Legion's pledge.

Again many thanks for finding my old comrades.

J Hudson writes from West Bromwich:-

The name of RSM Tasker caught my eye. How many thousands must have gone through the barrage of his voice. Yet comes to mind a time I was on night duty at the switchboard. He came in and sat beside me and called me "Sunny Jim".

He wanted to speak to his beloved on the phone. He spoke so quietly, I thought this man is actually human, but next morning crossing the 'Square' and wanting to blow my nose my hand inadvertently strayed towards a pocket bringing a sonorous boom roaring out of the mist, I forgot his humanity.

J A Neal writes:-

I was interested to read Bill Roadnight's contribution in the May issue of your Newsletter about soldiering in India.

You say that during the war he served with 2/6 Queen's; no doubt he did but, before that, he was RSM with 2/5 Queen's where he was affectionately known as "The Engine Driver". I was a Territorial who served throughout the war in 2/5 Queen's - one of only 14 original "Terriers" still serving in the Battalion at the end of hostilities. It's good to know that "The Engine Driver" is still alive and kicking.

W H Hill writes:-

Thank you once again for an excellent Newsletter. I was particularly interested to see the response to my query re Lt Ross Parker. After 50 years, I now know the gentleman sitting at the piano was in fact, the song writer.

Would you please thank all those who took the trouble to answer my query, especially Sid Pratten and Frank Beville, who I know personally.

The mention of Lt Gilberts brings back a memory. He was, in Tunisia, our Platoon commander, but the last time I saw him was in London at Buckingham Palace Road. He was walking his little dog. Of course we talked about the "good" old days.

In conclusion perhaps you could let those that answered my query, that Lt Ross Parker also wrote the other famous WWII song - "We'll meet again". A little different to the noise we have to put up with today.

Medals

Medals recently donated to the Museum at Clandon are:- C.S.M. J.D. DONALDSON - Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal, 1914-18 Victory Medal, Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal.

PTE. A. PEACOCK - 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal, 1914-18 Victory Medal, Defence Medal.

A replica George Cross has also been obtained to go with the replica Victoria Crosses already held. Both awards generate many enquiries.

R F

From The Past



Guard order, Tientsin, China.

Regimental Deaths

Barnard - On 19th April 1991, Lance Corporal Harry Christopher Barnard, aged 82 years, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Brooker - On 18th March 1991, Private Harry Brooker, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Burberry - On 12th June 1991, Private Thomas Burberry, aged 75 years, 2nd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. He was a regular bandsman and was a POW in Japanese hands during the Second World War.

Childs - On 23rd June 1991, Private Horace Childs, aged 95 years, The 2/4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment. He enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment and was drafted to the 2/4th Queens and sailed with them in December 1915 for Egypt. He saw service at the Suez Canal, and was wounded at The Battle of Gaza (1917). He later saw service on the Western Front and was wounded again.

Cranham - On 9th June 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Ronald George Cranham, The East Surrey Regiment and The A.C.C.

Cross - On 27th October 1991, Captain Henry Roy Cross, 2nd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. He was wounded in Malaya later rejoined the British Battalion and was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

Desmond - On 2nd April 1991, Sergeant Harry Desmond, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Served with the battalion in France and Africa where he was wounded and taken prisoner.

Eardley - On 13th September 1991, CSM George Eardley VC, aged 79 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. He was awarded his V.C during the campaign in N.W Europe in Holland in 1944. He was then serving with 4th Bn KSLI.

Henley - On 28th September 1991, Sergeant A Henley, C Company 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Hill - On 20th March 1991, Sergeant Major R Hill.

Hutchings - On 1st October 1990, Private Edwin G Hutchings, aged 67 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Innes - On 15th October 1991, Captain Douglas Bishop Innes, aged 83 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

James - In December 1990, Major H S G James.

Jenkins - On 7th August 1991, Major R J Jenkins, aged 81 years, The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) and was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment.

Lemoigne - On 24th May 1991, In Pensioner Ernest James Lemoigne, aged 83 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Lucas - On 15th July 1991, Private W Lucas, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Maxwell - On 5 November 1991, Lieutenant Robert Maxwell MC., 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. (Obituary in May 1992 Newsletter).

Parsons - On 4th July 1991, Lance Corporal G Parsons, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Peacock - On 16th May 1991, Private Alfred Peacock, aged 97 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Randall - On 2nd September 1991, Private William George Randall, The East Surrey Regiment. He had been in the Royal Star and Garter since 1978.

Seager - On 19th October 1991, Major Leslie Edgar Seager, aged 87 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Thomas - On 11th April 1991, Corporal E J Thomas, aged 72 years, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Thomson - On 14th October 1991, Major Ian Pool Thomson MC, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment (Obituary in May 1992 Newsletter).

Warren - Early in 1991, Private Lew Warren, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Webb - On 30th July 1991, Captain Walter Webb DCM, aged 86 years, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Wreford-Brown - On 15th May 1991, Colonel Peter Geoffrey Wreford-Brown, aged 80 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Regimental Families

Close-Brooks - On 6th July 1991, Marion Close-Brooks, widow of Roger Close-Brooks DSO.

Magee - On 25th August 1991, Mrs Monica Magee, was the widow of Colonel F A H Magee, The East Surrey Regiment. Mrs Magee had an eventful war, being first evacuated with a 9 month old baby, at short notice from Shanghai to Australia in August 1940. Most wives disembarked at Sydney. Permission was later given for the families to rejoin their husbands, now in Singapore. They arrived there on 7th December 1941, the very day the Japanese invaded Malaya. Singapore was being bombed and there was no question of the families remaining. Mrs Magee was attached to the staff of General Wavell and sailed with the Headquarters to Java. Their stay in Java was short and they were despatched to Perth in Western Australia. Here they remained until December 1944 when they were permitted to book passages to England from Sydney. After a nightmare four-day journey by train across Australia in intense heat, Mrs Magee and others embarked on their journey home. The voyage was via New Zealand, the Panama Canal and New York, and they were harassed by U boats in the Atlantic. Eventually the convoy arrived at Liverpool in safety early in 1945, and the families dispersed to their homes to await the arrival of the survivors of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from Malaya.

PGEH

Obituaries

Lieutenant Colonel B E Hazelton DSO MC

Bryan Hazelton, who died earlier this year, served as Second in Command of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1949 to 1950. Bryan was educated at Wellington and was commissioned in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1931. He served in The Royal West African Frontier Force from 1938 to 1946, and was awarded the Military Cross in 1941 and the Distinguished Service Order in 1945. He retired in 1958.

PGEH

Lieutenant Colonel R G Cranham

Ronald George Cranham, always known as George, served in both our Regiments. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he joined The East Surreys in which his father had served in the 1914-18 war. Captain G V Cranham MC was recalled in 1939, so father and son served together in The East Surrey Regiment. In March 1943, George was appointed to command the 71st Independent Company, The Queen's Royal Regiment which had been formed at Gencifa, Egypt. This unit, which was specially trained for beach development, was first in action at Salerno where it rendered sterling service. In addition to the maintenance of the invasion beach, the Company was responsible for its own local defence and acted in the role of infantry in the beach-head.

George's 'private army' showed its versatility in engineer duties, mine lifting and demolition, dock loading and unloading, track laying and road repairing, training in the use of pontoons and guard duties in prisoner of war camps. The Company returned to England where they prepared for the Normandy invasion. They landed on Juno beach at Courcelles in three detachments commencing on D Day, and were heavily engaged with Number 36 Beach Group until the break-through at Caen. The Company was disbanded in September 1945 and George was appointed Town Major of Calais, Boulogne and St Omer. He was twice mentioned in despatches in 1945.

After the War, George was transferred to the Army Catering Corps 'by accident and against my will', as he put it. However, he soon settled down, serving as Catering Adviser in the Canal Zone in 1952 and HQ East Africa Command in 1953. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel while at HQ Northern Command, and retired in 1965. George was of a happy disposition and took everything in his stride. He will be remembered as a generous host and an entertaining companion.

PGEH

Lieutenant Colonel J E Wyke, OBE

John Wyke died on 22nd April, 1991. He was born in 1920 and educated at Clare, in Suffolk, at Winchester, and in South Africa where his father was an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps, specialising in bacteriology. He had intended to follow his father's profession but the War intervened and as a result he became a soldier, diplomat and playwright.

He thoroughly enjoyed all three careers but maintained a particular affection for friends and comrades made during that time of war. He was a superb raconteur and nothing was lost in the telling.

He was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1941 and posted to 2/7 Queen's. He accompanied the Battalion to the Middle East in 1942 and was present at the Battle of Enfidaville at the end of the North Africa Campaign. He took part in the Landing at Salerno in September, 1943, where the Battalion was one of the first to touch down and was with them during the advance to the River Volturno. He was then earmarked for staff duties at Fifth Army Headquarters.

Following the immediate war period, he was seconded to the British Legation in Vienna under Sir Harold Caccia, liaising with various military and intelligence organisations and was responsible for setting up Operation Lord which involved tunnelling beneath a shop which for a cover sold Harris

tweed. He then inspired and actively participated in the Anglo-American Berlin Tunnel, the story of which has been told in numerous books.

In 1954, he was posted to Cyprus as security adviser to the then Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, during the EOKA campaign. In 1955, he left the Army to join the Foreign Office and during the following twenty years held appointments in Benghazi, as First Secretary, and in Islamabad where he adopted two Pathan daughters. His final posting was a secondment to the Ministry of Defence and he retired in 1975, firstly to restore an old farmhouse in Gwent and then to write plays for the BBC. Happily, he completed his Hanoverian Trilogy before his death, history being a principal hobby of his throughout his life.

After his retirement he resumed contact with his wartime comrades and was a regular attender at 2/7 Queen's Reunions where he was much in demand to recount his travels and experiences. He will be much missed and our sympathies go to his wife, Sheelah, and to his son and three daughters.

M E M M

Colonel P G Wreford-Brown

Peter Wreford-Brown died in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 15 May, 1991. Born in 1909, he went to Charterhouse and Sandhurst, being commissioned and posted to 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment at Catterick in 1929. He was good at games particularly golf, cricket, soccer and squash. A keen horse man and very interested in racing, he was highly entertaining, possessed a great sense of humour, was a good speaker and renowned as a raconteur.

In 1938 Peter joined the Sudan Defence Force where he learned Arabic. When Italy entered the war, he took part in the East African campaign and for a time was ADC to General Sir William Platt. Between 1941 and 1943 he was a GSO 2 at HQ 8th Army and was Mentioned in Despatches. He also served in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.

In 1944 he was sent to USA where he held appointments as GSO 2 and GSO 1, and was awarded the American Legion of Merit.

After the war he commanded the Training Company at the Depot, Kingston- upon-Thames, and subsequently a battalion in the Sudan Defence Force.

In 1951 he was appointed second in command of 1 Surreys. There were several months between the departure of John Metcalfe as CO and the arrival of Harry Smith. During those months Peter was acting CO and took the Battalion by air from UK to Tripoli. In those days, it was unusual for a whole unit to undertake such a move at very short notice.

In 1953 Peter was promoted to Colonel and appointed Head of the Mission to the Libyan Army. He was awarded the Order of Independence of Libya. In 1957 he was posted to Iraq as Military Attaché to our Ambassador in Baghdad, in the local rank of Brigadier. He retired in February 1959 and for some time took an active part in Horse Racing. He was Secretary of several Golf Clubs, including Worplesdon, and was a Vice President of Sussex County Golf Union.

Our sincerest sympathies to Maureen.

BAH & PEGH



PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?

The Royal Artillery

During the Second World War several of our readers were transferred to The Royal Artillery. Major General T.A. Richardson CB, MBE is anxious to contact any member who served with 90th Field Regiment (SP) RA. After the war this Regiment became 290 (City of London) RA T.A. If any reader served in this unit, or, knows a friend who did, please contact T.A. Richardson, 12 Lauriston Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4TQ.

R Shepherd

I served with the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Razmak NWF in 1940. During this period I was on the second column to relieve Datta Khel. I have no photographs of this period as mine were lost on my transfer to The Royal Signals. My grandsons listen to my stories of Razmak and photos would be most helpful to me.

Your Newsletter of May 1990 shows some of these snaps. I was in 12 Platoon "B" Coy and had to transfer to The Royal Signals when we were in Peshawar. Photos that come to mind are the opening of the road leading down to Bannu, Rifleman Tower, Alexandra Fort, Horseshoe piquet with the armoured car covering the RTR and various others including George the Khasidar with battalion headquarters. Names come to mind of "B" Coy and it is possible that some photos are in circulation. If I could obtain copies of these photos especially "B" Company it would make my grandsons day and I could feel happy at the success.

Many thanks for any assistance. My CO was Lt Col Evans and Company Commander of "B" Coy Captain Thompson, later Captain Lowry and Sgt Phillips 12 Platoon later Lt Phillips. Any reader able to assist please contact Mr Shepherd direct at 110 Arnold Estate, Druid Street, London SE1 2DX.

Alex Bowlby - would very much like to know the whereabouts of Captain P. M. BRAMWELL who commanded C Company 2/5th Queens in Italy and any other members of 2/5th Queens who took part in the attack on Monastery Hill, Monte Camino in December 1943.

Please write direct to A Bowlby Esq, Flat 2, Fraser Regnant Court, Southampton Road, London NW5 4HU.

Mr D Wilson

BLACK CATS AT WAR - Mr D Wilson, 30 Rydale Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 3GS is trying to arrange for this book to be published.

If you are interested and wish to purchase a copy, please write to him at the above address.

Colonel Bevington

Colonel Bevington is anxious to trace a former member of 1/6th Queen's.

I am ashamed to say that I have only just finished reading the last issue of the Newsletter which gets more and more interesting each time and deserves every congratulation. It

reminds me that I have not yet sent you the details of my missing member that I mentioned to you at Guildford.

The details are as follows:-

Captain K L Lockwood, 1/6 Queen's, commanding "B" Company in May 1940, taken prisoner on the Escut and finished up in Colditz and is mentioned in some of the books as assisting in the escapes. Last known address, Spring Grove Cottage, Old Sodbury, Bristol, Avon BS17 6LX. Exchanged Christmas Cards until 1990. Since then I saw his name mentioned in an account of a sight seeing tour to Colditz which gave the impression that he was acting as a courier. If any reader can assist please contact Col. Bevington at Little Nepicar, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7RR.

Dante Settimus Frasca

Mr Alan Frasca is trying to obtain details concerning his Father's service in the last war. His Father's name was Dante Settimus Frasca, he was called up in 1940 and posted to The Devonshire Regiment for training. Thereafter posted to The Queens and sent to Iraq as part of the 10th Army then to Libya when the 10th Army reinforced the 8th Army. When his Company went to Italy he stayed in North Africa as an interpreter for Italian P.O.W.'s. At some stage he travelled by ship via Cape Town to India. He was demobbed in 1945.

Any of our members who can be of assistance please contact Mr A Frasca, 14 Melrose Tudor, Plough Lane, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8LR. (081-669-0471).

G D Sadler

Thank you for the Newsletter, and I would like to contact RSM Bunton and RQMS Mitchell 1/6th Queen's who I served with in the Middle East.

I remember having a conversation with Lt Col Duncombe in the mess, and he told me that he was in action at Kohima with the Queen's.

I am now an O.A.P., and never found the time to follow the fortunes of the regiment as I followed my profession with BEECHAM pharmaceuticals. I must add that I did serve some years with the HAC (Inf) at Armoury House. I joined in 1951, reaching the dizzy heights of L/Cpl, it was hard in those days as it was a very select body of professional gentlemen.

Please write direct to G D Sadler, Dhalia Cottage, 45 Talbot Rd., Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7MG if you can help.

J A Taylor is trying to find anybody who served with his Brother in 2/6th Queen's during the War. His Brother was killed on 23rd January 1944 on Anzio Beach and is buried in MINTURNO War Cemetery Italy. Any member able to help please contact J A Taylor direct, 82 Percival Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW1 34LQ.

S Allen was a stretcher bearer with 2/7th Queen's during the War. He is trying to locate W Sykes of the 2/7th. If anyone can help please write to S Allen, 9 Parklands Way, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6JQ.

**THANK
YOU!**

**STAND
EASY!**



The Cypher of Charles and Catherine

Looking at these two crests one cannot but wonder if there is a connection between them and in a way there is, because both crests derive from King Charles II.

The Queen's Royal Regiment has among its regimental insignia the cypher of King Charles II and his Portuguese bride Catherine of Braganza after their marriage in 1661. The Cypher consists of two intertwined letters "C's", encircled by the Garter motto and surmounted by a crown, and permission was given the Regiment to emblazon this Cypher on their Colours. It is still borne on the Regimental Colours of The Queen's Regiment and in the centre of the Third Colour held by the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Regiment today.

After the Restoration King Charles gave all those peers whose family names began with the letter "C" permission to have a crest with intertwined "C's" to signify allegiance to the Crown. Above the crown was their family coronet. Among those so honoured was the family of Chetwynd.

In 1915 Mr Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, appointed the 8th Viscount Chetwynd to select a suitable site for the establishment of a new ordnance factory to meet the requirements of wartime expansion. This he did, and Chilwell was chosen. Lord Chetwynd needed a badge for the identification of senior officials and factory staff, and he selected his family badge of the intertwined "C's". Later when the factory became an RAOC Depot the crest was accepted with the Royal Crown above as the garrison crest. Owing to the 1975 cuts, the Depot was closed in 1982.

Source - The Chilwell Story by Captain M J H Haslam.

1.

2.

3.

A near miss in the Italian Campaign

Hector Smyth, who served in the Orderly Room of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War, recalls a somewhat unusual occurrence during the Italian campaign. Hector had just rejoined the Battalion after serving at Anzio with The York and Lancaster Regiment. He writes:-

'I do not need to say I was delighted to be reunited with my pals of the 1st Battalion. I heard all the news of the Surreys' activities during my absence, and was told a rather bizarre story concerning a friend of mine who was also a member of the Orderly Room staff, but who shall remain nameless.

It appears he was returning to his billet at about 7 a.m. one sunny morning following an assignation with a local signorina who gave piano lessons, among other accomplishments. He was feeling at peace with the world and looking forward to his breakfast of soya links and compo tea. As he was passing along a village street, the contents of a chamber pot thrown from an upstairs window and containing the previous night's outpourings, narrowly missed him. This unsophisticated method of waste disposal is, of course, a quaint and time-honoured tradition practised by villagers in Southern Italy (and long may it continue). This charming ritual is invariably preceded by a shout of 'Avanti!'.

Having failed to hear any warning and feeling somewhat irked, he banged on the door of the house to remonstrate with the occupants. Voluble apologies followed from all the family, and eventually a partly-mollified Surrey departed on his way, having been presented with a melon by way of making amends. He never discovered if this was a statutory compensation for mishaps of this nature; presumably a direct hit would merit two melons with perhaps a bottle of vino thrown in. However, I don't think he ever put this to the test'.

HWS

Major's Marmalade

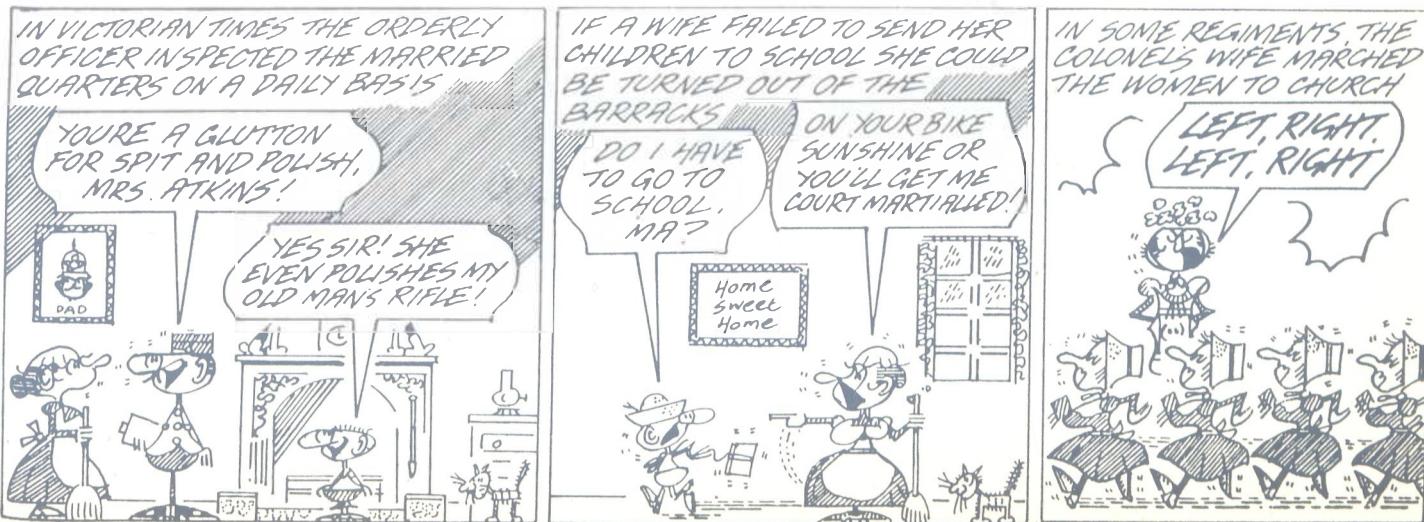
At the Horsell, Surrey, Village Show on 20th July an entry of her famous "Major's Marmalade" by Mrs Daphne Hill secured First Prize. Standards of entries were high and judging was strict so congratulations to Daphne are certainly in order. "Major's Marmalade" and "Colonel's Chutney" (same chef) are regularly on sale at Clandon Museum and raise considerable sums of money for the Museum Fund.

R.F.

1. The Cypher of Queen Catherine within the garter.
2. Chilwell Ordnance Depot - Workers Tally Disc c 1918.
3. Chilwell Badge - issued to senior management only.

Regimental History as seen by G Robinson.

In most regiments the orderly officer inspected the married accommodation daily; in some 'the colonel's lady, as female commanding officer, has marched the women to church in the same manner as her husband marched the men', wrote a Staff Sergeant in 1871.



The Standing Orders of the Queen's Royal Regiment 1877 stated:
Any soldier's wife who disturbs the Barracks, or who is dirty in her habits or who does not behave respectably, will be turned out of barracks and deprived of washing, as will anyone whose children do not attend school. All soldiers' wives living in barracks are expected to attend Church with the Regiment and to appear there decently dressed'.