

NOVEMBER 1992

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 52

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NEWSLETTER



Forecast of Events

	1992
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY.
1993	
10th February	SOBRAON DAY.
27th March	Association Trustees & Committee meetings, Clandon.
23rd April	YPRES DAY.
23rd April	23rd London / 42 RTR Lunch.
23rd April	East Surrey Officers Dinner, Simpsons-in-the-Strand.
6th May	Golf Society - Spring meeting. Details will be sent to members.
8th May	Annual Dinner 5 OMA - Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from: D. Mitchell 3 Littlefield Way, Guildford, Surrey.
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY.
26th May	Golf Society -v- R. Marines.
28th May	Presidents Reception - Clandon. (TBC)
1st June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE.
6th June	Queen's Surreys Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.
June/July	Royal Marines match - The Golf Society-North Hants, Fleet details will be sent to members. (TBC)
11th September	2/6 Queens Salerno Reunion - Union Jack Club - details from:- S. Pratten MM, 58 Sandford Rd, East Ham, London E6 3QS.
9th September	SALERNO DAY.
1st October	Autumn meeting - The Golf Society.
8th October	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Ladies Luncheon - Clandon. (TBC)

Editorial

And so on Salerno Day, September 9th, The Queen's Regiment itself passed into history. The Queen's was as you are all aware the amalgamation of six famous and distinguished regiments of the South East of England. During its brief history its officers and men carried forward all the traditions of their forbears and we all had a living regiment of which we were all so proud. The Grand Reunion, held annually at Bassingbourn was a wonderful day out with a mixing of the young, not so young and the old warriors of these old Regiments, all meeting with one thing in common, love of their Regiment and a feeling of close comradeship with their mates. Amalgamations are nothing new, the British Army has been changing over the centuries and will continue to do so.

So what of the future, the President has already remarked in his notes, "that of course all ranks now serving in The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will soon become just as proud of their new Regiment as we were, who served in the forbear regiments and The Queen's."

The Queen's Regiment was shamefully and disgracefully treated but we could do no more than we did. What we must do as an Association, is to continue to support the new Regiment as we did The Queen's and give every support and encouragement to those now serving who have inherited all our treasured traditions, customs, silver and chattels. Elsewhere in this Newsletter readers will find a brief summary of the traditions, embellishments and accoutrements being carried forward into the new regiment. The frontispiece of this edition is the Colours of 1 Queen's silver drums and bugles of the Surreys, the silver drum and silver mace of The Queen's Royal Regiment. The drums and bugles are now with the 2nd Bn PWRR currently based at Canterbury and were brought to Clandon for the officers' club luncheon on October 2nd. I hope too that you will enjoy the series of colour articles in this issue of our major battle honours commencing with Tangier and Gibraltar.

Benevolence as the President has said in his notes remain our top priority, once again do let me know if you hear of any of your mates or any widows who may need help. With the assistance of Organisations like SSAFA and The Royal British Legion we will always help when we can, and most important, when we know of cases of hardship.

Your response to articles and letters is reflected in this edition. It has been a very difficult task sorting out letters which should be printed. If your article has not been printed it will be in due course, but above all do NOT stop writing with your requests for help or your memories. In this Newsletter is a request for your experiences so please get writing! I look forward to seeing you at our various reunions and parades in the coming year.

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to you all.

Les Wilson.

President's Notes

It is sad that The Queen's Regiment no longer exists. Our very close links with the Regiment were of benefit both to our Association and its members, and to the Regiment itself. The amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment with The Royal Hampshire Regiment which took place on 9th September 1992 will inevitably mean that our ties with the new Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will not be so close. Nevertheless, it is I believe important that we do all we can to establish a firm relationship with the new Regiment in the years ahead, although we may perhaps in future not be so closely allied with one particular battalion as we were with 1 Queens.

Meanwhile, readers will note that the title of our Association at the head of this Newsletter has changed and reference to the Queen's Regiment Association is omitted. Your committee will be discussing the future title of our Association at its meeting next March. You can be assured though, that whatever our name, there will be no change in the welfare work on behalf of our members, in our customary get-togethers or this Newsletter.

A report of the final parade of the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Regiment in Germany appears elsewhere in this edition. I was privileged to be there and have rarely felt so moved as when the whole battalion proudly and loudly sang their Regimental March, "Soldiers of the Queen" as they marched off parade for the last time. It was an emotional few minutes. I am sure however that all those who took part will soon become just as proud of their new Regiment as those of us who had to change our cap badges whilst serving always did.

I again would like to thank our Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson together with his assistant, Mrs. Sheila Roberts for all the work they do and care they take in the important benevolent work on behalf of both members of the Association as well as non members who have served with our forbear Regiments. Of particular note since the last newsletter is the number of wheelchairs, of varying kinds, which the Association has provided to those in need. Should any reader know of any eligible person whom they believe is eligible for our help, please let Les Wilson know. I consider this to be the most important part of your Association's work.

Mike Doyle

Frontispiece

The photo on page one shows the Colours of 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment the silver drums and bugles of The East Surrey Regiment, silver side drum and silver mace of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

This photo was taken in MINDEN GERMANY in June just prior to the battalions disbandment. Readers may like to know, that the Colours remain in service with 1st Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment until new Colours are presented probably in 1995-96.

The Drums and Bugles are now entrusted to The 2nd Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The record of officers and senior NCOs who have carried these Colours can be seen on the brass plates on the Colour stand.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire)

A summary of decisions on the new Regiment is given below. These include agreements by the Colonels of both Regiments or their representatives on the Joint Amalgamation Committee, although certain points still await Royal Approval or other final clearance.

Hierarchy

The Princess of Wales is to be the Colonel in Chief. Queen Margrethe is to be Allied Colonel in Chief. Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith MBE late Grenadier Guards, is to be Colonel of the Regiment. There will be five Deputy Colonels, one for each County.

Amalgamation Day

9th September 1992. (Salerno Day).

Vesting Day

(When the Colonel in Chief inspects her new Regiment) This has not been finalised. For security reasons we are not allowed to publish. It is likely to be late Spring and details will be sent to members but will only give you approx ten days notice of the event.

Structure

Regular - Two regular battalions

The 1st Battalion based in Colchester and the 2nd Battalion in Canterbury. In addition we have one extra company badged PWRR which will be attached to 1 DERR for 18 months and two extra platoons badged PWRR attached to 1 KINGS and 1 RWF for 9 months.

Territorial - 5th Battalion: BHQ remains at Canterbury; HQ Coy in Dover; Rifle Cos in Guildford, Hounslow, Cobham, Hastings, Seaford, Gillingham and Maidstone.

6th and 7th Battalion: BHQ remains Horsham; HQ Coy in Crawley, Haywards Heath; Rifle Cos in Farnham, Camberley, Brighton, Worthing, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight.

B Coy, 8th Queen's Fusiliers will be one of the four rifle companies of the new London Regiment. It will be known as 'Queen's' Company and remain in Edgware/Hornsey. The other companies will be in the old Queen's Drill Hall, Camberwell.

RHQ- The RHQ of the new Regiment will be in Canterbury with an area office in Winchester.

Home- As well as having RHQ and HQ 5 PWRR in Canterbury, it is hoped that our 'home based' regular battalion will normally be in Howe Barracks. This still has to be approved but has the backing of the Director of Infantry.

Accoutrements & Dress

Cap Badge The Queen's Regiment cap badge with a Rose inserted beneath the Tudor Dragon and the scroll to show 'Princess of Wales's' instead of 'Queen's'. In bronze on the beret and in No 1 Dress hats.

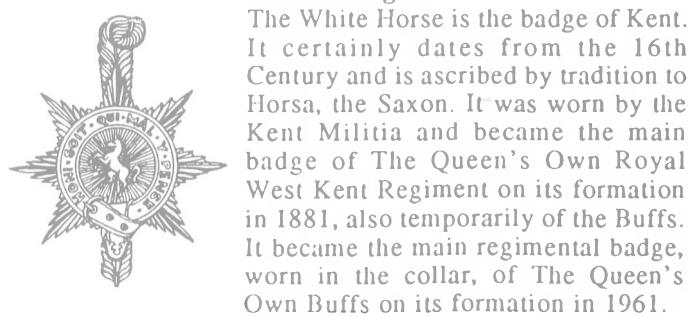
Please note that certain items of dress have not yet been approved, eg bronzing of buttons, badges.

The Dragon was awarded to The Buffs by Queen Anne, probably in 1707. It was a rare distinction for a regiment to be thus honoured in those days, and it is one of the earliest regimental badges awarded. It commemorates the

regiment's origin in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The Rose of The Royal Hampshire's has also been incorporated into the new badge below the Dragon.

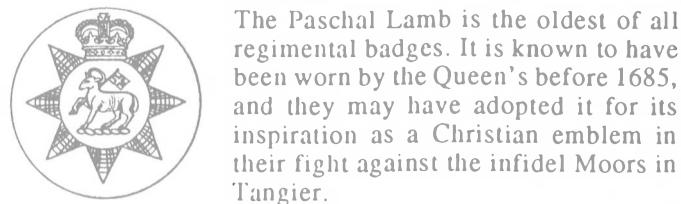
The device surrounding the Dragon and Rose, inscribed with the motto Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense (Shame on him who thinks ill of it), is a garter, as awarded to Knights of England's oldest order of chivalry, founded by King Edward III in 1348: the Garter is inherited from the Royal Sussex, who were granted the right to wear the Garter Star in 1879, presumably by permission of Queen Victoria. The claim to it appears to descend from the man who had the 35th affiliated to Sussex, Major-General Charles Lennox, Colonel of the Regiment from 1803-19, latterly as the 4th Duke of Richmond, K.G. The Garter also appeared on the old Queen's regimental colour, surmounting Queen Catherine's cypher.

Collar Badges



The remainder of this badge is inherited from the Royal Sussex, whose badge had the Garter cross in the centre in place of the white horse. The star is that of the Garter. The white plume was captured from the French Royal Roussillion Regiment at the Battle of Quebec on September 13th 1759.

Button



The remainder of this badge is inherited from The East Surrey Regiment and together with the Lamb formed the badge of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. The star outlined is again that of the Garter and was inherited in turn from the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia. The crown was the standard badge of a Line regiment, as carried by The 31st and 70th.

Sleeve Badge - An embroidered Tiger in Yellow on a Blue background to be worn on the left sleeve between the shoulder and elbow.

Officers' Rank Badges - Eversleigh style.

Sam Browne - Dark brown with whistle.

NCO Badges of Rank - Blue backing.

Shoulder Titles - Metal bronze on jerseys.

Beret - Khaki (infantry), with blue and mustard yellow backing to the badge. Blue and mustard yellow will be the regimental colours.



Regimental Marches

Quick - Introduction 'Farmer's Boy', leading into 'Soldiers of the Queen' to which we will march past.

Slow - 'Minden Rose'.

Bands

Not yet decided by the Army Board. We will have either one large band of 41 or two smaller regular bands. It is hoped that we will keep the Kohima (Volunteer) Band.

Regimental Days

The main days will be **Albuhera**, **Minden**, **Sobraon** and **Gallipoli**. Special Orders of the Day will be published on all other days presently recognised by both Regiments.

Regimental Book of Remembrance

One book will continue to be displayed in Canterbury Cathedral and the other will be displayed at R.H.Q. Canterbury.

Regimental Collect. Not yet written and approved.

Colours, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is not due to receive new Colours until 1995-96.

Drums, The emblazoning has been approved and the Regiments drums are now being emblazoned.

Cadet Forces

They will remain affiliated, change their names and wear PWRR badges and uniform.

The Medenine anti-tank Gun

This famous gun, presently at Bassingbourn, will be moved to Canterbury.

The Dover Museum

Will continue and be the museum of the new Regiment.

Recruiting area and County Connections

The recruiting area of the new Regiment will be Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Middlesex and Greater London. The Colonel of the Regiment has written to all Lord Lieutenants, High Sheriffs, Lord Mayors and Mayors pointing out that the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will be their County Infantry regiment, with all that implies.

Traditions and Practices

Loyal Toast - Sitting and carried out individually. Queen Margrethe and the Colonel in Chief will be toasted seated.

Albuhera Day - The Silent Toast ceremony will be performed in accordance with custom.

Third Colour - To remain with the 1st Battalion.

Sobraon Day - The Regimental Colour will be lodged in the WOs & Sgts's Mess.

Corunna Majors - Will be toasted in the Officers' Messes of all Battalions.

Salt Ceremony - Will be offered in accordance with custom at Officers' Mess Dinners.

Minden Day - The tradition of wearing Roses will be followed.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire)



The Amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment took place as planned on 9th September. Although all battalions marked the occasion with parades, this was a quiet merger and the main celebration is planned next summer when it is hoped that HRH The Princess of Wales will Review her Regiment for the first time.

Details of the new Regiment given in these notes in the May 1992 Newsletter remain unaltered except that it was finally agreed that the insignia should be similar to that of The Queen's Regiment with a few exceptions. The most notable of these is the cap badge, which now incorporates a Hampshire Rose beneath the Tudor Dragon and 'Princess of Wales's instead of Queen's' on the scroll. In addition, a Tiger badge from the Royal Hampshire is worn between the shoulder and sleeve of the left arm. The design of the collar badge, and button incorporating the Paschal Lamb, as worn by The Queen's Regiment, are to continue unchanged in the new Regiment.

As the new cap badges will not be available until 1993 all ranks started to wear a cloth version on their khaki berets on Amalgamation Day. These berets have proved popular and they were used by the Royal Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion for HRH The Princess of Wales, on 16 October, when she arrived at the Guildhall in Portsmouth to receive the Freedom of the City.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Anthony Denison-Smith MBE, now has five Deputies, one for each county in the recruiting area. In the case of Surrey, Brigadier Bob Acworth CBE, is filling this appointment. The 1st Battalion, stationed in Colchester, is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Reeve-Tucker who will be succeeded in late 1993 by Lieutenant Colonel John Russell, and the 2nd Battalion in Canterbury is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Cooper who took over from Lieutenant Colonel David Wake MBE in mid October.

Another change of title has occurred. The 8th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) has become 'The London Regiment' with different cap badges for each of its four rifle companies. B (Queen's Regiment) Company based in Edgware and Hornsey will at least keep alive one famous name and has, as its Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Tony Pielow JP. The other major reorganisation to our Territorial units gives the 6th/7th Battalion a company based in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

There have been two important successes already for The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Our Free Fall Team, the Flying Dragons, who won a Gold Medal in the Army Championships in August, were selected to represent the United Kingdom at the World Parachuting Championships in China in September where they achieved, despite several difficulties, a very satisfactory result at their first appearance on the international scene. Secondly, one of our Public Information Officers, Lieutenant Laurie Manton, has won the 'TA Photographer of the Year' competition.

Finally, we warmly congratulate the last Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, Major General Mike Reynolds CB, on the award of the 'Grand Cross with Star of the House of Orange' when he paid his final visit to HRH Princess Juliana of the Netherlands on her retirement as Allied Colonel-in-Chief. In addition to this well-deserved honour, we all owe him an immense debt of gratitude for everything that he did for The Queen's Regiment, particularly in its last very difficult years.



1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

The time has now arrived when I can no longer put off the difficult task of composing the notes for the Newsletter for the last time as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment. On Salerno Day the new Regiment is formed and the Battalion, along with all the other battalions in The Queen's Regiment, becomes another short chapter in the illustrious history of our Army. We join our famous founding regiments who have all been through this agonising process before us and I am certain you know exactly how we all feel at this moment. However, while our departure is inevitably tinged with sadness, the pride with which we all go forward into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is in the highest traditions of those who came before us.

Although the final person does not leave until 11 Sep 92 when the barracks are handed back to the Federal Authorities, most of our weapons and equipment had to be handed back in June. As a result, we had to hold our final festivities much earlier than we would have liked. In choosing a weekend we were limited by a number of factors, not least by the availability of the Colonel of the Regiment, a band and enough of the Battalion in station to make it worth while! Add to that a shortage of time, we only had our early departure confirmed in late March, and you have all the ingredients of an RSM's nightmare! We could not have been more delighted to find that the only date that fitted the bill was the weekend of the Glorious First of June.

The weekend started with the Farewell Parade. This had to be put together in just 2 months and tested the Battalion's flexibility to the extreme! The Albuhera Band's staff clearance was only confirmed 4 days before the event and The German Federal Ministry of Defence announced at the eleventh hour that they wished to mark our departure by presenting us with a "Fahnenband", a banner commemorating our service in Germany and a high honour. That the Parade was a success was due to the energy, skill and enthusiasm of the RSM, WO1 Grenfell, the spirit and pride of everyone on parade and, the marvellous support we received on the day from our friends and families, including many current and former members of The Queen's Regiment and our founding regiments. In addition to the Colonel of the Regiment and many friends and colleagues from our time in Germany, we were particularly pleased that, despite the short notice, Brigadier Mike and Anne Doyle, Colonel Mac and Kate McConnell and five former commanding officers and their wives were able to join us. I was also glad that Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson had run out of excuses as to why he could not visit us and was also there!

With such a gathering of experts we were a little worried that we might have been too ambitious in staging a parade at short notice. But we need not have worried as the soldiers, as ever, rose to the occasion magnificently and provided a spectacle charged with emotion that all who saw or took part in it will always remember. Things could not have gone better, from the arrival on parade of the Battalion, to the parading of the Third Colour which was carried on this occasion by the Quartermaster Captain Mick Bernier, to the stirring and extremely moving speech by General Mike Reynolds, to the singing of "Soldiers of the Queen" as we marched off parade for the final time - a moment none of us will ever forget.

The Parade set the scene for what was to be a marvellous weekend. That evening the WOs and Sgts Mess held their

Farewell Ball to which they generously invited not only most of the officers and their wives from the Battalion but also all the retired officers and their wives who had made the journey out from England. It was a party that all who attended will long remember for its atmosphere and comradeship and more than a little spirit! Certainly Saturday morning was used to recover under the guise of a little shopping in Minden although most made it to the lunch time Barbecue in the Officers' Mess.

That evening saw yet another spectacular Beating Retreat by the Albuhera Band and our own Corps of Drums. With only two days practice together, they produced a memorable and moving display of the highest order. It was the last occasion that these two fine musical groups were to Beat Retreat for the officers of the Battalion and so it was highly appropriate that the salute was taken by the very first commanding officer of the Battalion, Colonel Toby Sewell. The emotion shown by Drum Major Barden reflected the feelings of all of us and it was with some relief that we retired to the Officers' Mess for the Ball. This proved to be another highly successful event which tested the stamina and fitness of all those present and introduced a number of people, both young and not so young and, several who should have known better, to the sport of bar-fly jumping. The Queens Surreys were well represented and there are photographs around to prove it!

Sadly our guests had to leave in an Army bus early on Sunday morning for the long drive to Calais but the celebrations continued with a Families Open Day. This started with a church service and continued with traditional sports and side shows, culminating in another tremendous display by the Albuhera Band and the Corps of Drums. It was a fitting end to what had been a marvellous weekend and which received universal praise from all those who attended. We were extremely pleased that Major General Anthony Denison Smith, our current General Officer Commanding, was able to come to the Parade and share the atmosphere of the occasion with us. He takes over in September as the first Colonel of the new Regiment as it forms and we are looking forward to continuing our links with him in the future.

From then on the relentless progress of drawdown really gathered pace. Our weapons and equipment have been redistributed to other units or sent back to store and most of our soldiers will have left for their new battalion by the beginning of August. The task of cleaning up the barracks continues and so far over thirty large skips of wood, metals and paper and eighteen 10 ton tippers of scrap metal have been removed. Add to that the one hundred and thirty nine 16 tonner loads of kit, twenty three abandoned cars and assorted steel lockers and racking that has been disposed of and you begin to see the scale of the problem. However we have still managed to find time for sport and our orienteering team came a very creditable fifth in the Army Championships and our dingy team won the Divisional regatta. The final touches are now being made to the camp and the Quartermaster and I will hand the barracks over to the Defence Land Agents on 11 Sep'92 always assuming that the 85 'A' vehicles that are still sitting on the square have been found a home!

I am delighted that the links with the Queens Surrey Association are going to continue. Your support of the Battalion is something I will always remember from my time in command. It was therefore particularly gratifying that so many people were able to come out to Germany for our final parade and weekend. The occasion would not have been the same without them and it was both an honour and a privilege to be able to share it with them. It

reinforced the close links that the Battalion has had with the Queens Surreys Association throughout our short history and the marvellous and extremely generous support we have always received and for which we have always been extremely grateful.

While I am extremely sad to be presiding over the final days of the Battalion I have no doubt that our future in the new Regiment is secure. The standards and traditions that have been part of our lives for so long will be carried forward into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The experience we have all gained over the last twenty five years will not be forgotten nor will the friendships made be lost. For it will not be badges, uniforms, silver or traditions but people who will make the new Regiment a success; people with experience of being part of a fine Regiment, people who want the new Regiment to succeed, people who will carry all that is best from the old forward to the new. On behalf of all ranks in the Battalion I thank you all for everything that you have done for us over the years and we look forward very much to renewing those links in the future.

ACM

The Old And Bold Say Farewell To The Regiment

The Glorious First of June weekend 1992 was the occasion when we said farewell to the 1st Battalion. The Commanding Officer kindly invited the President, Chairman and Secretary of the Association, and all past Commanding Officers and their wives to join the Battalion for the celebrations - or perhaps 'wake' would be a better description.

Thus it was that a party of 12 comprising, Mike and Ann Doyle, Mac and Kate McConnell, Toby and Muriel Sewell, Tony and Anne Pielow, John and Jennifer Davidson and Les Wilson, assembled at Dover early on Thursday 28th May under the escort of Captain Ian Wright, a 1st battalion officer currently on attachment to 40 Commando, Royal Marines. I was tempted to say "under command of", but that would be unfair since he could in no way be held responsible for the fact that we ended up travelling to Calais on two boats: eight with six tickets on the scheduled boat and four, also with six tickets, attempting to catch up later in a 'Sea Cat' Even Les Wilson, putting on his RSM's hat, was unable to get this mob into any semblance of order. Lt John Edwards, the MTO, met us at Calais and, having eventually assembled at the RV, we embussed for a nine hour drive to Minden. The coach contained what seemed like half the QM's store of blankets and pillows, 'haverbag rats' and a plentiful supply of beer, gin and pimms. I have travelled on faster coaches: a great cheer went up when we overtook something - a very tired looking East German 'Trabby'; and it was reported that we were once overtaken by a cyclist, but I must have been asleep at the time. On arrival in Minden we were met by our individual hosts.

Clifton Barracks was bathed in sunshine on Friday morning for the Farewell Parade. A wonderful parade, with all the usual ingredients and a few surprises. After the arrival of the Colonel of the Regiment the Regimental Colour was marched on parade for the last time carried by Lt Tim Richardson. Then the Colonel's Colour was marched on carried by the QM, Captain Mick Bernier to be placed on the saluting dais behind the Colonel of the Regiment. Watching was Maggie Denaro, whose father-in-law, John Kealy, in 1927 in Hong Kong was the last officer to carry the Colonel's Colour on a battalion parade. The standard of drill was impeccable, and it was

hard for us from a different era to realise that drill gets little place in a soldier's training syllabus and slow marching is not taught at all. All credit to RSM Grenfell and the Company Sergeant Majors. During the parade the Commanding Officer was presented with a "Banner for Peace", an honour accorded to a few units selected by the German Federal Minister of Defence. The senior German officer presenting it made a touching speech in English. After the Battalion had advanced in review order, General Mike Reynolds addressed the Battalion. In a magnificent speech, charged with emotion, he congratulated, and expressed his pride in, the Queensmen on parade and echoed all our feelings when he said: "May God forgive those who decided to destroy this fine Regiment unjustly and unnecessarily, for those of us who have served in it will never forgive them". Finally the Battalion marched off and as they left the square they burst into "Soldiers of the Queen" at the top of their voices. I hope it was heard in Whitehall. As the Companies disappeared behind the barrack blocks, still singing, a General, many Brigadiers and Colonels, their wives and many others brought out their handkerchiefs to stem the flow of tears.

After a lunch in the Officers' Mess and a couple of hours "studying for Staff College", the Warrant Officers and



Minden. Between functions, L to R. Mrs Ann Doyle, Mrs Kate McConnell, Col John Francis, Mrs Penny Francis, Col Toby Sewell, Mrs Muriel Sewell and Brig Mike Doyle

Sergeants welcomed us to their Farewell Ball in the gymnasium. Some of us were still young enough - just - to remember a few of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, albeit probably as Privates or Lance Corporals, and it was a great pleasure to meet up with them again. How nice, too, to see that the standards of dress have been maintained and that all the ladies were wearing long dresses So different from "Civvy Street" where anything (or almost nothing) goes.

Saturday started with a visit to Minden. A lovely town with its old narrow streets and its cathedral painstakingly rebuilt in the original style after being totally destroyed in March 1945. An excellent BBQ in the Officers' Mess was followed by an afternoon of R and R.

The Corps of Drums and the Albuhera Band beat Retreat as a prelude to the Officers' Mess Ball. An immaculate performance, but again one touched with great emotion. All of us felt for Drum Major Barden when he sought permission from Toby Sewell, the first Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, "with great sadness to march off the Albuhera Band and the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Regiment for the very last time". Our feelings echoed his and I for one needed the walk back

in solitude to the Officers' Mess to contemplate and recover.

The Officers' Mess Ball was a family affair with no "Chain of Command" guests. It began with a dinner in a marquee with the silver drums and the Colours displayed, and each table decorated with flowers and the pick of the Mess silver. Toby Sewell made a superb and fitting speech to which Amédée Miéville made an admirable reply. The Albuhera Band's jazz group kept us active on the floor; great music without the need, praise be, for electronic amplification. Other diversions included a "bat fly" wall at which your correspondent was persuaded to fling himself for suspension upside down, and a casino operated by the officers of the Battalion's supporting Armoured Regiment, The Skins. A disco in the Mess kept us moving and some had the stamina to keep going until 0500 champagne breakfast.

There was little time for sleep on Sunday morning before embussing, clutching duty free, at 0745 for the long haul back to Calais. Another plentiful supply of gin enabled us to reflect on a wonderful, but sad, three days. The sort of Regimental occasion that we all remember so well from years gone by, planned and run as well as any, but which we shall never enjoy again. We had said our farewells in splendid style.

JGWD

A Pentathlon's Presents

At a time when present day youthful athletes were preparing themselves for the 1992 Olympic Games, a ninety-one year old former pentathlete was presented with a commemorative gold tie-pin on his birthday, sixty-four years after he competed for Great Britain in the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928.

Colonel Lance East, received the pin at a surprise celebration on his 91st birthday at Huntingdon House in Grayshott where, unfortunately crippled, he now lives. The presentation was made by Scott Naden of the British Olympic Association and Captain Dominic Mahoney, a British competitor in this year's games at Barcelona. Colonel East was the first to receive one of the specially made tie-pins, other presentations were to be made later by Princess Anne at a ceremony in Manchester timed to coincide with the city's bid to stage the next Olympics.



A further birthday present to Colonel East, as a souvenir of the 1992 games, was a Wedgwood dish featuring the Olympic insignia in the middle. The gold tie-pin also features the insignia of the Olympic rings along with the

Olympic torch. Colonel East's wife, Mrs Joan East, said that he was flattered and sentimental about receiving the tie-pin as "he had always considered himself so unimportant".

"Unimportant" is the last word that could be applied to Colonel East. Commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1921, he saw service in England and India and was with the First Battalion in Quetta at the time of the earthquake in 1935. In 1940, as adjutant of the 1/5th Battalion he was Mentioned in Despatches for his services in France. Later, in the Middle East, he was awarded a D.S.O. for his fine leadership of the Battalion. In 1946 he was made an O.B.E. in recognition of his services as Provost Marshall, Middle East, and after a further appointment as Provost Marshall BAOR he retired from the Army in 1952. A keen sportsman, he played hockey for his battalion and rugger for Richmond R.F.C., and was runner up in the Army Light Heavyweight Championship in 1926. He also excelled at fencing and polo and his membership of the British Pentathlon Team at the Olympic Games in 1928 was a fitting climax to his athletic career. The Pentathlon included cross-country running and horse-riding, fencing, swimming and pistol-shooting.

Colonel East's special birthday party was shared by his wife and other members of the family and grandchildren and it included a birthday cake complete with Olympic rings made by his daughter.....

Last year the Regiment arranged for a drummer in full ceremonial dress to mark his birthday in style at Huntingdon House.

Congratulations to:

Brigadier and Mrs Bob Acworth who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 8th July 1992.

Major and Mrs Donald Abbott who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 21st June 1992.

Captain and Mrs Alan White who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 5th September 1992.

Colonel and Mrs Alan Jones who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on 4th October 1992.

Lt Tony Farrow, ex RSM of 1 Queen's on the award of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Brigadier Anthony Ling on the award of the CBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

Ex Corporal Ron Brill on the award of the BEM in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

For Sale

The following volumes, with prices in brackets, of The East Surrey Regiment's regimental history are available from the Regimental museum at Clandon Park.

Applications should be made to the Curator with appropriate cheque plus £2.00 postage and packing.

Volume 1 - 1 copy (£45)

Volume 11 - 6 copies (£35) each

Volume 111 - 9 Copies (£35) each

Volume 1V - 1 copy (£35)

Donations

The Trustees wish to thank the undermentioned for their very generous donations to our funds:-
W. Longley and the Executors of the late C. Lilley.

President's Reception

The President's Reception was held at the Regimental Museum, Clandon on Friday, 5th June when the Mayors of Guildford, Kingston-on-Thames and Reigate and Banstead, accompanied by the Mayoresses, attended in recognition of their Boroughs' associations with the Regiment on whom their respective Freedoms have been conferred.

With the President, Brigadier M.J. Doyle and Mrs Doyle were Colonel and Mrs W.E. McConnell (Chairman of the Association), Brigadier and Mrs M.J.A. Clarke (Chairman of Museum Trustees), Colonel and Mrs P.R.H. Thompson (Chairman Territorial Trustees) and Lt. Colonel L.M. Wilson (Association Secretary), together with approximately eighty other guests.

Welcoming the Mayors and guests, the President spoke of the links between the Regiment and the Civic Authorities and the mutual benefits derived there from. Referring mainly to the past and present, he also spoke of the proposed Regimental future.

At the end of a very enjoyable occasion it was felt by all concerned that Regimental connections with the County Boroughs were still secure and cherished and worthy of all efforts to maintain them.

RF



Major General Michael Forrester, Brigadier Mike Doyle and the Mayor of Guildford Councillor Tony Page.



General Sir Edward Burgess with Colonel John Buckeridge and Mrs Patricia Buckeridge.



Room 2 guests, Major Alan Martin entertains!

Museum Notes

1992 has been a good year. There has been if anything an increase in visitors to the museum. Despite the recession takings from donation boxes have held up and shop sales have increased, in part due to the two new booklets on sale - The Surreys in Italy and the improved edition of the history of our Territorial battalions. The President's mayoral reception, and the Open Day were both highly successful occasions. Security has been a worry, and our thanks go to the volunteers who helped throughout the season to ensure adequate surveillance during opening hours.

Some people have been heard to say "With all the reductions going on, I suppose your museum will close". Not at all. It will continue to be our museum, and the repository of the traditions of our regiments. However just in case MOD support should cease, we have taken the precaution of becoming registered with the Museums and Galleries Commission from which we derive backing from a different Ministry. We are also taking steps to emphasise to a greater extent our connections with the county of Surrey. Conscious also that the support of old comrades and their families will inevitably become less active as the years go by, we are seeking to stimulate the interest of the general public in our displays.

We are therefore a very active organisation which is prepared to respond to the challenges that lie ahead. But it has to be said that a number of our team of dedicated helpers are getting on a bit. We need to broaden the basis of our support and attract a younger generation to take over from those stalwarts who set up the museum and kept it going in the 1980s. So please pass the word around, and consider whether you, or anyone you know, may be able to help. For those who live close enough to come in occasionally and take an active part there are a number of possibilities. For example, become our expert on uniforms, silver or medals, assist with the production of our booklets, help look after visitors and answer their questions. For those who cannot help so directly, why not join our "Friends of the Museum" dedicated to the continued well-being of the museum ?

If you are able to answer this appeal, please contact Colonel Peter Durrant who will be taking over as Chairman next April. But don't wait until then. The address to write to is: Colonel P.A.W.G. Durrant, OBE, c/o The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RW.

MJAC

1/7th Queens Royal Regiment (Southwark) O.C.A.

The 1/7th Association received a cordial invitation to attend the ancient town of Sint Nicklaas in Belgium for the annual liberation Remembrance & Peace celebration festivities on the weekend of September 5th. 17 members accompanied by their wives led by Major Tamplin (Lt Col, W. D. Griffiths D.S.O. M.C. was unable to attend due to ill health. He commanded the Battalion at the time of the liberation and was made a Freeman of the City).

On Saturday 5th September we were invited to a reunion Dinner hosted by the Burgomaster, and the Council also in attendance the 1st Polish Armoured Division Association and Patriotic Association and Belgian Resistance members.

Drinks at the reception and speeches made by the Government Minister Williocks, Alderman Commandant Reni Van Der Bergh and responded to by Major John Tamplin and Joe Rowe. The splendid dinner ended with loyal toasts to Belgian and British Monarchs. We were then taken by coach to the market square to witness a wonderful firework display.

Sunday was a fine sunny day, all the Delegations assembled at the church where mass was taken, from the church we marched to the Town Memorial where wreaths were laid. An honour guard was provided by the Belgian Army & Navy, then we marched to the Queens Memorial in Romain De Vidtpark where further wreaths were laid, then we were taken to the Belgian Korean Memorial and Polish Memorials - thence by coach to the Belsele Memorial where a very impressive and solemn ceremony at the memorial to commemorate those members of the Resistance who were killed by the Germans prior to the liberation. The appropriate National Anthems were played and sung at each memorial.

We were then taken to Saloons Vour Schone Kunston to a reception hosted by the Town Council and Aldermen. Speeches were made by the Burgomaster Shorters and responded to by Major John Tamplin, thence on to a luncheon given by the Patriotic Association and Secret Army. After the luncheon we were entertained by the various bands and school dancing teams and dropping off the Parachutist (B.B.I. team) in the market square.

On Monday we were gathered at the Town Hall for photographs, thence to the cemetery attending a ceremony at the British War Graves - wreaths were laid by the Burgomaster and Major John Tamplin. A coach trip was then arranged by the Patriotic Association to Leuven where we had a conducted tour of the Town Hall which was very interesting. We were then taken to the Royal Belge Insurance Company by kind invitation of Director Laurent De Smet - a splendid luncheon was taken in the Directors Restaurant and speeches were made by the Manager Armand De Feyter, & Commandant Rene Van Bergh and responded to by George Mathias. We were then taken on a conducted tour of the vast building which employs 2,000 staff in beautiful grounds surrounded by a lake, which was very impressive, we were then taken to see Duvel Brewery for a conducted tour thence to a sampling of the different brews which was enjoyed by all. On returning to Sint Nicklaas we were entertained to a convivial evening at the Patriotic Association H.Q.'s which was at the rear of the restaurant with our members of the Patriotic Association, chatting and enjoying the refreshments from the bar. A long and wonderful day enjoyed by all tremendously.

We are all extremely grateful to the Burgomaster, the Belgian Patriotic Association for their generous hospitality their friendship and the wonderful atmosphere so enjoyed by everyone.

We are particularly grateful to Commandant Rene Van Der Bergh, the Patriotic Association Committee and Major John Tamplin for the work given in making the arrangements for such a successful weekend. We do hope to see our Belgian friends at our reunion dinner in March 1993 in London.

LU

5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment OMA

Our reunion dinner this year was held on Sat 30 May rather later than usual, sadly a number of regimental officers were unable to be with us due to farewell parties being held in Germany prior to the regiments amalgamation with The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

In spite of this 150 members attended the dinner, it was reassuring to see old members of the battalion joining us for the first time, we were able to welcome a member from York on his first visit. We were also pleased to see a large contingent of past and present members of the TA who will shortly carry on the traditions of our regiment as The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment which is one of the names under which we were originally known, contrary to popular belief the wheel has turned full circle!

We were pleased to welcome as our guests Councillor Tony Page the current Mayor of Guildford, Colonel Peter Thompson Chairman of the Queen's Surreys Territorial Trustees, 'Clarrie' Jarman now 96 years young and Richard Ford curator of The Queen's Surreys Museum at Clandon House.

The assembled company enjoyed an excellent hot meal which was a departure from the usual, but was well received.

The Association Chairman, Lt Col Foster Herd gave a brief speech welcoming the guests and explaining that the association would not be affected by the formation of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. A plea was also made on behalf of the Museum at Clandon for any members of the association who could help with stewarding at weekends or during the week in the regimental museum. The Chairman thanked the committee Doug Mitchell, Ron May, Geoff Register, Ernie Clamp, Arthur Dunipace, Peter Roust, and Jimmy Paterson for their continued hard work and without whom the reunion would not be possible. Thanks were extended to Capt Brian Scripps for all his assistance with the drill hall and for producing the silver for the dinner table which helps so much to enhance the evening.

The annual Cathedral service on Sunday 14 June was again well attended by our members, many old acquaintances were renewed in the Refectory after the service.

The final grand reunion of The Queen's Regiment was held Sunday 5th July at Bassingbourn, in spite of the inclement weather 12 members and wives attended from Guildford. It was sad that due to the weather we were unable to have a final march past before the Colonel of the Regiment. We look forward to 24 October when we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of El Alamein with a dinner at Guildford.

If any member requires information about future events please contact:-

Doug Mitchell 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, GU3 3JE Tel: 0483 232043

Lambeth's Reserve Forces

Two colours deposited in the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park bear the respective titles of 'National Reserve, Lambeth, 1912" and "Volunteer Defence Corps, Lambeth, 1915".

These refer to the formation of Units in Lambeth during the early part of this century when extensive re-organisation of the Territorial and Reserve Forces was taking place.

The National Reserve Regulations, issued with Army Orders dated 1st November, 1911, stated the conditions of service in the Reserve and the qualifications for registration in it. Generally speaking, enlistment was confined to ex members of the Army and Navy but a notable exception was that ex members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were also eligible, this presumably being on account of the military nature of the Force at that time.



Field Marshall Earl Roberts V.C. was appointed Honorary Colonel of the National Reserve, and the London Division (presumably embracing Lambeth) was commanded by Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood V.C. who had won his Victoria Cross in the Indian Mutiny whilst serving with the 17th Lancers. An interesting feature of the 1912 colour is that one of its three heraldic shields depicts a lamb surmounting the word "Hythe" and there are unconfirmed suggestions that this (LAMB-HYTHE) was the origin of the name Lambeth.

By 1915 there was obviously still a Volunteer element in Lambeth, styling itself the Volunteer Defence Corps, Lambeth Battalion, 1915, moving, it seems, towards the more popular term of "Defence Corps", a title which gained national majestic approval in 1916 when H.M. King George V authorised, by Royal Warrant, the formation of a Royal Defence Corps, a body intended mainly for Home Security duties.



A Volunteer Force List of 1917 shows the existence of the 10th Battalion (Lambeth) County of London Volunteer Regiment with Headquarters at 5, Electric Lane, Brixton SW2, commanded by Major F. Barnes (late R.N.R.).

Lambeth men were never lacking in courage or patriotism and in both World Wars, and other lesser affairs, they served Sovereign and country well, both in their various local Units and in other branches of the Regular or Reserve Forces.



SIGNALS

From 1 Queen's Minden

To Queens Surreys Association

For secretary and all members Queens Surrey Association from CO and all ranks. Greetings and all best wishes on this glorious day. Extremely pleased to be able to celebrate the weekend with so many members.

Vel Exuviae Triumphant

Ted Josling (6087294) sent the following signal from Australia.

Best Wishes to all ranks on this Glorious First of June

From HQ 56 London Bde

To Queens Surreys Assn

To all at RHQ and in Queens Surreys Assn From Captain Bolton Loyal Greetings and warm regards on this the 198th Anniversary of the Glorious First of June 1794. Pristinae Virtutis Memor.

Still going Strong!

The Major's Marmalade made by Mrs Daphne Hill, and sold in our museum at Clandon has just sold its 1200th jar!

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT MUSEUM

THE MAJOR'S



MARMALADE

Back To The Grand Bazaar.

"..... the army intended to re-capture Kabul, and among other regiments to join the force assembling at Peshawar was the Thirty-First Regiment which marched from Agra on January 15 1842, mustering 996 bayonets, and in the highest state of disciplined efficiency"

So reads an extract from volume 1 of the History of The East Surrey Regiment and, later in the same chapter on The First Afghan War, it continues:-

".....As a punishment for the treacherous conduct of the Afghan people.... it was decided to destroy the Grand Bazaar of Kabul. This was carried out on October 9, four companies of the Thirty-First being on duty on the occasion"

The History relates that the Regiment advanced from Peshawar to Jalalabad and then on to Kabul, fighting at Mazina and Khoord Kabul pass before finally reaching the city. It was a hard campaign fought against fiercely brave opponents over savage terrain; the success in taking Kabul was only achieved at the cost of six officers and a large number of soldiers of the Thirty-First, some of whom died through heat exhaustion, dysentery or cholera. Queen Victoria, when she heard of the Regiment's conduct in the campaign, personally ordered the battle honour "Cabool 1842" to be borne on the Regimental Colour.

Exactly 150 years later I was lucky enough to have the opportunity of travelling in Afghanistan and of visiting the Grand Bazaar in Kabul. (It has been re-built since the sacking by the Thirty-First!) My return journey from Kabul to Peshawar was via Jalalabad and the Khyber Pass - the same route covered by the Thirty-First in the First Afghan War; but I did it in a Toyota Hilux 4x4, they did it in boots!

My visit was made possible by a friend, Peter Stewart-Richardson. He had been instrumental in gaining access into Afghanistan for a medical team at the time that the Mujahadeen were fighting the Soviet-installed Najibullah regime. I have always been intrigued by this wild part of the world and said to Peter that should he ever go back I would like the chance of going too. In spring this year he telephoned and said that because of the war against Russia and the subsequent internal strife in Afghanistan, the underground water system had been destroyed in some areas, dams needed attention and irrigation had improved. He had in mind escorting an irrigation engineer around the country in order that a report could be compiled; in particular he wished to look at the area of Chat Wardat in the Hazarajat mountains. Peter also wanted to take a nurse from Peshawar to work in the hospital at Chak. 'Are you on?' he asked; I was.

Tim Stephens was the irrigation engineer and he, Peter and I flew to Peshawar via Islamabad on 6th June. Peshawar was HOT! but we would have little time to acclimatise. We booked in at the modest Green's Hotel and went straight off to see one of our contacts, Haji Rashid Ibrahim, to firm up our plans. With us we had the nurse, Kate Straub, who was to go with us to Chak. Her ability to speak Daru (a Farsi dialect) would prove invaluable. Haji Rashid arranged a vehicle for us and a driver and guide, both Pashtuns. He also advised us to dress as Afghans so as not to offend the more fundamentalist tribesmen. We spent the next day obtaining our visas for Afghanistan, a permit to travel through the North West Frontier District and, finally, buying our Afghan clothing in the Old Bazaar. Tim, being dark and bearded made a fine tribesman; but Peter and I ... well, we were something else!

Our Toyota was a 'double cab' pick-up; this meant we could just squeeze three of us into the front and the remaining three in the back, with our baggage in the rear under a canvas canopy. We looked rather uneasily at the worn tyres and battered body-work, but Kamal, our driver, said it was a good idea to have a clapped-out vehicle as anything too smart might be confiscated by the Mujahadeen. Thus comforted we set out for Afghanistan.



*Kamal, our driver with the well worn - Hilux.
(Asanov aircraft at Khost in background.)*

The North West Frontier District will be well known by many readers. Sufficient to say it is both rugged and dramatic. Our route followed a pass to the south of that taken by the Thirty-First, and we entered Afghanistan via the border town of Saddar. The dirt road was rutted and pot-holed and we were to find that all the roads we travelled on in the country were dreadful. Surfaces had collapsed under the weight of 50 ton tanks and military load-carriers. There was also the hazard of mines on some verges; caution in answering the calls of nature seemed wise if one was to avoid too explosive an experience...

Many of the villages we passed through bore the marks of air or artillery attack, and some were completely destroyed; the rusting litter of war was evident at the roadside. But the main impression we formed of the country was its beauty; the mud brick villages set in their green gardens fit naturally into the landscape. Where there is irrigation the gardens are lush with citrus, with here and there the bright splashes, of roses and poppies. We saw rice fields, mulberry orchards and mature walnut trees. On the lower slopes of the mountains there are many varieties of wild flowers, and birds are numerous; we spotted



The rusting litter of war was evident at the roadside.

hoopoes, rollers, bee-eaters, chikors, drongos and golden orioles amongst others. Always with the mighty snow-capped mountains of the Hindu Kush as background. We spent our first night in Afghanistan in the battle scarred coffee house at Khost. This had been the first town to be taken by the Mujahadeen from the Government troops. It was still tense, and as we approached in the fading evening light, files of heavily armed Hezb-i-Islami fighters moved through the streets taking up positions for the night. Possibly in anticipation and celebration of the approaching Moslem festival Eid al Adhaa' we were kept awake by bursts of AK47 and machine-gun fire, and even the 'crump-crump' of mortars. A host of howling dogs took care of any potentially peaceful periods between shots. We were glad to move on at dawn, past the airfield littered with the carcasses of Russian Asanov troop carrying aircraft.



The coffee house at Khost. Abdul Haq, Tim, Writer, Peter Stewart-Richardson.

Chak Wardat is in the hills west of Kabul and we spent several days there. Our search for suitable dam sites took us into the hills on foot escorted by Mujahadeen of the Jamiat-i-Islami. They, like all the Afghans we met and worked with, were generous in their hospitality. We drank gallons of green tea and ate a mountain of soured yoghurt; especially over the Eid period.

It was planned for Kate to remain at the tiny hospital in Chak for several months, but when we left for Kabul on 13th June she came with us in order to continue as our interpreter a little longer. We arranged for her to be escorted back to Chak from the city a couple of days later. On our journey to Kabul we passed the goat hair tents of Kuchi nomads. These are Pashtuns from the Ahmadzai, Mohmand and Safi tribes. In summer they move with their stock up the valleys to the peaks, returning later in the year to cross the Pakistan border for the winter.

Even by Afghan standards the road to Kabul from the west is terribly battered; our slow progress was further delayed by Mujahadeen check posts which became more numerous as we neared Kabul. They were all much the same; a fluttering green flag or two, a tank or APC with its gun directed at the road, and groups of armed fighters sitting in nearby shade. We stopped at all of them as we had heard stories of vehicles which failed to halt having their tyres shot out. Even so we did have an AK round or two fired over the truck when we ignored the flagging down signals of a group of passing Mujahadeen. We later discovered that one of these had nimbly leapt into the back of our truck, and he was soon joined by others who climbed aboard at check posts for a trip to town. Those who could not get right inside stood on the rear bumper and we

shuddered anxiously along on our bald tyres and bumping springs. The light was fading and we were becoming uneasy as it was dangerous to be out after the nightly curfew. At last we crawled into the outskirts of Kabul, shedding our uninvited passengers a few at a time. Our guide, Abdul Haq, took us to the house of a friend, Malik Fati Mohammad, who hastened us inside and made us welcome. That night we were treated to the sound of a greater variety of weapons than we had heard thus far. We slept soundly.

The following two nights we spent in the centre of the city near the Ministry of Power and Irrigation where our business lay. Kabul, like Khost, was tense. At every important road junction stood an armoured vehicle and the entrances to Government and public buildings were guarded by Mujahadeen. The city was divided amongst the various groups and incidents were commonplace. On our second afternoon the Deputy Commander of the Hezb-i-Islami was kidnapped and this sparked off a very noisy night!

The Grand Bazaar was as busy, colourful and noisy as it should be. We bought two birds in a cage for Malik, our host for the first night. Prices in the Bazaar were very low, and we stocked up with a few gifts. Most we bought in Chicken Street, well known for its jewellery and antiques. Many shops were boarded up, their owners fled, but one of the best was still trading; Haji Gada runs Kabul House, an Aladdin's cave of furs, leather work, pottery and, best of all, Kuchi embroidered waistcoats and jewellery in silver and agate.



The Grand Bazaar in Kabul 1992.

Our route from Kabul to Jalalabad followed the Kabul river gorge, through which once tramped the Thirty-First Foot on their final approach to the Capital. It was stifling hot even for us in a vehicle; marching and fighting over that terrain must have been horrific. Soon we passed through the scene of an ambush during the Russian occupation. Tanks and trucks lay where they had been destroyed, mile after mile. Green and white flags marked the graves of the Faithful, who had been buried where they fell. Many Russians had been killed here and Kamal told us that the terrified young conscripts had climbed back into their burning vehicles rather than be taken by the tribesmen pouring over the hills. Some of the broken tanks now had effigies of Soviet and Government soldiers swinging by their necks from the gun barrels.

After a humid night in an Afghan house in Jalalabad, we headed for the Khyber Pass, bound for Peshawar. Hardly had we left the outskirts of Jalalabad when an ailing bearing in the Hilux finally seized up and, rather dramatically, burst into flames. Getting a lift was not easy;



Tanks and Trucks lay where they had been destroyed.

none of the gaily painted Bedford 'busses' would stop for us on that notorious road. Eventually two Pakistanis in a Susuki van agreed to take us for 400 rupees each. Off we careered, stopping frequently to top up the leaking radiator from wayside streams. The driver's mate offered us some hashish and, when we refused, proceeded to stick a plug in his cheek. We suspected the driver was doing the same; twice we screeched to a halt on the wrong side of the road whilst oncoming trucks missed us by a whisker. This as we wound up and then down the hairpins of the Khyber Pass. We saw little of the historic country we were passing through, but simply clung on and hoped for the best!

On the flight back to Heathrow via Karachi and Dubai, and armed with a powerful whisky and soda (first for a fortnight) I was able to reflect on a laconic sentence in the Surreys History. It followed the description of the sacking of the Grand Bazaar:-

"..... and exactly three days later the army set out on the return march to India, which took exactly one month."

That's an awful lot of sweat

JBR

Off Beat

The following letter is re-printed by courtesy of the Editor of "Off Beat" the Newsletter of the Surrey Constabulary.

Dear Sir, In 1941, I was with a platoon of the East Surrey's stationed at Beare Green, which staged a night exercise against the Dorking Home Guard. The objective was to reach the police station and this was accomplished.

I do not know if my memory is playing me tricks, but, as I remember it, we locked some extremely angry policemen in their own cells - or at least attempted to do so. Do any of the pensioners of the Surrey Constabulary recall any such incident, please?

Little did I realise at the time that, 51 years later, I would be a magistrate member of the Police Committee!

Yours sincerely

G G S Clarke.

As well as the Surrey Constabulary pensioners, does this strike any cord in the memories of ex East Surrey members?

R.F.

Golf Society Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Golf Society was played at Richmond Golf Club Sudbrook Park on Thursday 7 May 1992, 22 members attended. The weather was once again kind to us which was reflected in some excellent scoring.

The results of the competitions were:-

Challenge Cup	M J Power Esq	75 Gross
Dodgson Cup	Capt B A Scripps	66 Nett
Heales Trophy	Capt J A Clark	40 Pts
Veterans Halo	Capt J A Clark	43 Pts
Harry Adcock Trophy	H P Mason Esq	33 Putts
Sweep Winners	1st C C Surtees Esq	
	2nd Maj R R Green	
	3rd Capt J A Clark	

The annual general meeting of the society was held in the clubhouse following the prizegiving. The President, Maj W J F Sutton presided. The President thanked the retiring Secretary and Treasurer Major F V Sheppard for his stewardship of the society over the past 6 years and this was endorsed unanimously by the members. Lt Col F B Herd having completed his term of office as Captain of the society was thanked by the President.

Lt Col P G F M Roupell was elected as Captain of the society by popular acclaim for the years 1992/1994.

Lt Col F B Herd was elected Hon Secretary and Treasurer.

The Autumn meeting will be held at Woking Golf Club on 1st October 1992 and the spring meeting has been arranged for 6 May 1993 at Sudbrook Park.

Annual Match V Royal Marines GS

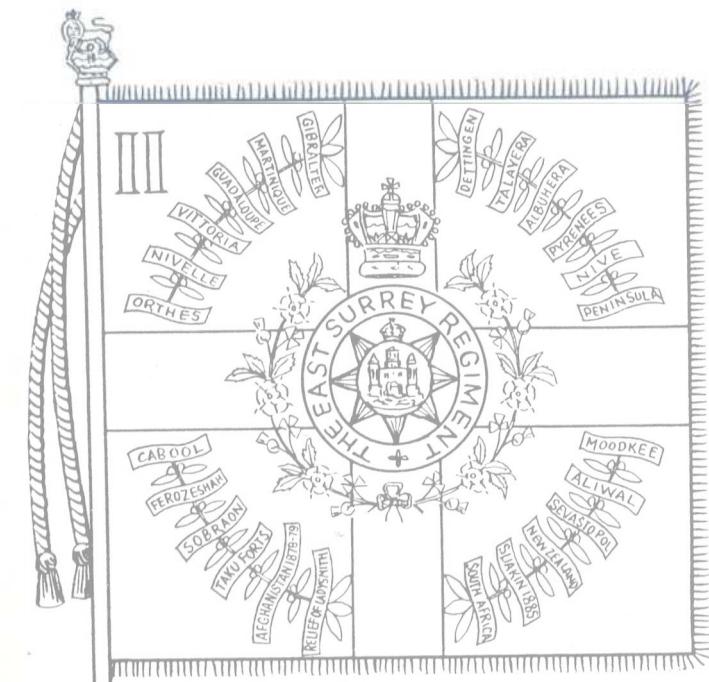
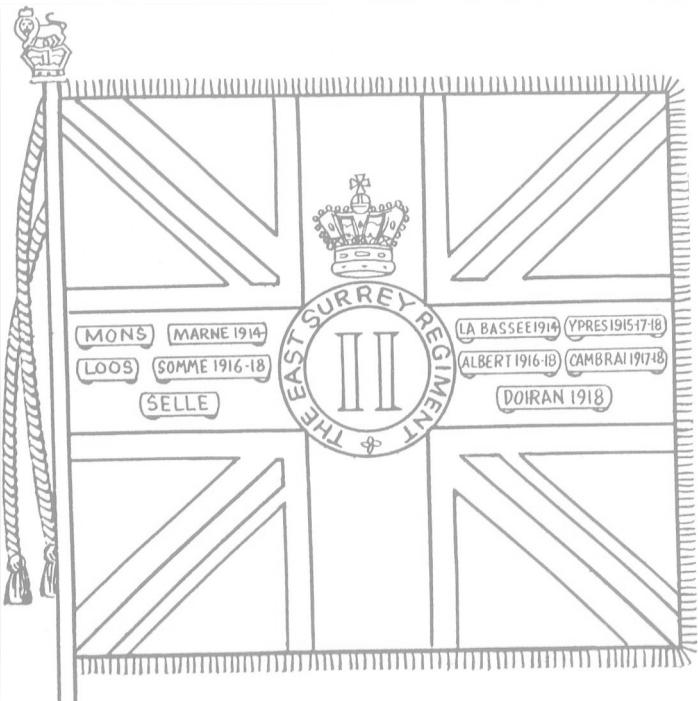
This fixture was held on Wednesday 1 July 1992 at the North Hants GC Fleet on what must have been the wettest day of the summer so far. In spite of a downpour all day a good days golf was enjoyed by all, unfortunately the Royal Marines seemed to have adapted to the conditions rather better than ourselves, which resulted in a resounding victory by the Royal Marines by 8 matches to 2

Queens Surreys	AM	Royal Marines
Maj Gen G A White	0	Maj Gen P R Kay
Lt Col P G F M Roupell		Capt H J Phillips
Maj W J F Sutton	0	Col A S Harris
Maj F V Sheppard		Col S D Smith
Maj P T Carroll	0	Sgt P J McCormack
M J Power Esq		J E Porter Esq
Col J G W Davidson	1	Lt E C Ennis
H P Mason Esq		R Patterson Knight Esq
Lt Col F B Herd	0	Capt A B Gordon
Capt J A Clark		J D Francis Esq
PM		
Maj Gen G A White	0	Maj Gen P R Kay
Maj W J F Sutton		Col S D Smith
H P Mason Esq	0	Col A S Harris
Capt J A Clark		Lt E C Ennis
Col J G W Davidson	0	J E Porter Esq
Maj F V Sheppard		R Patterson Knight Esq
Lt Col F B Herd	0	Sgt P J McCormack
Maj P T Carroll		Capt H J Phillips
Lt Col P G F M Roupell	1	Capt A B Gordon
M J Power Esq		J D Francis Esq

The Colours of The East Surrey Regiment

2nd Battalion 1945-1948 (held by 1st Battalion, 1948-1959)

This, the Final, short-lived stand of colours given to The East Surreys, was presented by General Sir Richard Foster on behalf of HM King George VI at Pulborough, Sussex on 30th November 1945, just prior to the battalion's departure for Palestine (the writer recollects assisting in the work of clearing a field to provide the parade ground!) These were the first colours presented to a line infantry battalion after the end of the 1939-45 war, and it was particularly appropriate that General Foster was a distinguished Royal Marine, thus commemorating a continuous connection with that famous corps since the Surreys' foundation as Villiers' Marines in 1702. Although 60 years had elapsed since the merging of the Seventieth into the East Surreys and the consequent adoption of white facings, this was the first time the Regimental Colour had been anything other than the traditional black.



The Colours accompanied the battalion to active service in Palestine and Egypt in 1945, but after they had been in use for only three years further reductions were made in the infantry of the line and it became necessary to reduce the regiment to one regular battalion. The amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd battalions under the title of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment (31st and 70th) was marked by a ceremonial parade at Salonika on 12th July 1948, at which the regimental colours of both battalions were trooped. In order to preserve the entity of the two battalions now merged into one, the Colonel of the Regiment directed that the colours should be borne on alternate ceremonial parades. An even more radical amalgamation in 1959 saw the end of the Surreys as a separate regiment after 257 years when a successful 'marriage' with the famous 2nd Queen's (West-Surreys) resulted in the formation of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Unlike the colours of the 1st Surreys, laid up in Guildford Cathedral in September 1960, this stand was never, apparently, formally laid up, but was taken into the care of the Regimental Museum. They are now displayed superbly at Clandon Park in cases, in their almost pristine condition being a glorious example of the pattern of colours issued to a British regiment of the line this century. The central design of the Regimental Colour consists, in this one and only instance that the writer can establish in a regular Surrey colour, of the cap badge of the regiment, the Star of the Garter, surmounted by the Arms of Guildford and Kingston, the whole surmounted by a crown. (This badge had originally comprised mainly the badges of the First and Third Royal Surrey Militia). Twenty-four battle honours prior to the Great War are placed in circular format around the central design. The centre of the Queen's Colour is a 'II', encircled by a scroll inscribed 'The East Surrey Regiment', and ten selected Great War honours follow the pattern of the 1867 - 1945 stand.

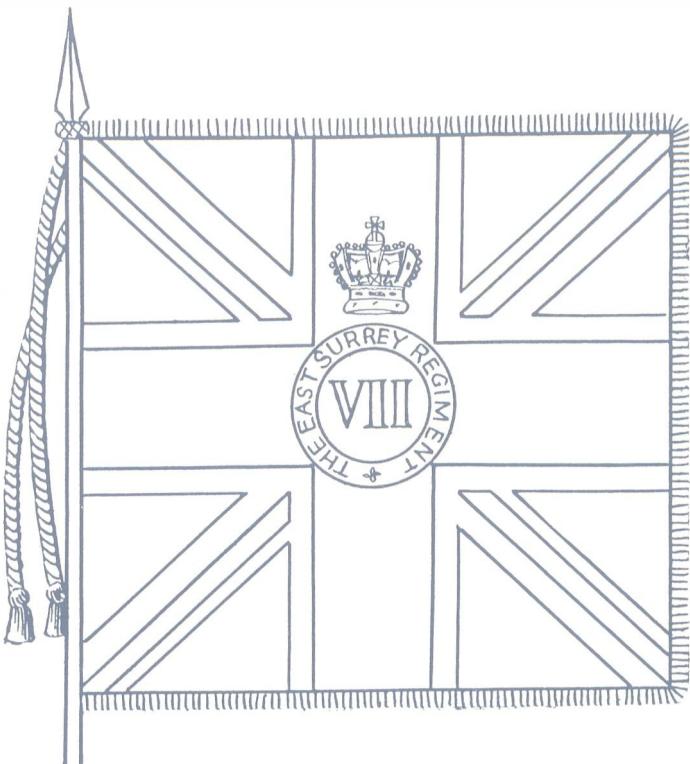
DJ

King's Colours, 1919/20

Kitchener army units formed as 'Service Battalions' of the regular Infantry of the line, arrived on the Western Front from June 1915. The Surreys raised seven Service Battalions, of which the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th fought gallantly at Loos, The Somme, Arras, Cambrai, the River Piave in Italy, and elsewhere. These men had come straight from civilian life. The casualty figures on one battalion the 8th, give some indication of what they endured 180 officers and 4,595 other ranks. The 7th Battalion earned one Victoria Cross, two DSO's, thirteen MC's, seventeen DCM's, sixty-six MM's, and many bars to decorations and Mentions in Dispatches probably the most legendary incident was the attack of 'B' Company, 8th Surreys, during 1st July 1916 - the first day of the Somme battle, Captain W.P. Nevill (East Yorks attached, commanding 'B' Company) supplied two footballs, which the men kicked (between casualties) to their objective near Montauban. That day the Surreys lost 446 men in the first ten minutes of the assault, in the process winning two DSO's, two MC's, two DCM's, and nine MM's. Both footballs were found in the German trenches, today Nevill's is in the Queen's Surreys museum at Clandon Park, that kicked off by Private Pursey, of 6 Platoon, is in the museum of the new Queen's Regiment at Canterbury.

Among the officers of the 9th Surreys was Captain R.C. Sheriff, who wrote the most brilliant description of trench warfare in his famous play 'Journey's End'. The seventh and last VC awarded to an East Surrey in the First World War was won by Pte John McNamara of the 9th battalion

on 3rd September 1918 in front of Lens. Strangely, none of the Surrey VC's were awarded posthumously, though McNamara was killed before he could learn of his award. In 1919 it was authorised that those Service battalions which had served overseas would each be presented with a silk Union Flag, to form a tangible recognition of three years service on the Western Front and elsewhere - indeed it is possible that King George V originated the idea. These flags were not officially consecrated, nor were they maintained at public expense. When the Service Battalions were disbanded their Union Flags, known as 'King's Colours', were laid up in a similar manner to colours, and by 1920 all had been laid up except that of the 13th battalion, which had been disbanded prior to the Armistice. This colour was presented (and consecrated!) at a special ceremony on Wandsworth Common on 16th July 1921, in the presence of over 350 former members of the battalion.



Of the King's Colours given to The East Surreys, those of the 7th, 8th and 9th battalions hang in the Regimental Chapel at All Saints' Church Kingston on Thames. The 12th Battalion colour is in Bermondsey, and that of the 13th battalion is in the Parish Church of Wandsworth. It is of great interest that the 13th wore a special badge (much sought after by collectors) authorised by the War Office - instead of the Arms of Guildford worn normally on the East Surrey Garter Star, the Arms of Wandsworth are worn, with the motto "We Serve" on a scroll. The King's Colours are of the 3ft 9in x 3 ft size, with fringe, and the pike has a pointed spearhead. Apart from the many war memorials, it is perhaps salutary to think that these dusty flags, hardly given a second glance by most people, are all that remain to remind us of those thousands of young civilian-soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice.

DJ

Book Reviews

Singapore the Inexcusable Betrayal, by George Chippington.

This book was written by a junior officer in 1 Leicesters, later to be merged with the Surreys to form The British Battalion.

(Images, £14.95)

"Emergency Sahib - of Queen's, Sikhs and Dagger Division" by Robin Schlaefi.

The sub-title of this book aptly describes the contents. It deals firstly with the author's connections with The Queen's Royal Regiment, initially as an enthusiastic boy musician in the Whitgift School Cadets then, following service in the ranks of the Essex Regiment, as a war-time Emergency Commissioned Officer in the Queen's before transfer to the Indian Army.

The contrasting life in the latter, at first virtually on peace-time routine, makes interesting reading, particularly as regards the writer's relationships with the Sikhs and Punjab Moslems who served under and with him in a Machine Gun Battalion. The account, as in previous chapters, is lightened by touches of humour but fun is somewhat diminished when bitter fighting against Japanese troops takes place in the jungles of Burma with the Dagger Division. The trials and difficulties are "pen pictured" with full acknowledgement of the high qualities of leadership and service which were both required and experienced.

Repatriation at the end of the war brought mixed feelings of joy and sadness as, via the renowned transit camp at Deolali, the journey home by sea began.

A short spell with The Queen's back in England preceded demobilisation, bringing to an end the author's war time career but heralding new spheres in education which in future years were to re-unite him with the Army and future service in khaki.

A truly readable and interesting book, in hardback form, it is a worthwhile addition to any literary military collection.

R.F.

Ex Service Fellowship Centres

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres runs two residential care homes for ex-service men and women, ex-merchant seamen and their widows/widowers. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, for 29 male residents and Hollenden House, in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, for 44 male or female residents including 10 disabled. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they so wish.

These Houses are not nursing homes and residents must, on admission, be capable of looking after themselves though help can be given where necessary e.g. with bathing.

Fees are maintained within the limits set by DSS-Local Authorities. Those interested should write to:

The Administrator
Ex-Service Fellowship Centres
8 Lower Grosvenor Place
London SW1W OEP
Telephone: 071-828-2468

'Whats in a name?'

Amalgamations are once again with us and so it is perhaps pertinent to consider how previous amalgamations have been handled.

Prior to the late nineteenth century reforms of the infantry the forebears of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment were the regiments numbered as the 2nd, 31st and 70th of Foot. The 2nd, raised in 1661 as the Tangiers Regiment, became a Royal Regiment in 1703 after the siege at Tongres in the Low Countries. The 31st had been raised to take part in the War of the Spanish Succession in 1702 as Villier's Regiment of Marines. The numbering of the regiments of Foot took place on the 1st of July, 1751.

In 1756 the 31st raised a second battalion in Glasgow and in 1758 this second battalion was detached from the 31st and numbered the 70th of Foot. In 1782 the 31st was affiliated to Huntingdonshire and the 70th to Surrey. The 2nd was not affiliated to any county.

On two occasions during its early history the 2nd of Foot had raised second battalions but these had been but short lived affairs. One such occasion was at Tangiers and another at Portsmouth in 1795. Then a more long lived second battalion was raised at Colchester in 1857. This was to survive until 1948.

The army reforms generally named after Edward Cardwell which wrested control of the militia away from counties and placed it firmly under army control were followed in 1851 by further reforms instituted by Hugh Childers. These introduced the system of two linked regular infantry battalions with associated territorial titles. To these regular battalions were added those militia regiments raised within the respective counties. Instead of depot companies recruiting from the last home station of the regular regiments, distinctive regimental depots were built at county towns such as Guildford, Reading and Devizes.

The 31st and the 70th were associated with the 1st and the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia to form The East Surrey Regiment with its depot at Kingston-on-Thames. The metal shoulder titles and the other ranks' home service helmet plate centres bore the inscription 'East Surrey'. The officers' helmet plates bore a scroll reading 'The East Surrey Regiment'. True both helmet plates bore centrally a castle described as being the arms of Guildford which although situated in the west of Surrey is undoubtedly its county town. At Kingston a bonfire burned the insignia of both the 31st and the 70th to ashes and thereafter the East Surreys settled down happy with their new identity and their connection with the county of Surrey. This situation lasted until the amalgamation of the 14th of October 1959.

Things were not quite the same in the western parts of Surrey. General Order 41 of the 1st of May 1881, set out the new territorial titles of the previously numbered regiments of foot. The 2nd Foot became, with what had been the 2nd Royal West Surrey Militia, The Royal West Surrey Regiment (The Queen's). This it seems, did not suit for only eight weeks later General Order 70 of the 1st of July 1881, varied the regimental title to The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

On the regiment's brass shoulder titles was initially the inscription 'W.Surrey'. On the other ranks' helmet plate centre were the words 'West Surrey'. The universal scroll on the officers' helmet plate bore the words 'The Royal West Surrey Regiment'.

Over the following years there was a determined movement away from the West Surrey connection and a reversion to the time-honoured title of 'The Queen's'. The second battalion up to 1898 wore brass shoulder titles that indicated that the wearers were from the 'Queen's (2) R.W.S.'. In or around 1900 the brass-shoulder titles worn

were changed from 'W.Surrey' to 'Queen's'. In 1904 a new sealed pattern other ranks' helmet plate centre revealed 'West Surrey' to be replaced by 'The Queen's'. (It seems likely that this sealed pattern was never actually taken into use!) In 1911 an extra scroll was added to the officers' helmet plate. This was to be worn above the central garter and bore the additional words 'The Queen's'.

The changes in title introduced in 1881 did not result in any alteration to the first battalion's colours of 1847. The inscription under the wreath on the Regimental Colour was still 'Queen's Royal'. Nowhere was the word Surrey to be found and such remained the position until the 1847 colours were replaced in Singapore in 1947.

After the 1914-1918 war the Infantry was reduced in size and following another Army Order the Queen's became on the 1st of January 1921 The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). The East Surrey Regiment retained its 1881 title.

In 1922 a committee was set up by the Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment, General Sir Charles Monro, 'to consider matters of regimental interest set out in the terms of reference and to make recommendations thereon'. One finding of this committee was that the title of the Regiment should be - 'The Queen's Royal Regiment as here spelt. Considerations of space may in some cases necessitate substitution of Regt for Regiment'.

On badges the committee recommended, amongst other matters, continuance of 'Queen's' as a shoulder title. On the subject of helmet plates for other ranks the recommendation was to 'abolish West Surrey and substitute The Queen's Royal Regiment. (This can be seen as an indication that the sealed pattern of 1904 had never been taken into use). For officers a helmet plate of a similar design but of a superior quality was proposed. Here however a caveat had to be entered - 'It is possible that Headquarters may not consent to the abolition of the standard type of helmet plate for officers in which case we recommend as follows - abolish the existing silver scroll at the top. The silver scroll at the base to bear the title 'The Queen's Royal Regiment'. A further recommendation was 'on any belt buckle, clasp or other article on which West Surrey appears substitute The Queen's Royal Regiment'.

The recommendations of this 1922 committee were finally approved in 1927 by the Colonel of the Regiment and those recommendations requiring official sanction were submitted to the War Office. It was then learned that 'approval was given to the suggested changes in badges and buttons with the exception of the helmet plate. It was withheld in this case as the whole question of full dress was still under consideration'.

Nothing was said about approval of changes in the title of the Regiment. The Army Order of 1921 was not varied and so the regiment fought the war of 1939-1945 as The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and when new colours were presented to the first battalion in 1947 each of them bore that style of title. Thus despite attempts within the regiment to lessen the links with the County of Surrey these were maintained up until the amalgamation with The East Surrey Regiment in 1959 and thereafter strengthened considerably!

Sources

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El Alamein

Probably more than any other name in the Second World War that of El Alamein is most distinctive, being recognised as the point where the tide of war turned in favour of the Allies.

On the night of 23rd/24th October 1942, 131 Brigade, which numbered among its ranks the 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's, were in position in the North African desert ready to mount an attack on enemy forces. At 2140 hrs a British artillery barrage, the most powerful since those of the First World War started and the attack was on.

The 1/7th Queen's almost immediately came under heavy fire and sustained many casualties, among them being Major R. Fairbairn who was wounded. Despite their losses, and still under continuing fire, the Battalion maintained their advance and accomplished their objective of protecting gaps in the minefield while facing north. They were later relieved by the 2nd Buffs and moved into the back areas.

During the 24th/25th October the 1/5th and 1/6th Queen's endeavoured to form a bridgehead to cover armour passing through gaps. Disadvantaged by difficulties of reconnaissance, hampered by minefields, and in an area swept by enemy fire their task was difficult in the extreme. There were severe casualties and many brave deeds, and although they reached their objective they were eventually withdrawn as attempts by tanks to get through failed. Both Queen's Battalions were withdrawn further on the night of 25th/26th. There were numerous casualties, both among officers and other ranks.

On the 27th October two German Panzer Divisions made strong counter-attacks against the Kidney Ridge area but were repulsed with heavy losses. Strong reinforcements had arrived, including two new Commanding Officers Lieutenant Colonel E.P. Sewell, the A.A.Q.M.G. of the 44th Division, who took command of the 1/6th, and Lieutenant Colonel R.H. Senior, who returned from the West Kents to command the 1/7th. The closing days of October saw the battle reach its climax, and between the 1st and 4th November the enemy were defeated and thrown into confusion and retreat. For the British the march to victory and the end of the war had begun. El Alamein had earned its glorious place in history.

RF

Tale Of Gallant Territorials

A request in the May 1992 Newsletter from Mr K.N. Smith for information regarding his Grandfather, Platoon Sergeant Major J.E. Smith of the 2/5th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, brought forth a fulsome letter in reply from former Queen's man W.T.H. Croucher M.C. The letter forms a descriptive narrative of Mr Croucher's wartime experiences with the 2/5th Battalion in which Company Sergeant Major Smith, was serving.

Having enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment T.A. in early 1939 in Woking, Mr Croucher went with the 2/5th Queens to Summer Camp in June/July and was mobilised for war service in August. In the following April the Battalion went to France, supposedly to assist in railhead construction, but soon found themselves embroiled in confused fighting near Abbeville as the Germans advanced towards the Channel Ports. Withdrawal, both by lorried transport and on foot, took place in some disorder towards the Somme with Mr Croucher (by then a Corporal) being among the "foot sloggers". In this respect he was to prove lucky as the mechanised transport was later destroyed by German fire with heavy casualties. C.S.M. Smith, who had been in one of the lorries, managed to escape and rejoin Corporal Croucher and his colleagues.

Under Lieutenant Lampard the party made their way to the Somme which was reached at 3 o'clock in the morning. The only means of crossing was by swimming which was successfully achieved by some but not by others. At least one man was left behind and taken prisoner because he could not swim. At this stage the party and C.S.M. Smith became separated but Lieutenant Lampard was still with his men and in command.

Existing by taking necessities from deserted farmhouses, and travelling either on foot or in commandeered French transport, the exhausted soldiers eventually reached Rouen from whence they were taken by train to a point near St Nazaire. After ten days there, laying narrow gauge railway lines to an ammunition dump, they travelled on to Cherbourg where they were fortunate enough to embark in a Cross Channel ferry which took them to Southampton. Onward passage then continued to Newcastle.

Corporal Croucher was later commissioned in the Reconnaissance Corps, was awarded the Military Cross and served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. On cessation of hostilities he was posted to Austria where he remained until demobilisation in 1946. While in Austria he was first of all engaged in arranging accommodation for Army married families and later, with Military Government at Graz, was in charge of Petrol, Oil and Lubricants for industry.

In later years Mr Croucher received a letter from another 2/5th man, Ex L/Cpl A J O'Connor of Woking, who had been one of the men attempting escape by lorry from the German advance in France and had been wounded and taken prisoner. Most of the prisoners taken were later transported to Poland and East Prussia, suffering varying degrees of hardship, and many were hospitalised. He was able to give further information about other members of the Battalion, much of which will no doubt be of interest to ex 2/5th members among our readers and is summarised here.

*Sgt. Kimber. Taken prisoner and hospitalised but survived. Now dead.
L/Cpl O'Reilly. Died beside Kimber in hospital.*

Walley Daley. Now dead

Cpl. Templer, Sgt. Brown, Pte. Dabbs and K.G.A. Hill. All taken prisoner and hospitalised.

Phil Perry. lost an eye in war. Now dead.

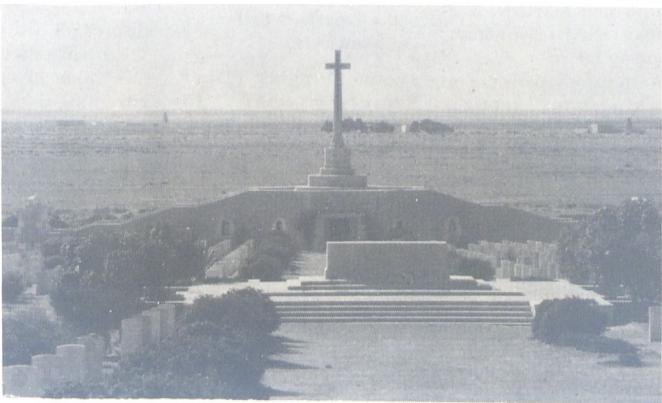
Chris Elton. Former D.R. Now dead.

Stan Willgoss, Tony Noyce, Prior and Jones. All survived, the last named going to Devon.

Carey. Died.

The interesting correspondence on the 2/5th's activities in France forms a tale of courage and devotion to duty, often at a heavy sacrificial price.

RF



The British Cemetery at El Alamein run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Beyond the Cemetery lies the battlefield.

Thoughts on Bassingbourn' 92

I reached Bassingbourn by car at noon and went through the vehicle check then drove the long haul to the car park resisting the temptation to drive along the wide runway like Nigel Mansell, arriving near the NAAFI bar someone asked me "Have you written anything for the Newsletter lately? giving a reason for not doing so I realised that I was standing at the hub of what may make an interesting report.

Due to the overcast clouds the Drumhead Service was held in a hanger. The service was well supported. Members of the various Queen's associations and a Guard of Honour and Colour Party from 6/7th Queen's marched behind their standards to the music played by the Albuhera Band, The Queen's Regiment, and Corps of Drums 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment. During the service Major General M F Reynolds CB., Colonel of The Regiment read two messages from our Allied Colonels-in-Chief HRH Princess Juliana of The Netherlands and HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark.

After the service it was lunchtime. Some had brought their own food, others collected pre-packed luncheon boxes while some sampled the excellent sausage roll, chips and onions cooked by regimental cooks. The sideshows and stalls were well patronised. Darts, bowling, a paintball game, The Queen's Regiment team, Silver Drums next to which you could be photographed, weapon display and a regimental shop.

Many visitors wore campaign medals including foreign decorations. Others showed by their blazer badge, lapel badge or tie in which regiment they had served. Although this would be the last reunion of The Queen's Regiment there were many more in attendance than on previous years.

Ten coaches were there from Surrey, Middlesex, Sussex and Kent, while those who lived in East Anglia came by car. Although it did not rain during the afternoon the high wind prevented 'The Flying Dragons' giving their 'Free Fall Parachute Drop'. This team represented the UK at the World Parachuting Championships in September.

The Albuhera Band gave an outdoor concert showing their ability to change from military music to concert hall light music without any difficulty. The .22 Clay shoot competition provided interest. Teams of four had to knock out 15 clay discs at 25 yards using what to some was a "new rifle". The scoring was calculated by a combination of the number of clays 'killed', time taken, and the number of live rounds left after a certain time. It was unfortunate that in some cases the weapons jammed and some competitors were only able to fire two or three of the fifteen rounds allocated to them. One team leader said after his team had suffered rifle jamming "We aint gonna win with that score, lets go and get a drink". The winners were The Royal Sussex Regiment team.

The grand finale was Beating Retreat, all present braved a strong wind to see the band and drums perform this ceremony. The music was well chosen and particular attention was paid to the selection of former Regimental Marches, 'Sussex by the Sea' was a popular one for singing although one does have to be careful as to the words used. The Colonel of the Regiment took the salute and the Band and Corps of Drums marched off parade playing 'The Queen's Division' bringing the Grand Reunion to an end.

Expectation was that future summer reunions of this kind would still be able to be organised in addition to those held during the autumn and winter by former regimental associations.

RR

Drumhead Service - Bassingbourn



5 OMA Dinner
Lt Col Foster Herd and other members and guests
with the Mayor of Guildford.



Photo courtesy of Surrey Advertiser.

The Queen's mitre cap 1757

When Lt. Col. Henry Waring retired from The Queen's in 1880 he provided a photograph of a cap worn by his Great - Grandfather Averell Daniel who served in the regiment from 1757 to 1770.

This cap was presented to the 1st Bn The Queen's in 1927. In 1954 on the amalgamation of our two regiments it was loaned to The National Army Museum. It has now been returned to the regimental museum at Clandon and is now on display.

"The front of the cap is of light blue velvet. The embroidery is for the most part silver, but is slightly interspersed with gold. The crown has a good deal of gold on a red velvet ground. The Queen's cypher is of gold on a crimson velvet ground. The motto 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' is worked in gold on a royal blue circle of satin. The mottoes 'Prestinae virtutis memor' and 'Nec aspera terrent' are worked in black silk on bands of silver embroidery. The white horse is silver embroidery on crimson velvet. The back of the cap is of crimson velvet with a light blue band, on which is embroidered a gold grenade with the number 2 in silver.. The rest of the embroidery on back is about half gold, half silver. The bob on top is silver." A somewhat more elaborate headdress than the beret of to-day. The cap was worn by officers of the Grenadier Company of the Regiment.



Mrs Sylvia Hopkins, National Army Museum hands the cap to Brigadier M JA Clarke.

Medals

There have been some interesting recent additions to the Museum's Medal Collection. Among them are the World War II medals and Territorial Decoration of Lt Col P. Kimmerling T.D., Surreys, who was himself at one time a Trustee of the Museum. Interested relatives from Australia were pleased to see the Military Medal and World War I medals of Sgt. T.B. Holdforth, Queen's, when they visited the Museum. Sgt. Holdforth was a Woking man who saw service with the 5th Bn. in Mesopotamia.

An unusual medal, unique to the Museum, is the Ceylon Armed Forces Inauguration Medal which, with World War II medals and the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, was awarded to C.S.M. D. Clemens, Surreys. The World War II medals, including a Mention in Despatches, of Canon J. Devine who served as Regimental Padre to 1/6 Queen's and to 131 Brigade are proudly displayed, symbolic of his associations with the Regiment which lasted until his recent death.

An interesting group, comprising the World War II medals and Territorial Army Efficiency medal, are those of Gnr. A.P.F. Muraille who served in both the Surreys and Royal Artillery. Another Military Medal, that of Pte. W.A.C. Fossey is displayed with his World War I medals.

RF

Half A Century Ago

Fifty years ago this month (November 1942) The Queen's Royal Regiment arrived in northern Iraq to take part in the task of stopping a possible advance by the German army into Egypt and North Africa via the Caucasus. Three battalions had left the Clyde the previous August in a convoy of ships containing the whole of the 56th Division. Two of them, 2/5th and 2/7th Queen's, were on board the Dutch ship *Johann van Oldenbarnevelt*, 18,000 tons, with No.11 Casualty Clearing Station and 113 Field Regiment R.A. After a four-day call at Cape Town, the ship docked at Bombay on October 16 and the journey was completed to Basra in other vessels, 2/5th Queen's arriving in the *Rajula* on November 13, 1942.

The Germans' intention was to break out of the Caucasus, seize the oilfields of Iraq and secure the Middle East and North Africa. Allied reinforcements, possibly intended for North Africa, were diverted to Paiforce (Persia and Iraq Force) and the Queen's established a position north of Kirkuk. However, the Soviet army successfully defended Stalingrad, blocking the Germans, and forced the German commander, Von Paulus, to surrender on 31 January 1943, the very day Hitler appointed him field marshal. This Russian victory enabled the British division to be withdrawn from Paiforce and be sent to Tunisia to join Montgomery's Eighth Army. This entailed a 3,000 mile journey by road and rail, accomplished in less than five weeks with only seven non-travelling days.

To commemorate the seven week voyage in the *Johann*, 2/5th and 2/7th Queen's arranged for the regimental crests, worked in silk, to be presented to the ship. There is a picture of this handsome gift, which was put on permanent display on board, in Captain P.N. Tregoning's excellent "History of the 2/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiments 1939-1945", published by Gale and Polden in 1947. The tapestry is now in the Regimental Museum at Clandon and bears the following inscription! "Presented to the Master, Officers and Crew M/V *Johann van Oldenbarnevelt* by all ranks 2/5th 2/7th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment in gratitude for their safe conduct 1942".

The ship had an unhappy end. Under new owners and another name she caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean some years after the war. I was working at the time in Fleet Street and had access to Reuters news service which reported the disaster. Looking the new name up in Lloyds register of Shipping I was dismayed to read that she was the old *Johann*.

It should be mentioned, of course, that 2/6th Queen's were with the other two battalions in 169 Brigade and took part in 56th Division operations.

As a result of an item in the May Newsletter I renewed contact with George Gerrard, with whom I served in 1/5th Queen's orderly room. George, now the Rev. George Gerrard, told me he joined the orderly room in August 1939, served in France and left in 1941 to become clerk to the G.O.C., 44th Division. Later he took a commission.

I.W

So There We Were

1662 A fleet of ships under the command of Admiral Sir John Minnes sailed from the Downs on 15th January bound for Tangiers with troops, among them being the newly formed Tangiers Regiment (later The Queen's) who carried out garrison duties on arrival, though not without protest from the Portuguese and bloody physical attacks from the Moors.

1672 In Tangiers there were complaints about lack of money and provisions and on 2nd February the Governor reported that provisions had run out, work on the Mole had stopped for want of supplies, and the soldiers' pay was sixteen months in arrears.

1682 The Moors were again giving trouble in Tangiers, particularly with their horsed soldiers and Colonel Kirk reported that "the vigour of their attacks, the strangeness of their arms, their quickness and agility in their pursuits" made foot soldiers reluctant to face them, so he urged that the cavalry strengths of the garrison should be kept up.

1712 Goring's Marine Regiment (later East Surreys) were afloat in the Mediterranean, engaged in campaigns against the Spanish and French. Officer casualties were heavy in this campaign. The Queen's, at Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, were again having troubles over provisions and the Governor attempted to ease the situation by engaging the services of a contractor Mr Borland of Boston. Mr Borland, however, seemed to suffer from a "contractual complaint" - overcharging - and his rate of 7½d per day per officer and soldier was later reduced to 5d per day.

1762 The 31st Regiment moved from Scotland to England and remained on Home Service for the following two years. Troubles were apparently expected in Ireland by the Queen's as officers absent in England were ordered to return to the Regiment "in case of an attempt from abroad". Two light six-pounder guns were sent with ammunition carts to every battalion which had not already received them.

1792 The Queen's arrived home from Gibraltar in the transports *Unanimity* and *Lord Musgrave* and after being landed at Portsmouth, and quartered at Hilsea barracks, were later marched to Bagshot where they were encamped and ordered "to practise the new system of discipline, by Brigades in Line". The 31st were in Ireland, having recently been engaged on peace keeping duties within the United Kingdom, but they were soon to prepare for war with France.

1812 Both the Queen's and the 31st Regiment were fighting in the Peninsular Wars, The Queen's notably at Salamanca and the 31st at Talavera.

Losses in the campaign were heavy, not just through battle but through sickness and disease as well.

1842 The 31st were at Jalalabad engaged in operations against the Shimwaris whose fortified villages they effectively stormed and destroyed together with their fruit trees as a punitive measure. The Queen's in camp at Deesa were inspected by Brigadier James Gibbon and reported on in high terms except for two officers "who had been named for inattention and want of soldierly qualities".

1862 The Queen's landed at Gibraltar from *HMS Himalaya* and went into quarters at Windmill Hill and Buena Vista. In New Zealand the 70th Regiment were engaged in a variety of duties including security against insurgents at Otahuhu, public order duties against rioting miners at Otago and military road building near Drury.

1892 The East Surreys were in Ireland with Headquarters at Tipperary.

At Dinapore the Queen's received a very good Annual Inspection Report, being particularly commended on their musketry of which it was said that "..... it is no doubt in a measure due to the way in which the Rifle Club is supported".

1912 On Home Service, the Queen's moved from Warley to Bordon. The East Surreys were in Burma where it was found necessary to withdraw to Shwebo during the hot weather and rains. Under such conditions training became impossible although there were five companies at Headquarters.

1932 The East-Surreys were at Lahore where at the local Point to Point Meeting the Annual Race for the Longley Cup took place. The winner was Lt. Col. H. St G. Schomberg on "Molly Dennis" with Captain Boxshall coming second on "Neeta". Both horses were owned by their riders. In China the Queen's were maintaining their traditional associations with the Royal Navy and received visits from H.M. Ships *Suffolk*, *Keppel*, *Cornwall* and *Kent*, the last named vessel being the flagship of Admiral Sir Howard Kelly who came ashore in a sampan. Back in England the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) underwent training in horse transport management, their instructors being the 44th Field Battery, Royal Artillery.

1942 The Queen's were engaged on Home Defence duties in Southern England but, due to the changing war situation, were preparing to go overseas. Fighting the Germans in the Middle East, the Surreys attacked and captured Medjez-el-Bab, a vital position for the subsequent attack on Tunis.

1952 On Saturday, 28th June at Kingston on Thames the East Surreys celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment (as Villiers' Marines).

The Queen's, with the Rhine Army, were engaged in training and manoeuvres, some of it under adverse weather conditions. A detachment of three officers and one hundred and fifty other ranks with the Band represented their Division at the farewell parade at Minden to General Eisenhower.

The significance and instances of "Farewell Parades" were to increase in the coming years.

R.F.

Fancy That

Extract from Battalion Orders of 3rd Volunteer Battalion, East Surrey Regiment for July 1903

"Wearing of uniform at Fancy Dress Balls. - His Majesty the King has been pleased to command that regulation uniform shall not be worn at Fancy Dress Balls by officers of the Regular Army, the Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer Forces.

The term 'uniform' in this Order is to be strictly interpreted a referring to all uniform of regulation pattern, there is no objection to military uniform of obsolete pattern being worn by officers at Fancy Dress Balls".

Major John Fowler TD.

Thank you John for your invaluable help with our newsletter

Tangier 1662-1680

When Charles II married the Infanta Catherine of Braganza, daughter of the King of Portugal, the fortress port of Tangier was ceded to England as part of her marriage dowry. There is little doubt that Portugal was relieved to hand over the ancient port, which had been the subject of desperate wars with the Moors for countless years. Nevertheless, it was considered a valuable acquisition commanding as it did the entrance to the Mediterranean.

On 14th October 1661, the Second Regiment of Foot, the Tangier Regiment, soon to be known as The Queen's Regiment, was raised on Putney Heath and the Earl of Peterborough was given command, his commission dating from September 1661.

A few months after its formation the regiment embarked for Tangier, arriving on 29th January 1662. They found a small fleet with a detachment of Naval Officers and seamen in garrison and officially relieved them the next day. A series of additional fortifications and new harbour mole were formed. The regiment was shortly reinforced by English infantry, formerly in the Spanish service and latterly the garrison of Dunkirk, a former British possession.

In 1663 war broke out with the Moors with some loss to the regiment but heavy casualties for the natives including the local warlord's brother. As a result a peace was concluded. The late Governor of Dunkirk, the Earl of Teviot then became Colonel. He straightway began extending the fortifications which resulted in fierce attacks from the Moors who mustered some 26,000 men, including 4,000 cavalry. They were kept at bay by the garrison and suffered further heavy losses, even after a second attack. The Moors then agreed to a further peace but sporadic attacks and ambushes broke out at intervals.

In May 1664, the Earl of Teviot was killed taking part in a sally and was succeeded by Colonel, later Lt. General Norwood. The new Governor, Lord Bellasye, presently concluded a more permanent peace and returned to England leaving Norwood in his post. In 1668 Norwood died and both the Colonelcy and Governorship passed to the Earl of Middleton. War broke out once more and there were further frenzied attacks on the defences and frequent sallies by the garrison. The Earl died in 1675 and was succeeded by the Earl of Inchiquin.

In 1680, the Emperor of Morocco joined forces with the powerful Chief of Fez, to pursue a bloody crusade against all Christians in that part of North Africa. As a result the regiment suffered severely from frequent assaults by overwhelming masses of Moors and crafty mining operations but still managed to keep the enemy at bay.

Reinforcements had to be sent to relieve the pressure on the hard pressed garrison. The Earl of Inchiquin shortly departed for a post in the West Indies and he was followed in command of the regiment by Colonel Sir Palms Fairburne but he was killed before his commission was signed. Shortly after in April 1682, Colonel Piercy Kirke was appointed Colonel and Governor. On the 27th October 1683 there was a particularly ferocious attack which was finally rebuffed, and brought the regiment high praise, but the cost was high.

A year later, King Charles, finding the cost of maintaining the garrison too high and with little support from Parliament, decided to abandon Tangier but ordered a fleet to set sail for the fort to ensure that the fortress and the

harbour mole were entirely demolished before the troops finally departed.

The Queen's left Tangier in April 1684, after 22 years gallant service. Its casualties during that period were never accounted but must have been very high including many officers of senior rank. On arrival back in England it mustered 16 companies.

The Battle Honour TANGIER 1662-1680, is the oldest in the Army and is shared by only one other regiment, now the Blues and Royals. It was not awarded until 1909.

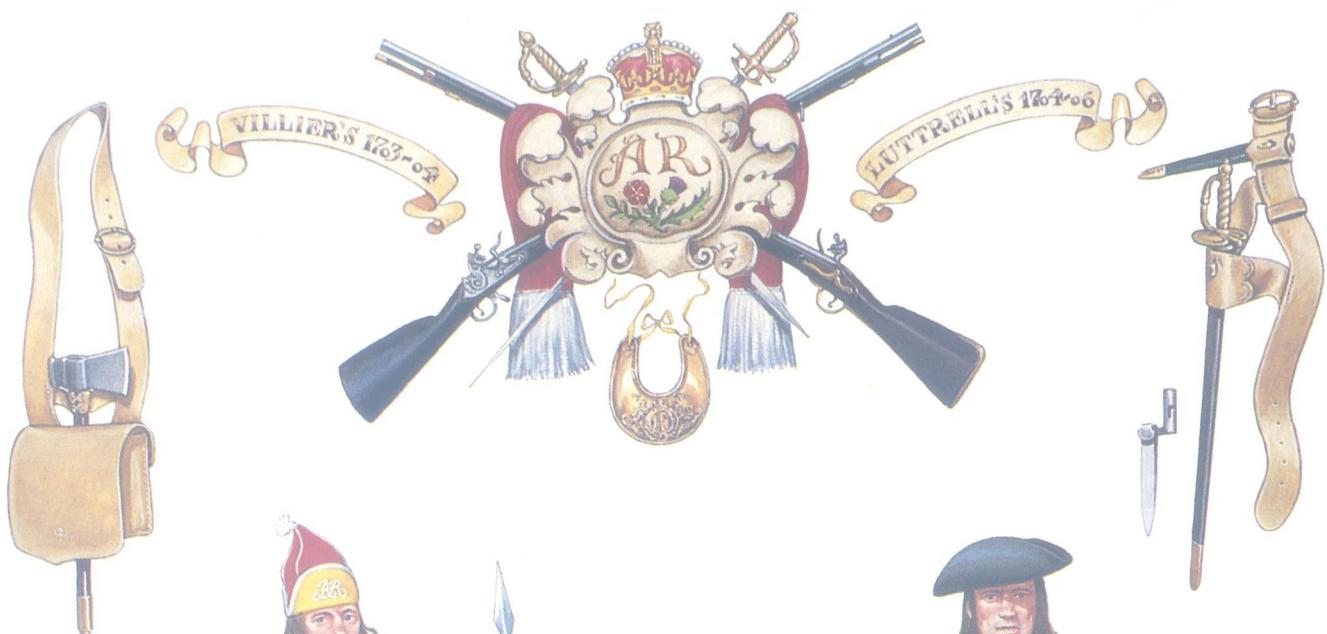
Gibraltar 1704-1705

In May 1702 Britain's declaration of hostilities against France and Spain began the War of the Spanish Succession. As part of the necessary increase in the armed forces several corps of Marines were raised. Villier's Corps of Marines, later the 31st Regiment, was raised on 14th March 1702 under a Royal Warrant. Colonel George Villier's was thereby authorised to raise a regiment with a strength of 12 companies, each having 2 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Drummers and 59 centinels or privates. An additional Sergeant was authorised for the Grenadier Company. The officers comprised the Colonel, George Villiers, the Lt. Colonel, Alexander Luttrell, 1 Major, 2 Captains, 1 Captain Lieutenant, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Second Lieutenant, 1 Chirugien and an Assistant.

Villiers was called upon to provide five of his companies for active service in the 1702 expedition against the Spanish coast, took part in the abortive attack on Cadiz in August but served on board ship during the attack on Vigo. On return to England the regiment was stationed at Plymouth and on 6th January 1703, HQ and four companies were ordered to re-embark for further service along the coast of Spain. In December, Colonel Villiers was drowned and was succeeded by Alexander Luttrell whose commission was dated 6th December 1703. In February 1703, the Marines, now styled Luttrell's, accompanied the fleet to Barcelona and landed on 19th May 1704 but were ordered to re-embark the following day to join the fleet headed for Gibraltar.

On 21st July 1704, 1800 British and Dutch Marines, including Luttrell's, landed, almost unopposed, on the narrow isthmus joining Spain to the Rock. Three days later, after a bombardment by the fleet, aided by a vigorous attack by the Marines from the land side, the Spanish Governor was forced to capitulate but only after a spirited defence. Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt was then made Governor with a garrison of Luttrell's, two other Marine Regiments and some Dutch Marines, totalling about 2000 men. An experienced soldier, he promptly began strengthening the fortifications. It was well he acted so quickly for, by the end of August 1704, a Spanish Army of 8000 men marched down the isthmus and a month later 4000 French landed at the head of the bay. Thus began the first siege of Gibraltar. The defenders, heavily out-numbered, resisted fiercely but were constantly hard pressed. At the end of October a squadron of 17 ships did bring additional stores and 200 additional Marines but the siege gave the beleaguered garrison no respite. A further heavy attack on the eastern side was repulsed but with further losses and by November only 1000 men were fit for duty. By December elements of the 2nd Foot Guards and the 13th and 35th Regiments, totalling 2000 men, were successfully landed and Prince George was able to launch a series of vigorous sorties.





However, by January 1705 with increased reinforcements, the enemy redoubled their attacks and finally forced a breach in the Round Tower. On 27th January they launched an attack with 1300 men on the weakened defences and forced the garrison to retreat. They then made a desperate attempt to take the gate into the main fortress but it was staunchly defended and the garrison then counter attacked and bravely drove the attackers back, even re-taking the Round Tower.

This defeat coupled with the timely arrival of further reinforcements ended all further attempts to take the

fortress even though the Spanish commander ordered the town to be reduced to ruins by long range bombardment. The siege was finally formally raised on the 18th April 1705.

For the part played by Luttrell's Marines in the capture and defence of the Rock, the Battle Honour GIBRALTAR 1704-1705 was awarded. The Royal Marines, who have fought all over the world for over 300 years have only one Battle Honour, GIBRALTAR. We of the Regiment are proud to bear on our Colours the same Honour.

Tangier colour plate

The regimental colours at the top of the left hand colour page are the Colonel's on the left, and the Major's on the right. In the centre are matchlock and firelock muskets, types of officers' and privates' sword and an officer's full dress sash. The silver gorget, shown centre, was worn by Ensigns. Lieutenants had blackened gorgets with gilt studs and more senior officers had all gilt. Officers also carried pole arms as weapons of rank until 1786. A partisan, carried by Lieutenants, is shown right. Top left is a musketeer with matchlock and bandolier of cartridges. Top right is an officer based on the series of drawings of Tangier by Hollar. He is wearing a type of service dress or lighter clothing for a hot climate. In regimental dress he would have worn a crimson coat richly laced and buttoned. His sword is depicted in the drawings, as shown, with a cross hilt in contrast to the more usual style shown above. At bottom left is a pikeman with 16 foot pike. The sergeant bottom right, is shown in Hollar's drawings wearing a small round hat similar in style to that of the officers and he is armed with a halberd. Hollar shows some sergeants wearing grey soutsous with red cuffs and linings. They may, however, not represent the Tangier Regiment. Grenadiers, central figure, were introduced into the British Army in 1678, two to each company. Very soon they were formed into complete companies. The tall fur cap and laced coat distinguished them from other companies. They had additional weapons of plug bayonets and hammer hatchets. Their fusees were slightly shorter than flintlock muskets and were furnished with a wide sling.

During the period under review the headdress of the army as a whole developed to a black felt, low crowned, hat with white tape binding. At first it had a ribbon of the facing colour, then the sides were fastened up until it became the three corned hat which lasted for another fifty years. Two of the early styles are shown bottom centre.

Gibraltar colour plate

The top central trophy, right hand colour page shows a snaphaunce or flintlock, musket with brass mounts and a dog lock musket with steel mounts, possibly a matchlock conversion of this period, an officers' sword, a privates' sword and an officers' sash. At the top left is a grenadier's pouch with hatchet and cartouche pouch. Top right is a waistbelt with sword and socket bayonet. All companies now carried a bayonet although only the grenadiers had a sling to their muskets.

The figures show, top left, a grenadier with distinctive cap of 'milled' or fullered cloth. Top right a 'sentinel' in a hat. Although some illustrators show a distinction in headdress between the grenadiers and sentinels the hat is not mentioned in contemporary papers and no discrimination is made between grenadiers and others regards headdress. In documents drawn up by the Quartermaster, Lieut. Thomas Yard, of Luttrell's Marines there is also mention of a compulsory surtout or 'capitulation' coat, besides the red coat with facings. This was a plainer article than the coat and, for the marines, was brown possibly lined with the facing colour. Bottom left is a sergeant with halberd. This weapon of rank was carried until 1792 when they were superseded by the cross bar pike. His sash has stripes of the facing colour and is twisted around the waist. Bottom right, a grenadier in 'sea kit' for service afloat. This is specifically mentioned in QM Yard's papers but whether it was intended as additional clothing is not clear. The 'sea frocks' were ". . to be made of white kersey to cost 3s 9d for the men." Shirts were 'blew' and the neckcloths 'speckled'. Milled cloth caps or red cloth caps are also mentioned. Canvas gaiters are not mentioned in Yard's papers although they are shown in many contemporary illustrations.

The central figure of a Captain with gilt gorget and half pike shows the general view of an officer of the period. Dress for officers was still not regulated so many variations appear even within regiments.

Unfortunate Fireman

Some old soldiers who survive the hazards of war seem to meet their ends in later years in tragically simple, but sometimes unusual, circumstances. Papers at the Regimental Museum at Clandon show that Pte George H.J. Simpson of The East Surrey Regiment survived the South African War only to be killed later in 1931 when, as a part time fireman, he fell from the back of a fire engine at Basingstoke while returning from a fire. Death was due to a fractured skull. His fireman's helmet, which should have protected him, fell from his head before he hit the ground.

At the subsequent inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned. The jury waived their claim to fees and asked that these should be donated to the widow of the deceased.

RF

Worship of Tradition

On 5th February 1932 The East Surreys were in Lahore and the Sobraon Ball was held in the Montgomery Hall, Lawrence Gardens. It was described in the Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore as being ".....a brilliant function - an impressive blending of celebration and worship of tradition". Guests included Major General A W H Moens, General Commanding Lahore District and Mrs Moens, Major General E D Giles, Army Headquarters and Mrs Giles, who were on a visit to Lahore for Indian Cavalry Week and Brigadier N C Bannatyne, Commanding Lahore Brigade and Mrs Bannatyne

RF



FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

Major Stuart Playfoot writes:

Your article on The Queen's Camp stirred my memory, as the village of Stoughton was my home from 1920 - 1939. I believe that I may be able to offer some information about Queen's Camp.

It was as a result of the Conscription Bill 1939 that the building of the Camp was begun. The site had always been known as Barrack Fields below the Sports Field. A footpath ran through the fields from Worplesdon Road to Grange Road. This road eventually became the main entrance to the Camp.

I was called up in November 1939 and completed the first six weeks training in the Barracks. After Xmas the whole company was transferred to the new Camp and we were the first to occupy it. It was just about finished but had no furniture at all just bare boards and Palliasses's to sleep on. There was no kitchen either and we had to march up to the Barracks for all meals. Life was not really very comfortable in the new Queen's Camp.

I was sent to O.C.T.U in February 1940 but returned to the Camp for a brief period in July 1940 when the Camp was fully operational as an I.T.C.

Unknown Soldier Pilot

In late 1940 I was 2i/c B. Coy. 1/7th Queen's in Kent. My O.C. was a Pilot of World War I. and a regular officer in the Regiment between the Wars.

His name was COWARD and was known as "BOSS". Maybe the photograph is of him?

D H Martin writes.,

R.S.M. Tasker has been mentioned quite a lot recently, a man well remembered in those early days of the 1939-45 war - a man whose bark was much bigger than his bite, as I should like to relate:-

It was in May or June 1941 and we had finished our basic training. We were waiting to be drafted out to field battalions and it was suggested we could be put to some

specialised training. We had a choice. I decided on Motor Transport and so, with, I believe, six other soldiers, we were marched down to the "Camp" M.T. sheds under an N.C.O. We were asked whether we would like to try 3 ton Bedfords or motorbikes! How could an eighteen year old, resist a gleaming 500cc Norton. So, for the first time in my life, I sat astride a motor bike, the operation of which was explained to me, with emphasis on the last $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the clutch i.e. slowly open the throttle and slowly let out the clutch arm, then start up and move off! Of course, I gave it plenty of throttle and let the clutch out with a bang! I shot off in bottom gear knocking the top off one of the petrol pumps, straight up the flower beds and onto the square where Percy Tasker was drilling a squad of "A.T.S. Admin. Staff". I was petrified - I could not find the brakes and the crash helmet was gradually covering my eyes (not that I wanted to see). Perhaps it wasn't happening? Then the unflappable R.S.M. acted - in his loud voice he called the drill squad to a halt and with a "Tasker about turn", pace stick under arm, pointed to this apparition heading toward him and shouted at the M.T. sheds to "Get that blo..y man off of my square!" Somehow, I took control of the machine and turned to the right, away from the spectre in front of me. I went down the flower beds again and fell off! The terrified N.C.O. and others ran up to me and left me in no doubt that the rest of my service, would be spent in the glasshouse!! Apart from a rucking from the M.T.O., I never heard another word.

One evening, a short time after this episode, I was walking past the cottage where Mr. Tasker lived. He was standing at his garden gate in shirt sleeves, with no tie or hat, my heart sank. As I drew along side him, he opened his mouth to say "Goodnight lad" and I'm sure I saw a gleam in his eyes.

Sam Dickason writes:-

What a pleasant surprise it was to see my picture from the times reprinted on the front page of the Newsletter.

It was a great kindness of Merrill Lynch that allowed us to make that Christmas call to our families overseas. I was also most interested to find on page 38 under "Horse Soldiers", the picture of what must surely be the Indian Platoon of the 1st East Surreys. There are several among the officers seated there who I knew so well. Lt Col Swinton, the Commanding Officer, Captain 'Bart' Kennedy the adjutant, and Lt Dickens who was weapon training officer, RSM Gingell is also in the picture.

When I was a corporal in the old D(MG) Company I was given the task of taking the Indian platoon in musketry leading up to them firing their course. Some were fair shots, some others, though few in number, could not have hit a warehouse had they been inside it with the door closed. But even these improved after time spent in "Durrie and dummy" drill.

I managed to put my teaching over with a mixture of English and Urdu, but I was helped by L/Naik Alli Gopa who had some knowledge of English. Without his aid, I don't think I could have explained "restrain the breathing when taking the second pressure".

This picture was most probably taken at Fyzabad and my connection with them all was at Napier Barracks, Lahore. But even with the passage of years, I still do remember the names of some of them.

Apart from the earlier mentioned L/Naik Alli Gopa, there was Sepoy Pinoo Khan, and Hayildar Fazil Jilaki and more besides.

Best wishes to all members.

J A G Petter writes:-

Please accept my humble thanks for the Newsletter and calender which Wing Commander Mitchell gave me when he visited me. The Newsletter made interesting reading, but I only recognised one name, that being Sgt Major Birdsall, we were L/Cpl together in the machine gun platoon.

I came home from Hong Kong for my discharge in 1925. My mother was very ill, and I was anxious to get home to see her, in those days transport was not like it is today. My CO, and Adjutant asked me to sign on but as things were with my mother at the time it was out of the question. I did not serve in the 2nd World War owing to an accident at work when I received a fractured skull, and part of my skull was removed, since then I have had several serious incidents, such as being in a fire on the underground, and being admitted to hospital having inhaled a lot of fumes.

Eight months later I had to have two operations for cancer due probably to the fire on the underground, and it was while I was in hospital this time that I met another East Surrey man, I recognised the features but could not remember where I had seen him and after talking with him it turned out that he was in the machine gun platoon, he gave me bits of news, one very important fact was my Company Commander Capt CD Armstrong, I had a very big respect for Capt Armstrong as he was a very good cricketer, besides other sports, the man I met told me that Capt Armstrong was a Lt Col, and that he won the DSO and Bar, apparently he was at Dunkirk, but I would imagine that he has passed on by now as he was older than myself, I am well over 90 now.

Also another man I met was a Pte Bullen, he was one of my limber drivers when we were in The East Surreys, he told me that my colleague Birdsall was an officer at Kingston Barracks so I made an effort to get to Kingston where I met several of my old friends including Birdsall.

A lot has happened since then, I lost my wife with cancer at an early age, and eventually got married again, now unfortunately fate has struck again, and my second wife is in a nursing home with Alzheimers Disease, which has caused a lot of trouble for the past 18 months, it's not very pleasant, but I will not dwell on the subject which is very painful to me. These days I find that the day is not long enough what with housework, shopping, keeping the garden going and visiting my wife twice a week, the welfare lady asked me about home help, but I prefer to carry on while I am able and I'm far from giving up yet. Once again many, many thanks for the Newsletter as I had many happy times while serving with The East Surrey Regiment, and prefer not to think of the bad times as we all get bad times.

Tom Major writes:-

I was in the second batch of (Militia) that had to report to Stoughton Barracks on 15th September 1939. After a couple of months, King George VI inspected the barracks. I remember it well, as one room was selected for inspection. We had to bumper the floor like it had never been done before, then had to stand by our beds for a couple of hours while another team took our footprints away!!

Then we were billeted out to Edgeborough School on the Epsom road, before being first in Queens Camp. It must have been very early January as after that we went on embarkation leave and sailed from Southampton on 29th Jan 1939. We travelled to Cherbourg then across France to

Marseille. Then on *HMT Ettrick* arriving at Bombay three weeks late to join the 1 Bn The Queens at Allahabad.

A F Jackson writes:-

Thank you so much for sending the Newsletter for May. It is so long ago since I joined the East Surreys in 1931 at 18. I am now coming up to 80 years this August, not doing too bad, but the memories return when I read the Newsletter and I wonder if any of your readers can put a name to these Drummers taken in Lahore India in 1935.



Sid Pratten writes:-

May I congratulate you on another excellent edition full of interesting news.

I have managed to find among many photos taken during a short break from the line in Italy the enclosed, I do hope you will find it of some use. Thanking you again.



Lt Gilbert entertains

R Webb writes:-

Herewith my Newsletter subs and money for annual reunion. Would you also be good enough to forward the Queen Surrey's Regimental tie, £4.00 is a small sacrifice to stop the barracking and abuse received last year for failing to own the correct dress. I must say that having not seen most of the faces for 25 years, it was extremely enjoyable meeting everyone again and to see that I am not the only one to have aged, the comradeship and humour is still very prominent.

Bill (Doc) Watret writes from Scotland:-

I would just like to say how much I look forward to the Newsletter, it brings back so many happy memories for me. I served for thirty years in the regiment, so I can put a face to so many of the names mentioned.

I was particularly pleased to read the letter from Neville Jackson in the last issue, I can remember having a wonderful night out with him in the French Sector of Berlin in 1949. It was very nostalgic to read his letter, as I knew his late father, mother, and wife. But of course there is no stopping time, and life goes on. I am now seventy one although sometimes I find it hard to believe. I have fifteen grandchildren which I think keeps me young at heart.

I am hoping to get down to Bassingbourn this year for the annual reunion, hoping to see a few old comrades. I have been ill lately, and it has left my writing a little shaky I do hope you can read it.

W D Menday writes:-

I have in my possession a 1906 penny and a piece of German Shrapnel, which I would like to present to the Regimental Museum.

Over the Christmas period of 1944 the Battalion was holding the line in the Ardennes area, the ground was frozen hard so from the enemy point of view, any shells or mortar bombs hitting the ground made the shrapnel really fly. I was with C-Coy HQ and we were billeted in a farm-house. On the Boxing Day afternoon, I was sitting on the low farm-house wall, when over came a few mortar bombs.

The penny was a "keepsake" from my wife, it was in the breast pocket of my battle dress in a wallet. The piece of shrapnel hit me and was prevented from going any further by the penny - which is very badly dented!.

C T Murray writes:-

When my letter enquiring after my brother appeared in the May Newsletter I had little idea of the response I might get.

Within days I had received a splendid book (the History of the 2/7th Battalion) from the author himself - Roy Bullen - clearly setting out the plight of the ill fated 'C' Company guarding the D.I.D at Saleux.

The day after the books arrived I had a telephone call from Alfie Howard (ex - 'C' Company) who told me that he had served in my brothers platoon and was wounded in the same actions. Although in his 80's Alfie clearly remembers events at Saleux and described how many of the lads had fallen facing the 1st Panzer Division with five rounds a piece.

Later I received a letter from Alf Tubb (6090190) living in Swansea who pointed out that his number was only 15 away from my brothers and that he must have known him at Falmers Camp near Brighton in August 1939. I am hoping that a photograph may confirm this fact.

My thanks go out to Roy Bullen, Alfie Howard and Alf Tubb for putting the story straight and I shall be in a different frame of mind when I visit Saleux cemetery again shortly.

I still find it amazing that although Frank died over 52 years ago he still has regimental comrades and the Newsletter has managed to span those years in no uncertain way.

The response to my letter has proved to me that the spirit of The Queen's Regiment will live on and the Association Newsletter must take a lot of the credit for that!

H Rotherham writes:-

First of all I hope this finds you and your staff all fit and well next I must thank you for the May issue of our Newsletter, I always look forward to receiving it.

I must apologise for being so belated in sending you my subscription for 1992. The fact is, that I have been in hospital, in an endeavour to cure a circulatory condition in my poor old pins.

The surgeon made two incisions at the bottom of my left leg, only one has healed so far, and I am still hobbling about with the aid of a stick. Still I suppose at 84 I must expect anno domini to catch up on me with all its aches and pains! I was told afterwards it was not a success as the blockage they were trying to by-pass was too low down in my foot. Enough about my problems.

In May 1942 I was on embarkation leave prior to our boarding the *SS Strachallen* at the end of May for our journey to join MEF.

So on May 2nd 1942 my wife Molly and I decided to get married and on May 2nd this year we celebrated our golden wedding. My two daughters with the grandchildren gave us a very nice day.

During the voyage it was decided to hold a boxing show to entertain the troops, which was all very well, but we were going round the Cape, and the *Strachallen* had developed a roll of some considerable degree. At one moment we were looking at the sea and the next at the sky! so when the vessel went into a roll, the MC blew a whistle and the contestants had to go to the ropes and hang on until the ship righted, and we were on an even keel! I cannot remember the unit or the name of my opponent, but I think he must have been a very cagey and experienced pro. He covered up well, and I found that I could hardly lay a glove on him, and I lost on points!

Now 50 years have passed and I can only wish I was as fit as I was then.

I heard from Major Nason the sad news of the passing of our Treasurer John Beckett, and he will be badly missed. He was a good friend and adviser to all of us old Bermondsey 'Queen's' boys. I remember him telling me you were his RSM. I do hope you will be able to decipher my terrible bad writing, I am sitting in my garden, very unkempt since my immobility, but I have resigned myself that I cannot do much about it now.

With best wishes to you and your staff.

W H Hill writes:-

Once again thank you for another wonderful Newsletter. I look forward to receiving them very much.

Reading Frank Beville's letter re - Lt Gilbert certainly brought back old memories. Yes Lt Gilbert was my platoon commander in 2/6th Queen's "B Coy". He was indeed a very fine officer and was respected by his men. I believe he finished up in charge of the 56 London Divisional Concert party in Italy. At least that was the last time I heard of him. I also well remember the "Franconia" and the Danny la Rue of the Queen's, Lt Gilbert, in his portrayal of Carmen Miranda. He carried out many impersonations especially of the female variety.

Yes I do remember Sid Pratten well. Also "Ginger" Paine, "Chalkie" White and "Rocky" Eaves. Rocky used to play centre half for the 2/6 Battalion soccer side of which I too was a member. The side was as follows:- Smith, Handley, Swanson, Selwyn, Eaves, Avery, Barnet, Chapman, Morgan Hatton, Hill.

Frank should remember me. He joined up in 1940 at Reading in the well known 66th Royal Berkshire Regt. We both had a real mutual friend in Eric Hallbrook who was severely wounded at Salerno. Eric unfortunately died about three years ago.

In conclusion I must say most of the games of soccer were played against other Battalions in the 56th Division, and I only remember losing one and that was a beating of 6 - 0 by the 100th LAA Regt of Artillery.

Perhaps Frank will remember me now.

I'm afraid I will not comment on the new amalgamation except to say. I am a Queensman, and nothing can ever change that.

T C Sumner writes:-

Many thanks for the current issue of the Association Newsletter. I am enclosing cheque for £3.20 to make sure I am up to date with my subscriptions. I have recently returned from 2 weeks convalescent at the Burma Star Bungalow at Hastings. While I was there I was invited to an evening at the Queen's Territorial unit at St Leonards on Sea. This was most interesting to watch the young lads drilling and to be made so welcome. Unfortunately I am now unable to attend any of The Queen's parades or reunions as I have recently undergone major surgery on my spine but I look forward to the Newsletter to keep me informed.

R Etherington writes:-

Thank you for the May Newsletter.

I must say I find them very interesting and there are names that bring back memories of long ago.

One is a person I've spoken about a few times, "Clarrie Jarman", I'm sure he was our School board man. If we were away from school, he would come to find out why we were absent, he only had one leg the right one was artificial, but I remember he used to ride a bicycle with one pedal, and also played cricket. Believe it or not he was a wicket keeper with his right leg out sideways stiff. He also had a runner when batting.

Please keep up the good work as I love reading about the old Regiment. Perhaps one day I'll find something about one of my uncles, a Jack Prizeman who as far as I know served with the Queen's from 1916 to 1946.

W G Attewell DCM writes:-

The photo on page 30 of the May Newsletter 'Boating Party' could have been taken when The Surreys had a Boating Club on the River Nile, Khartoum in 1938, South Barracks.

I am not positive but I think they are Sgt Sid Bilch, the one sitting in the water I cannot recall, centre standing is definitely CSM Cowie (later Major Cowie) and the Pioneer Sergeant, Sgt Jack (chips) Cox, later Major (QM) Cox. As this was fifty four years ago I have had to dig very deep in the old memory box!

J Mayes writes:-

I have enclosed a photograph of a group of soldiers having a drink in a beer garden in Tel Aviv in what was known then as Palestine now Israel. Their names appear on the back of the photograph. I should be more than pleased if you would have this photograph published with the names in the next Newsletter in the hope of getting a response from all or anyone. I shall respond to all replies. I offered a similar appeal some five years ago not photographic but by naming names. All I had was two out of a probable possible of thirty.

Left to right

Pte Heggett
Pte Gorman
Pte Brinkley

L/C Green
Pte Francis
Pte Olive

L/C Dudney
Pte Mayes



G N Prior writes:-

As a past member of the 1st Bn Surreys (Austria & Greece) what a feast of nostalgia in the latest Newsletter. A note from fellow Cpl Ken Higgins about our unofficial reunion last November, a Golden Wedding Anniversary mention for Capt A.L.A Bishop (the Adjutant who kept us "orderly" in the Orderly Room) and Lt Col CD Armstrong, DSO,MC who was only referred to as "Nipper" out of earshot! I have related a few times my recollection of 'Nipper' who occasionally graced us with his presence at the queue for breakfast at our camp in Veroia, Greece. He would supervise the distribution of our anti-malaria drug mepacrine and when locally prepared stewed fruit was on the menu seldom failed to extol the virtues of this mush in keeping our bowels in regular order. He recalled his days in India with his bowel-movement dictum. "Every morning before breakfast Barrafudga. Every morning after breakfast - Hazrikabbar. Sometimes Kubbi kubbi! (ex-India men will probably know the correct spelling.)

He entreated us not to become "Kubbi Kubbis" in his battalion!

Congratulations on a splendid magazine.

Bill Roadnight writes:-

Just a few lines to say how much I enjoyed the Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn, but I, with a lot of other old soldiers was very sad that we did not march past the Colonel of the Regiment at the conclusion of the Drum Head Service.

It was so nice meeting so many old friends who I remembered from the past. I met Mrs Herridge, widow of Bill Herridge who played football for the Queens. I was

able to give her his regimental number and other details from his service with the Regiment. Bert Collinson had accompanied her and other friends in the train from London. Bill Herridge joined the Regiment in June 1925 and we served together in England, Hong Kong - Malta and Tientsin. I also met Bill Friend who I remembered as I.O. of 5 Queens when I was with them. I also met Major Playfoot, he remembered me when he was a recruit under me at the ITC in Guildford. I was there after I returned from 1 Queens in 1940. Also there at that time was Major F A Coward, Colonel Pickering and Syd Waldron.

Best wishes to all old Queensmen.

F R Lewell writes:-

Sorry I am late paying my dues for such an excellent Newsletter. I look forward to our annual reunion, but though there is always the hope that some old friend might bestir himself to appear, I'm afraid the chances get dimmer and dimmer, the troops are obviously getting thinner on the ground!

I had the honour of serving with the 2nd Bn in peacetime for 7 years, a member of the Bn football team. It was with deep regret to read that Col Wreford-Brown recently passed away (what a personality he was?). I was in Civvy street seven months and was then recalled to the 1st Bn on the outbreak of war. I survived in 7 Pl A Coy until the Bn broke into Tunis itself - as you can see I was most fortunate - but then it was most obviously the finest platoon in the Bn. I forget how many fine young platoon commanders we had but looking back, in their various ways they were all gems. I suppose I could write a few anecdotes of stirring times if the old grey matter would allow - and I wasn't so incredibly lazy.

However I look forward to October 24th.

K N Smith writes:-

As promised I have forwarded on to you a marvellous letter received from W T H Croucher, MC, who has replied to my article in the May issue of the Queens magazine about my Grandfather C S M Joseph Edwin Smith. His letter is an incredible account of the battle in France in May 1940 in which my Grandfather was eventually captured and taken POW.

Although there were some doubts in the letter as to the positive identity of C S M Smith, I have since spoken to Mr Croucher who has helped to confirm that we are talking of the same man.

Thank you again for all your help and co-operation and many thanks to W T H Croucher, MC, who has given me an insight into my Grandfather that could never have been achieved through the research of Army records or books. In addition I have now had a visit from a Mr R J Shears of the Queens who has given me an insight into the regiment during the 2nd World War, although he didn't know my Grandfather I appreciate his time spent visiting me.

J W Rutherford writes:

Enclosed please find subs for 2 copies of the Newsletter, one, as last year, for my comrade.

The news of the merger and name change of the regiment was a great shock. As I had heard nothing I thought we had escaped the axe. All the ramifications included doesn't bear thinking about. However it is gratifying to know that the Association will continue, and I look forward regardless to further issues of the Newsletter. Pity they couldn't be quarterly, or even monthly!

Best wishes to all concerned

R S Chesson writes:-

I wish to thank you for your concern, help and information you gave my brother-in-law P J Cutting on his enquiries about my uncle Private E W Green 614448 of the 1/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment who was killed in action near Armentieres Woods 28th May 1940. A Regiment we born in Surrey are all proud of. With the details of his burial place given by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, I recently visited it. Why not before? I cannot say.

Without the letter from Mrs A J Rowlands I would never have found Bus House Cemetery. A corner of a foreign field forever England, is well maintained, full of dignity. I give you the poem inspired by my visit if I can do anything for the Regiment I would be honoured to oblige.

Another Ernie

*In a Belgium Field across the sea,
That is now forever England,
Lies my dear Uncle Ernie.
Killed in action on the 28th May 1940.
But thanks to the Commonwealth War
Graves Commission
In line abreast in dignity and precision,
An innocent born of our proud land,
Before cynicism greed and pay,
Became the philosophy of the day,
When men were expected to give their all,
With very little say, once given the call.
And so on my visit to his final resting place,
I realised it is the kind and good who win the race,
Leaving us mere mortals forever in his debt
With still our own ultimate challenge to be met,
Hopefully like him and his comrades with no regret.*

Michael Booker writes :-

Many thanks for the recent edition of the newsletter-it was waiting for me on my return from a working visit to Malaysia. Once again it provided some interesting reading for both Mum and I.

We were however saddened to read of the death of C.S.M. Viv Edwards-as a child I visited him at his pub at Shorewell on the Isle Of Wight (where he served the most wonderful pasties and pies!) My Mother remembers Mr. Edwards from her days in the A.T.S. in Guildford-she was interested to read the article about Queen's Camp as she was there when it opened (as a training Sgt.) and I believe that is where she met my Father! I know she has some interesting photographs from the period, however she is very ill at the moment. and I don't want to pester her too much.

Whilst in Malaysia, I visited the National Monument and took a few more photographs of the regimental badges-which I hope will be of use for your records. The enclosed slide features both the Q.R.R. and R.W.K. badges. Whilst I think its nice to have them there as a reminder of the regiments involved in the fight against Communism, I think they could do with a touch up on the paintwork, as many badges are fading away.

I also visited Cheras Road, site of the Commonwealth War Graves. I was amazed to find so many Queen's and R.W.K. graves and some East Surrey's also! Just for information, anyone visiting K.L. on holiday or on business or on a stop-over en route to/from Australia can reach the War Graves at Cheras Road in less than 20 minutes from the City Centre.

A taxi will cost approx £5 this will include waiting time of approx 20 mins whilst you visit the graves. It is important to get the taxi to wait as obtaining a taxi for the return journey is impossible!

The National Monument is featured on most City Tours and is well worth a visit. The graves are as usual with Commonwealth War Graves maintained sites in good order and peaceful. I am ordering the booklet "Queen's In Malaya" from the Museum today and will, I hope, make a visit there this summer.

Mr Booker is the son of the late Sgt Ted Booker from 1 Queen's in Burma and Iserlohn. He also served with the Royal Sussex in the Canal Zone.

Mrs K Cregan writes:-

Thank you so much for sending me the Newsletter and for inserting the obituary of (Paddy) T H Cregan. The letter from A.W.E.N. made very interesting reading, because that's exactly how Paddy told me, and where he won the M.M. and as you know I was nanny to (Nipper) Armstrongs and Major Anderson's and a Captain Creasey's children when they were billeted in Lyme Regis, and it was here the late King George VI inspected the troops before embarkation.

I have enclosed two photo cards you might like for the archives, he was a great sportsman, in fact he scored the winning goal for hockey at Wembley for the army, it was before the war.

If you can let me know the postage for the Association Newsletter I would like to receive it and keep in touch. Miss him an awful lot because we had our Golden Wedding ten days before he died.

Many thanks and best wishes for the future and the Association.

Mr R Eaves writes:

In reply to the item 'Frank Beville' on page 27 in May 92 Newsletter I am the Sgt (Rocky) Eaves who shared a cabin on the Franconia to Capetown. Sgt Bell was in my platoon and was later decorated, Sgt M White became a Captain in the Royal West Kents and won the MC for action in Italy,

I was wounded at Salerno and again in the Gothic Line and was finally discharged (medically) just before the war ended. I do remember Lt Gilbert, I saw him as he was leading his platoon into action at Enfidaville a fine officer - he certainly gave us a good laugh - yes what a relief it was to see him on the cinema screen after the war.

S Benson, is attempting to compile details on the life of Lt John Drummond Allison who was mortally wounded leading a patrol of D Company 2/5th Queens - 14 platoon on the night of 2/3rd December 1943. Lt Allison was a poet and Mr Benson is proposing to publish these in a book in due course. If any reader can assist please write to the Headmaster Mr S G G Benson MA, Bishop's Stortford College, 10 Maye Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 2QZ.

Mr N.B. Highton, 'Holmenkollen', Pilgrims Way, Guildford GU4 8AW is seeking information regarding his brother 2/Lt. G.B. Highton, 1st Queen's, who was killed in action on 7th March, 1944 during the taking of Hill Caine in the Burma campaign. He would particularly like to contact anyone who can throw light on the exact circumstances of his brother's death. It is known that a fellow officer, believed to have been living at Finchley, wrote a letter of condolence to Lieut. Highton's mother as did many other people.

G Britton writes from 69 Percy Rd, Hampton Middlesex TW12 2JT wondering if any reader can help him trace two comrades who served in the 2nd Bn East Surrey Regiment in Malaya 1941. Private J Ainslie and Private S (Bunny) Young. If any reader can help please write direct to Mr Britton.

W O'Brien is trying to contact any members of 1/5th Queen's who knew his Father, Private William O'Brien. His regimental number was 6095664 and he served with the 1/5th from 18th April 1940 until his death on 7th November 1944. Pte O'Brien was killed by a mine near the town of Vlijmin, Holland and is buried in the cemetery of the RC Church Vlijmin near Hertogenbosch. Any member of 1/5th Queen's who may remember his Father or were present when he was killed is asked to contact W O'Brien, Hunters Lea, 28 Lower Spinney, Warsash, Hants, SO3 9NL.

Its your stories we are after

Consideration is being given to the possibility of compiling a new booklet to be entitled "The Surreys in UK, France and North Africa 1939-43" as a sequel to "The Surreys in Italy 1943-45" and personal accounts would be welcome from members who served in the 1st, 1/6th, 2/6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th (and re-formed 2nd) and 70th Battalions, the ITC and 12th Holding Battalion during that period.

It is hoped to include not only reminiscences of battle incidents but also those relating to training and soldiering in general in the various stations occupied by the Battalions in the United Kingdom.

The anecdotes should be sent to the Curator, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ.

Any photo's or maps lent will be returned in due course.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a request for information from old Surreys, this particular plea is addressed to old Queensmen. Readers will be aware that 1st and 2nd Queen's exploits have been recorded in 'The Queen's in Burma', an excellent series of articles by Tommy Atkins covered the service of the 2nd Battalion, and of course Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis highlighted 131 and 169 Brigades in his book 'Salerno Remembered' Ray Bullen told the story of 2/7th Queen's.

There are a number of campaigns still to be done, but for the time being we should like to complete the Queen's in the Desert War, the Surreys in North Africa and both Regiments in France and Belgium in 1940, what is required is the events which are not recorded in the Regimental History - acts of gallantry, comradeship, light hearted anecdotes, in brief, what it was like to be an Infantry soldier in and out of action. These are the subjects old soldiers discuss when they get together and which should be recorded.



PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?

W V White, 23 St Johns Rd, Newport Isle of Wight PO30 1LN is trying to contact a Captain 'Jimmy' Fleming of The Queen's. Any reader who can help please write direct to Mr White.

What we should like is your recollections of some of the experiences you feel should not be forgotten. Ultimately, we hope to produce further booklets.

Can you help? It would be much appreciated if you could let us have your contributions, if possible, by Christmas. The object is to augment the official Regimental Histories with a number of reminiscences and recollections of individuals whose service is not recorded.

And what about the 'young' regulars of The Queen's Surreys and all our National Servicemen, why don't you all send in your personal recollections of your service? All letters to the Secretary at Canterbury please.

THANK
YOU!

STAND
EASY!



From the Past



Kings Birthday Parade, Iserlohn 1951.

Colour Party, Lt W M Turnock C/Sgt Cheeseman, 2/Lt M F Reynolds, C. Sgt Kingland and the late C/Sgt later WO2 D W H Elkins.

C/Sgt Cheeseman was later commissioned as a Captain QM and died in 1989. 2/Lt Reynolds as you are all aware became Maj Gen and was the last Colonel of The Queen's Regiment.

Exercise Golden Oldie

On the week-end 15th/16th May twenty-five Officers and wives dined together at The White Hart, Andover.

After years of meeting friends from the Regiment from the past and ending up by saying "We must meet again!" - it was decided to arrange a week-end break with a special dinner for as many as could be traced from the late 50's and early 60's. It was not easy to find a week-end to suit everyone and many letters were returned undelivered - however we managed to gather those listed below.

The advance party met at The White Hart Hotel in Andover on the Friday evening - William and Juliet Clark-Maxwell having driven down from Dumfries and we had an excellent party. Saturday resulted in a visit to Wilton House where we were greeted by The Commissionnaire, PSI (Signals) Burton - one of the first at Sandfield Terrace after the war. He was in impeccable house uniform but rushed off to put on a Queen's tie!

Lunch was pre-arranged at The Poplar Farm Pub where others joined us and we then visited Broadlands, Lord Mountbatten's home - which we much enjoyed.

The evening meal was well served and Noel Napier Ford provided his portraits of Charles II and Queen Catharine of Braganza. We also produced some suitable silver and regimental drums to provide the right atmosphere. Hugh Harris gave the latin grace used at a previous occasion when 5 Queens dined in Queens College, Oxford. Richard Asser made the keynote speech and presented John Burgess - a little prematurely we now discover - with a golden bowler. John responded with a witty and appropriate reply.

Sunday morning started with a noisy but enjoyable breakfast. Some departed to various duties and the remainder visited the Falconry at Weyhill where there was an excellent demonstration of birds of prey in flight. Another beautiful sunny day and yet another good pub lunch followed. The pub was endowed with much army memorabilia, most of which was from The Yorks and Lancs Regiment - but we didn't mind!

It seemed all had a good time and mention was made of a repeat in two or three years' time. If you read this and would like to join in then please drop us a line and accept our apologies for not having managed to track you down this year. Those attending were:-



Richard and Jane Asser, Noel and Christine Napier Ford, Adrian Birtles, John Rae, John Burgess, David and Joy Robinson, William and Juliet Clark-Maxwell, David and Diana Roscoe, Hugh and Rachael Harris, Barry and Patricia Sidwell, Foster and Sue Herd, Mike and Helen Wigan, Steve and Primrose Knox, Desmond and Mary Wilson

DAR

The Sinking of The Queen 1916

This is a description by G P R Roupell V.C. (later Brigadier, and last Colonel, The East Surrey Regiment) of the capture and sinking by the Germans of a cross channel steamer in the English Channel in 1916. So far as we know, this was the only occasion that this happened during the war.

In the Autumn of 1916 I was serving on the Staff as G.S.O. 3 at 3rd Army H.Q. under General Allenby. My father, who had retired before the War Joined up again at the outbreak of hostilities and was appointed Musketry Instructor to a new Army division. He devoted a great deal of time to his duties and eventually the hard work and long hours on the ranges at Seaford were too much for him and his health broke down under the strain. He had been seriously ill for many months and early one morning in October 1916 I received a telegram to say that he had passed on and that the funeral would be the following afternoon.

I was anxious to get home in time for the funeral and so I got special permission from the Major General in charge of Administration to leave St Pol at once. The General also gave me a permit to cross the Channel on the first available boat as I knew that there was often considerable delay in getting across. I got an Army car and drove down to Boulogne the same afternoon reaching the port at about 6 o'clock. On visiting the office of the Embarkation Staff I found that a cross channel steamer, The Queen, was leaving that night and with the help of my special permit I got authority, after some difficulty, to go on board.

The Queen was then being used to convey troops to France; she was carrying a full load from England to France every day but, contrary to the Germans' anticipation, returning empty at night. I reported to the Captain and then went below and went to sleep in the saloon. There were no passengers on board except myself. The Queen put out from Boulogne soon after dark and except for a strong breeze there appeared to be every prospect of a quick crossing.

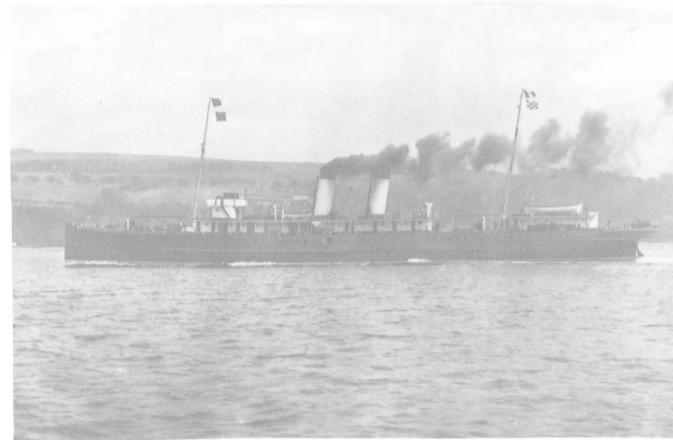
I don't know for how long I slept but I suddenly awoke with a start; at the time I did not know what had awakened me but I heard afterwards that a shot had been fired across our bows. Having a feeling that something unusual had occurred I left the saloon and started, rather sleepily, to make my way up on deck. On the way I met a sailor running about in an obviously agitated state and I asked him what had happened; he replied, to my amazement, "That's a blankety blank German destroyer lying along-side us and the something somethings are just coming on board."

This was bad news, but how serious for me I did not realise until shortly afterwards. I quickly reached the main deck and there met another sailor who told me that the Captain was looking for me. I hurried along to his cabin and he came out as I approached and quickly explained the situation. The Queen had been held up by a flotilla of German destroyers which (for the first and last time in the whole war) had got through our look-outs and entered the Channel without being spotted. Then came the more personal side of the situation; I was the only combatant on board; the Captain and crew were not R.N. and therefore came under the category of Non-combatants. I gathered from the Captain's hurried explanation that under the Rules of War the enemy would not take the crew prisoners unless they were carrying troops; I was a trooper and therefore to save the Captain and his crew, and incidentally myself, from capture, it was up to me to pose as a non-combatant.

The unpleasant thought came to my mind that any combatant posing as a non-combatant comes under the same heading as a spy and suffers the same penalty if found by the enemy. However I did not have very long to contemplate the two alternatives open to me as the Captain had his plan all ready, provided that I was prepared to fall in with it and he explained what it was. I was to pose as one of the crew! There was no time to lose as the German Commander was on his way, having notified his intention of coming on board The Queen. I ran to the side of the ship opposite that on which the German destroyer was lying along-side and slipping off my Sam Brown belt and service dress Jacket, threw them overboard along with my army cap. The Captain produced a thin blue mackintosh and a small sailors cap which I quickly put on and he then directed me to join a boat crew which by this time was "standing to" on deck alongside one of the small boats.

None of the crew knew that they had an officer on board and they were somewhat mystified when this strange apparition joined their ranks wearing army boots, puttees, riding breeches and a khaki shirt and somewhat thinly disguised as a sailor in mackintosh and with a little blue cap perched on the top of his head!

I took the precaution to stand in the rear, having found to my great relief that the boat crew were in two lines and I had scarcely taken my place when the German Commander, accompanied by two or three other German officers and our Captain came along to look at the boat crews and satisfy himself that the Captain was telling the truth when he declared that he had only non-combatants on board.



The Queen

The Queen, Acknowledgement, We are most grateful to The National Maritime Museum for allowing us to print this photo and to R Ford the Curator at Clandon whose detective work found the picture.

The Commander had a small electric torch which he flashed in our faces, not on our legs thank heavens, as he went by and it was with the greatest relief that I saw him pass our little party and go on to look at the next boat crew.

After the inspection of the boat crews the order was given to man the boats and lower away. Then the fun began! It may be comparatively easy to lower a boat in normal times but here the conditions were somewhat unusual. Two men were left on deck to lower the two ends of our boat; the Germans had announced that they were going to scupper The Queen as soon as they had searched her papers, and so our two men were determined to join us in the boat as soon as possible and they could only do this when we had

touched the water. So down we went at a distinctly rapid rate, first one end dropping with a jerk, then the other end coming down with a run; we only hoped that we should reach the water with our boat comparatively level otherwise one end would go in first and the boat would capsize. All was well, we landed with a bump but did not capsize and were quickly joined by the two men who had remained on board and who now slid down the ropes into our boat.

We had the ships boy in our boat crew and as he was considered too young to take an oar he was told to steer; the rest of us each took an oar and then tried to push our boat away from the side of The *Queen*: it was no easy task; a big sea was running and no sooner had we got a few yards away than we were washed back again, it was a most unpleasant situation as a big wave might have driven us up against the side of The *Queen* and smashed our boat; on one occasion we were washed back stern first and although we did not realise it at the time, our rudder was broken. After many fruitless attempts, when it seemed as if we might still be hugging the side of The *Queen* when she eventually blew up, we at last got clear and got going with our oars.

Our next difficulty was to avoid the German destroyers; while one lay alongside The *Queen* the remaining four or five circled round so as to keep up speed to get away quickly or to meet any ships sent out to help us. Our wireless operator had got off an S.O.S. when we were first held up but it was unlikely that any help would arrive for at least half an hour, it was a very dark night, the enemy destroyers showed no lights and naturally we had none in the small boats, so there was always the possibility of being run down before we could get clear of the enemy flotilla.

Our rowing was anything but good for two reasons; in the first place my thin blue mackintosh gave me little protection and as I only had a shirt on underneath I got very cold, and this, combined with the rough sea, brought on periodical bouts of violent sea sickness. Each time I was ill I clung on to my oar but as often as not, caught a crab which turned the boat off course. This didn't help matters at all and even when not being ill I don't flatter myself that I am the least use with a long heavy oar in a rough sea. Our second difficulty was our broken rudder. When we all appeared to be pulling comparatively well together we found we were inclined to go round in circles and our steersman came in for a considerable amount of what was afterwards found to be quite unjustified abuse? The poor lad sat shivering in the bows pulling the rudder cords and not realising that half the rudder was missing!

It eventually dawned on us that there was something wrong with our steering arrangements and after that we kept direction as far as possible by an additional pull on one side or the other. I was probably a much weaker oarsman than the rest of the crew and consequently we always seemed to be doing the extra pull which I found distinctly exhausting.

We took our direction from the lights of Folkestone, a certain number of which were already visible, we must have been about half way across the Channel when The *Queen* was held up.

After about fifteen minutes rowing we were passed by a German destroyer which we imagined was on its way back to Germany, as the enemy party on The *Queen* had had plenty of time to scuttle her or to put in their bombs and it was about time they left if they wished to avoid an encounter with our Dover or Folkestone patrol; We were relieved to see the destroyer go by as it passed between us

and The *Queen*, indicating that we had at last got outside their radius of action. About ten minutes later there was a loud explosion, a blinding flash and up (or down?!) went the poor old "Queen". We heard afterwards that she did not sink at once but eventually drifted, partially submerged, on to the Goodwin Sands.

Having once got clear of immediate danger all the members of our ship's crew got quite chatty; up to now everyone had been somewhat highly strung but they very soon became normal again and now that the danger to their lives was past they did not hesitate to bemoan the loss of rather more trivial possessions! One man cursed the fact that he had left two weeks pay in his locker, another had got a new suit quite recently and having unwisely brought it on board had now seen the last of it. This line of thought having started, everyone in our boat remembered something of great value left on board The *Queen* and few, if any, seemed to realise how fortunate they were not to have been captured or drowned. Personally I was more than thankful to have got out of our unpleasant situation with nothing worse than a nasty shock and the loss of a certain amount of uniform.

The men in our boat were a very good lot, their grumbling about their losses was as much a reaction as a definite grievance and it gave them the opportunity of saying exactly what they thought about Germans in general and the members of this particular patrol in particular, with full nautical dressings! The unusual and unpleasant situation produced, as is often the case, a pretty sense of humour and no man got any sympathy over his moaning. On the contrary, the more he moaned the more humorous became his friends at his expense.

In the meanwhile we rowed and rowed, but although I cast frequent anxious glances towards the lights of Folkestone, we did not appear to be getting any closer to shore. The rough sea and the strong current made rowing difficult and I began to wonder when and where we should ever reach the coast. We had not seen any of our other small boats but the night was so dark that one could not see very far and it is quite likely that they may have been close at hand. Suddenly out of the darkness loomed a destroyer and a voice, English to our instant relief, shouted to us and asked if we wished to be picked up.

Personally there was nothing I should have liked better but to my great surprise our skipper yelled back "Now we've seen enough of those ***** for one night" and with that the destroyer sped on her way. She was a member of the Folkestone or Dover Patrol which had put out in answer to our wireless call but no German destroyer was engaged that night. The enemy had a good start and were never caught up.

It struck me as odd that anyone should prefer to bounce about in a small boat in the middle of the Channel on a rough and stormy night rather than enjoy the comfort of a British destroyer's wardroom and have the possible excitement of a naval action and "getting some of our own back". However there was nothing for it but, to keep on rowing and being sick and I got colder and colder and weaker and weaker.

I don't know for how long this most unpleasant state of affairs went on but after what seemed to be several hours we were picked up by a trawler. By that time I was so stiff and weak that I had some difficulty in getting aboard but I was helped up and was very glad to be out of our small boat and to at last have the opportunity of being sick in comparative comfort and without upsetting the trim of the boat or the tempers of the crew!

The trawler took us back to Folkestone and on arrival there we were each given a greatcoat and a cup of hot cocoa and then I fell asleep in a corner. I believe other members of The Queen's crew were on our trawler or joined us later but I was too tired to take any notice of them.

I slept until daylight and then "came to" and wondered what to do. I still had six to eight hours to get to Bournemouth in time for my Father's funeral but I learnt that I should not be able to do it by rail so I hired a car. I had a very vague idea as to how far it was by road and I don't think that the taxi-man had any idea. At any rate he drove me for 15 or 20 miles and then announced that he could not go any further. By that time I too, had realised that one cannot take a taxi from Folkestone to Bournemouth as one might from Charing Cross to Waterloo, so I got out and gave him my address; it was all I had to give him! Before we started I had told him that I had no money and my 15 mile drive can only be attributed to great kindness and to complete lack of geographical knowledge of the South of England on the part of the taxi-man! I took his address and promised to send him his fare and we parted on very friendly terms. I had a sort of sneaking feeling that he was not altogether sorry to be rid of this strange "fare" that did not look in the least like a soldier, a sailor, or a civilian, least of all like a Staff Officer that he declared himself to be who, nevertheless, roused him in the early hours of the morning and demanded to be driven to Bournemouth. I remember deciding that I was not really correctly dressed for a journey through London and that if I tried to run the gauntlet of the numerous military policemen at Victoria and Waterloo I was more than likely to be arrested as a lunatic at large. It would be asking too much of the average military policeman to believe that a weird apparition at Victoria station in a little blue sailor's cap, a wet mackintosh and with a scruffy chin was really a member of General Allenby's staff!

I therefore got my taxi-driver to drop me at a Recruiting Office, I cannot remember which, and having exchanged addresses, went inside. It was early in the morning but I found one or two members of the recruiting staff in the office and told them my tale. As luck would have it, rumours had got about that the Germans had been in the Channel the night before so there was some reason to believe my story and the staff did all they could for me. This consisted of turning me back into a soldier again which they did by giving me a private soldier's greatcoat and cap. I don't remember whether the cap had a badge and if so, to which Regiment it belonged, but that didn't matter; the great thing was to avoid arrest by the military police on my way home. I was supplied with a railway warrant to London and on to Bournemouth and enough cash to pay for my taxis.

When one realises the almost insurmountable difficulties one would have in peace time in securing free uniform and railway warrants without full investigation, reference to 'higher authority', formal applications etc., it was pleasant to find that an officer's word was sufficient to prove his 'bona fides' and even under these somewhat exceptional circumstances I consider that I was fortunate to find a very human being in charge of the Recruiting Office.

Being now dressed as the complete soldier, half private, half officer, I set off for London which I reached safely and got out at Victoria Station without detection. I was not so fortunate at Waterloo; my dress seemed to intrigue a military policeman whom I was unable to avoid without an obvious display of guilt. To have hurried off in the opposite direction would doubtless have led to further complications and so I just carried on my way, trying to

look as if I was perfectly dressed but feeling a little naked about the neck; my private soldier's greatcoat was rather big for me and had a large opening in front of the collar and beneath that there was nothing at all except my blue mack and the top of my khaki shirt: my collar and tie had followed my jacket overboard the night before.



Major G P R Roupell VC from a portrait painted in 1919 as a Staff Officer.

It's astonishing how naked one feels without a collar and tie when one's dress obviously demands that they should be worn. The military policeman was curious but sympathetic. My lower half evidently carried some weight in my favour and the matter was finally clinched by my production of the officer's railway warrant.

Even then I felt that the M.P. was very sceptical about the whole affair and wasn't at all sure that he ought not to do something about it. However, his instructions evidently didn't cater for cases of this nature and not knowing what else to do, he accompanied me to the train and saw me off. I eventually reached home that evening and received a warm welcome from my Brother and Sister.

GRPR

Maestricht

The name of Maestricht, so much on everyone's lips in 1992, was not new to The 2nd Foot The Queen's, during the Netherlands Campaign of 1695 the town was one of the marshalling points for King William's and allied forces preparing to engage the French at Namur. At the subsequent battle for Namur the English troops, including The Queen's, fought with the utmost gallantry in such a holocaust that a Frenchman later wrote that "he never in his life witnessed such a fire as was poured upon the troops".

Drummer J J J McGale

Of the family pictures hanging in my home one stands out among the others, that of my grandfather. Inexplicably, I find myself drawn to it and as I explore his eyes I try to envision all that they saw. My mind whisks me far away where amidst exploding shells and screaming shrapnel I picture my grandfather fighting Boers, steadfast at his sides his brothers at arms the Queen's

Though Grandpa passed away before I was born, he left behind a very special legacy for his descendants. In 1949, somehow coaxed to set pen to paper, he recorded the adventures of his life as catalysed by events of history. Even as a child I felt a curious emptiness having never known him; reading his memoirs only deepens my sense of loss. Through his words is strung the indomitable character imbued only to those born of an uncompromising Victorian mother the military.

John James Joseph McGale was literally born to military life, the son of a soldier, in a barrack at Pigeon House Fort, Dublin, Ireland, in January of 1876. He was christened to harshness early by the death of his father, when he himself was but seventeen months old. Being the youngest of nine, and before widow's pensions, his mother faced a long and arduous struggle to provide for her family. To lessen her burden she enrolled her oldest son Patrick, and other son Peter, into the Royal Hibernian Military School. In 1885 the day arrived when Grandpa too would walk in his brothers' shadows. He said good-bye to his mother and eleven years would pass before he would be with her again. The quintessential "Barrack Rat" was about to embark on a life steeped in adventure, too often punctuated by adversity. Yet through humour, fortitude and tenacity he would survive it all. The dignity and stiff upper lip that he was to acquire from his 'military mother' would serve him well for life.

In February of 1890, two weeks shy of fourteen, he joined his Regiment, the 2nd Queen's Royal West Surrey. Although his Battalion was in India, he was at the Royal Military School of Music (Kneller Hall) training as a bandsboy. It is here I would like to pause and share an amusing excerpt from "Drummer Boy" my grandfather's memoirs.

"It was Guy Fawkes Day, November 5th, 1890. We celebrated the event in the evening with a band concert and fireworks display, which was enjoyed along with the civilian element, and was represented by young, and not so young, and the boys found plenty of pals (if you know what I mean). The next morning we were all promptly on parade at 7am for general fatigue to clean up all the rubbish on the lawn, consisting of fire squibs, rockets and all the rest of the junk lying around. I found a live rocket, and boy-like, managed to slip it inside my trousers for future use. I took it to my room and hid it in my bed until after breakfast when I produced it for all the boys to see and to admire, and to decide its fate. Well, we decided it alright. We placed it on the window ledge, someone lit it, and away it went - not up, but down, and through a window into the student's mess, setting fire to carpets, chairs, billiard tables, etc. The alarm was given (incidentally I sounded the alarm myself as I was Orderly Bugler). In a

short time the Twickenham and Hounslow fire brigade was out in full force, and the fire was brought under control in about two hours. But considerable damage had been done. After all was over, inquiries were made, and it did not take long to find the culprit (me). I was wangled in front of the Company Officer, where I told all I knew and did about the matter, and asked to be returned to my regiment. The C.O. being a kindly gentleman, acceded to my plea and let me off without punishment, and in a little more than a month I was off on the long and trying voyage to India, there to join the Battalion of the Queen's stationed at Umballa in the Punjab, - not as a bandsboy, but as a drummer boy."

During his years in India a young John McGale never ceased to wonder and be absorbed in everything. He grew strong and fit of mind and body as he marched over India, an almost prophetic training for what he would soon encounter. He left this mystical land as he entered, impressed by the contrast of extremes: ultra riches and abject poverty, the heat of hellfire cooled only by torrential rains, the highest mountains and the flattest plains. He would carry from India memories both bitter and sweet. In exchange he would leave his boyhood.



2nd Bn The Queen's entraining for South Africa from Cosham.

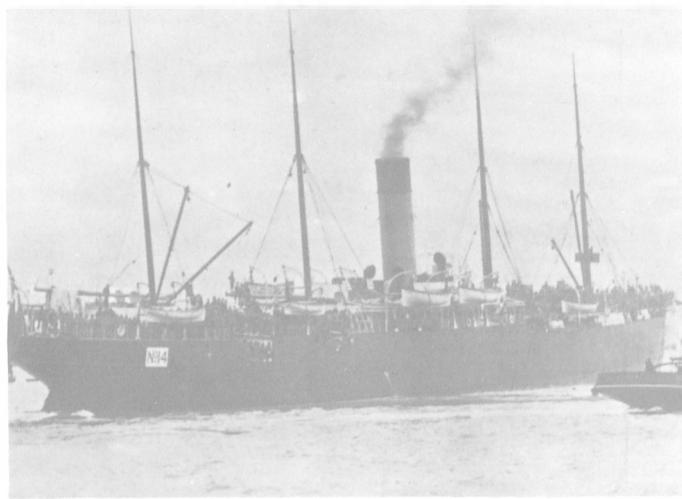
Around the middle of 1899, with the Bloemfontien Conference and its subsequent failure, things were starting to hum in Africa. The hum became a yell, and as part of the 1st. Division, 1st Army Corps, the 2nd Queen's Royal West Surrey were among the first to be mobilised. On the 20th of October 1899, my grandfather and his Regiment would leave aboard the *Yorkshire* bound for Durban. Although Col. John Davis, author of "The History of the Second Royal Surrey Militia" records the voyage as "without incident"; John McGale remembered a brief and vulnerable time of engine trouble, an angry ocean and a narrow escape from disaster. However they eventually arrived in Durban the day Winston Churchill was captured by the Boers. Thirty-four days after departing England the men encountered their first test of the Boer War. To it they would lose approximately thirty-five comrades and count sixty to seventy wounded. But shortly Black Week would dawn and the butcher's bill would escalate. Once again I would like to offer my grandfather's words as born from

his vantage point in the Battle of Colenso.

"Words fail to describe the horror of the next hour. Right before our very eyes occurred the most disastrous event of the South African War - and one of the most serious blunders in Military history. Nor were there ever so many Victoria Crosses (five in all) won in such a short space of time, and within the limits of a square mile. Just to the right of us was a slight dip in the veldt, running north and south, towards the river. It was here that Col. Long (14th and 66th Batteries R.A.) had selected to plant his guns. It was quite a sight to see the two batteries come galloping into action. No sooner had they reached the lowest point of the dip when all hell let loose, (it was later proven that the Boers were within 250 yards of all the guns). Men, horses and guns were all mixed up in a perfect shambles. Not one gun got a chance to fire a shot. Corporal Nurse, along with a driver, managed to pull one gun clear of the holocaust, and each won the VC. Our own doctor, Surgeon Capt. Baptie rushed over to help. He won the VC., Capt. Congreve and Capt. Roberts (only son of Lord Roberts 'Bobs') each won a VC. Captain Roberts was wounded, and was being taken back to the dressing station, when unfortunately, he was killed by a stray bullet. Two batteries were practically wiped out. -Eleven of the twelve guns were abandoned, and we arranged with the Boers to send out a burial party, and to care for the wounded. Thus ended the battle of Colenso."

"We the relief army, were in the pink of condition, comparatively fat and filthy. We had been sixteen days on the go, over hill and dale, our clothing all tatters and rags, with not a sound boot in the regiment. Very few had the chance to wash, and shaving was out of the question. In spite of all this we were hard as tin tacks, and marched through Ladysmith as straight as tent poles, with the famous Devons standing at the 'Present' with tears streaming down the cheeks of a good many of them. While we were so dirty looking and healthy, they were just the opposite, clean and lean, all shined and polished. Their wan faces and thin frames looked like troops after a hard summer in some third rate plains station in India."

After two years and seven months, a war that began with humiliation and defeat for the British ended in triumph on May 31st, 1902. By then John McGale had already returned to his Detail Regiment in Aldershot, but by coincidence the last days of the Boer War were also the last of his Imperial Service. As May drew to a close, Sergeant John James Joseph McGale was discharged with twelve years, one hundred days service with the 2nd Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. Under the watchful eye of his surrogate mother he had developed from a mischievous boy into a competent, mature twenty-six year old man. For the remaining fifty years that followed his epoch with the Queen's he would speak of his brothers with words of pride and praise, yet resonating with a tone of sadness. A sadness forever infused in a soldier that would never forget friends, both those that survived and especially those that had fallen.



SS Yorkshire leaving Southampton with 2 Queen's for S Africa October 20th 1899.

Before departing South Africa my grandfather would also participate in the relief of Ladysmith on February 28th, 1900. Here I would like to include an excerpt regarding his observations as the Queen's marched through Ladysmith, ending one hundred and eighteen gruelling days of besiegement.



RSM J J J McGale, 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles.

My grandfather went on to serve Canada as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles during WWI, but for the purpose of this article I will draw his military career to an end. But by no means though is his story over. In 1922 at the age of forty-six he took an

eighteen year old bride and literally nine more lives began! Like him, his children would know hardship early when they lost most everything to a fire in July of 1929. What the fire didn't decimate the Depression soon did. Work was scarce, especially for a photographer in the heart of the Canadian prairies, but the McGale's not only survived they thrived and grew close as a family. Once more Grandpa would endure enlistment, this time however he served in a different capacity, he watched his children march off to WW11. John and Bessie (Atkinson) McGale would see their children safely returned and this would be the last time Grandpa's life was touched by the military. On June 26th, 1952, Grandpa passed away. Though I never knew him, I love and miss him a lot!

It was Grandpa's hope to someday have his memoirs published, but after his death no one attempted to bring his dream to fruition. At least not until now..... it is my extreme pleasure to announce that sometime in 1993 "Drummer Boy" will be printed in its entirety. It was this event that brought me to Lt. Col. Wilson, seeking period photographs to enhance Grandpa's words. With his help and that of many museums and archives I am hopeful that it will be as visually interesting as it is literally. I close this article hoping that you have enjoyed reading it as much as I have writing it! From Canada I wish you all health and happiness for the approaching holiday season and the new year to follow.

KN

Officers' Club Luncheon

Quite often, at the annual luncheon at Clandon Park the Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson, comes up with a small surprise!. He did so this year at the event which was held on 2nd October. There, in front of the impressive fireplace of the marble hall, were piled the magnificent silver drums and bugles of the Surreys. They were flanked by two superb flower arrangements, in golden autumn colours which had been created by Mrs Jean-Anne Stock and who will be remembered for her sterling work in our museum in the past. The drums were brought from the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Canterbury by the Drum Major himself - Drum Major PM Talbot, BEM, nobly assisted by Drummer D Shade. Despite a two hour delay on the M25 motorway the drums were piled in time for the arrival of the first guests at noon. Readers will be pleased to know that these drums will continue in service with 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).



The President, Brigadier Mike Doyle, was unfortunately unable to be present, as his work had taken him abroad; the Association Chairman, Colonel Mac McConnell therefore received the guests in the salon. In his address before proposing the toast to the Regiment, Colonel McConnell welcomed everyone and said he was especially pleased to see those Members who were attending for the first time. The Chairman said that there were a surprising number of small Associations formed from members of particular Battalions and units of our past Regiments which thrived and continued to meet regularly. He mentioned a number of these, and, on behalf of the Officers' Club wished them all a long and rewarding future. Colonel McConnell paid tribute to the hard work of the Secretary and all concerned in launching another excellent luncheon, and thanked the Administrator at Clandon, Mr Dixon Asquith, for his valuable help.

A total of ninety four attended and, amongst those present, were Major General Mike Reynolds and Mrs Reynolds and Major General Fergus Ling,

It is worth reiterating that one of the enjoyable aspects of these annual functions is that every year there are Members attending for the first time. Old friends who, sometimes, have not been seen for years. There is always lots to talk about!

JBR



A Brace of Thirsty Firsts!

Volunteers for SSAFA & FHS

SSAFA/FHS exists to serve all men and women who serve or have ever served in any Branch of the Armed Forces of the Crown, including the Reserves, Territorial Army, National Service, their families and dependants. They can call on us for the rest of their lives. We give practical help, good advice and friendship to those in need. Approximately 14 million people in Britain today are eligible for our help should they need it.

There are 900 Branches and Divisions throughout the UK. Many are in urgent need of more volunteers. As well as needing more caseworkers to look after our clients, we often need people to be responsible for our Branches and Divisions; fund raisers; training organisers; publicity officers; typists; office administrators and treasurers. The list is endless.

Training is given and all out-of-pocket expenses paid. For more details contact SSAFA's Organisation and Recruitment Officer, Ann Needle at:-

*Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother House
19 Queen Elizabeth Street
London
SE1 2LP Tel: 071 403 8783 ext 223*

Regimental Deaths

Armstrong - On 26th September 1992, Sergeant Ben Armstrong, (ex-territorial) served throughout 2nd World War with 2/6th The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Andrew - On 24th June 1992, Sergeant Ivor Andrews, aged 73 years, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Beizley - On 4th August 1992, Private Bob Beizley, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Bulley - On 31st July 1992, In-Pensioner Sidney Bulley, aged 73 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Clemens - On 29th July 1992, WOII Dave Clemens, aged 77 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Cole - On 26th May 1992, Norman Cole, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Connery - On October 22nd 1992, Major Philip Denis Connery MBE, TD, ARCM, aged 78 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Costello - On 7th September 1992, Costello, aged 74 years, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Elkins - On 12th May 1992, WOII Douglas William Harris Elkins, Aged 70 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Farrell - On 30th May 1992, Private Alfred Farrell, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Fitzpatrick - On 27th August 1992, Colonel Colin Stewart Fitzpatrick, aged 71 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Flint - On 19th April 1992, Corporal John Thomas Flint, aged 86 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and 22nd London Regiment.

Gardner - On 15th July 1991, Major George Alexander Gardner, aged 82 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Glasscock - On 8th June 1992, Frank Glasscock, aged 85 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Godfrey - On 25th June 1992, CQMS Dan Godfrey, aged 81 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Highwood - In February 1992, Harry Highwood, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Jupe - On 16th October 1992, Private Stanley John Jupe, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Jenkins - On 13th May 1992, Private Walter James Edward Jenkins, aged 75 years. The East Surrey Regiment.

Lazard - On 12th August 1992, Colour Sergeant William A Lazard, aged 85 years, The East Surrey Regiment. He joined the band of The East Surreys and was promoted Band Sgt. Later he worked in the QMs department. Lazard was a POW and worked on the infamous railway. He twice survived torpedo attacks whilst being moved to Japan, once there being only four survivors. He served in the Army for 24 years and for over 27 years was with the Civil Service (War Pensions).

Lewcock - In September 1991, Private D. Lewcock 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. In his retirement he worked for an Esher Hospital for the terminally ill.

Lock - On 9th July 1992, Private Arthur Lock, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Maughan - On 19th April 1992, Captain Arthur Charles Maughan TD, aged 79 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Peek - On 27th August 1992, Private Gordon Maurice Peek, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Phillips - In October 1991, C S Phillips 1/5th and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Prescott - On 24th September 1992, Major Martin Prescott, aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Robbins - On 4th May 1992, Sergeant George Henry Robbins, aged 73 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Smithers - On 16th December 1991, Private Alfred Smithers, aged 71 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Spendley - On 23rd July 1992, Private Brian Frederick Spendley, aged 53 years, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Tanner - On 21st May 1992, Private Bob Tanner, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Troster - On 28th September 1992, Company Sergeant Major Bert Troster DCM, MM - served throughout the Second World War with 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was awarded the Military Medal whilst the Battalion were part of the BEF, he was then the MT Sergeant. He was awarded the DCM in Italy, serving as a Company Sergeant Major.

Twort - In September 1992, Lance Corporal John Twort, aged 93 years, 10th Bn The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment.

Whittington - On 11th August 1992, Captain Charles Richard Whittington MC, aged 84 years, 22nd The London Regiment The Queen's and The Dorset Regiment.

Wickes - On 11th August 1992, Sergeant Frederick George Wickes MM, aged 79 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Families

Bennett - In August 1992, Mrs Lilly Bennett, widow of the late Sergeant Eddy Bennett, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Booker - On 17th September 1992, Mrs Alice Eleanor Booker, widow of Sergeant Ted Booker.

Bridgman - On 25th July 1992, Mrs May Bridgman, wife of Alfred George Bridgman, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Burgess - On 30th June 1992, Mrs Florence (Pat) Burgess, widow of CSM Tom Burgess, The East Surrey Regiment.

Caulfield - On 2nd June 1992, Sheila Caulfield, widow of Lieutenant Colonel W S Caulfield.

Flint - On 23rd December 1991, Mrs Elizabeth Audrey Flint, widow of the late Colonel 'Jimmie' Flint, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Mason - In July 1992, Mrs Alec (Jim) Mason, widow of the late Alec Mason, The East Surrey Regiment.

Pilleau - On 24th May 1992, Doris Kathleen (Kay) Pilleau, widow of the late Gerald Arthur Pilleau.

Simmons - On 19th July 1992, Mrs Queenie Simmons, widow of the late RSM J B Simmons MBE MC, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Obituary

Canon J Devine

Canon Jack Devine, who died on 21st May, 1992, was born on 1st May, 1901, at Ballygar in County Galway. He was one of the younger of a family of eleven, having five brothers (his twin brother Lawrence died in 1991) and five sisters.

After studying languages and theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, he was ordained in 1925 and served as a curate in the Dioceses of Elphine and Galway, which led to his appointment, by his Diocesan Bishop, to the Irish Army.

In 1926, when threatened with TB, he was sent to the United States where he served for six years as assistant pastor to the Parish of the Holy Rosary in Southern California. During this time, in addition to establishing contacts in Hollywood, he attended the 1932 Olympic Games where, to his great joy, two of his fellow countrymen won Gold Medals.

On his recall to Ireland, after a short appointment in Dundee, he was re-appointed to the Irish Army as Chaplain and in 1940, following an urgent appeal for Catholic Chaplains for our Forces, he volunteered, with the approval of his own Bishop, for the British Army - a decision which was to have an important bearing on the remainder of his long life.

On arrival in Egypt in the early summer of 1942, he was posted as one of the three chaplains to 131 (Queens) Infantry Brigade when, to their great good fortune, he was attached to 1/6 Queens. During the next few months, due to his personality and presence, he began to establish himself as the much respected and well loved "elder" that he was later to become, and by the time of the Battle of El Alamein he was known by All Ranks of the Battalion as Father Jack.

From El Alamein on, 131 Brigade formed the Lorried Infantry Brigade of 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats) which had the great distinction of fighting from Egypt to Berlin by way of Tripoli, Tunis, Salerno and Normandy. And Father Jack, who had been mentioned in despatches for his service in the Desert, was one of the distinguished number who completed the whole journey, moving to 9 DLI when 1/6 Queens withdrew to England. His new Commanding Officer has recently recalled "In an astonishingly short time he got to know every soldier, quickly learning the Geordie language and earning the affection and respect of every officer and man. He was always moving about the forward companies and seemed immune to the noise and heat of battle. In addition, he had the unique sense of spotting the man who had had a surfeit of shelling and would discreetly arrange for him to have time out of the line. A wonderful Chaplain ! "

After two years in Berlin, he joined, on demobilisation, the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and served in Wokingham, Jersey, Alderney, Milford on Sea and

Christchurch before moving in 1957 to Bordon in Hampshire. There, in addition to his Parish responsibilities, he was Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Garrison. His Church, at that time, was a "temporary" building dating from the First World War and situated within the Military Camp.

Father Jack was a man of many qualities not least among which were love of his fellow men and a passion for fair-dealing and justice. During the War he had become deeply conscious that a battalion's success depended on the well-being and wholehearted effort of every member. As a result he felt keenly for those whose enduring efforts received no official recognition and, to remedy this, he founded the Order of Great Men and appointed himself Grand Master, retaining sole power to select and enrol members "in recognition of outstanding Service to Humanity". Somehow this reached the ears of his Brigade Commander, who, scenting something potentially seditious, sent for Father Jack and demanded an explanation. The interview ended with the already much decorated Brigade Commander accepting his Certificate of Membership.

Landmarks during his tenure at Bordon included the celebrations of the Golden and Diamond Anniversaries of his ordination and the consecration in 1990 of the magnificent new Sacred Heart Church at the top of Chalet Hill, Bordon, which owes its being so very much to his iron will, unsparing efforts and the generosity of himself and his family.

In 1984, on retirement from active ministry his final years were spent as Resident Priest at the Sue Ryder Home near Langrish where, as in every previous appointment, he was greatly loved and deeply respected by all who knew him. Throughout this time he said Sunday Mass at the Chapel of the Assumption, East Meon.

A delightful and precious manifestation of the regard in which he was held, came on the occasion of his 90th Birthday last year when Liz Roberts, the Matron, most generously arranged and graciously hosted, a party which all who attended will never forget. How Father Jack deserved this, and more particularly, how much he enjoyed the assembled company which included, as well as his nephew Father Michael Devine, so many of his "bhoys" as he always referred to us soldiers.



The late Canon J Devine

At his funeral service, so movingly conducted by Monsignor Murtagh, the Sacred Heart Church was filled to capacity. His coffin was draped with the Union Flag and bore his war medals together with the symbols of his priestly office. In his wonderful Homily, Father Michael outlined his Uncle's meaningful life and illustrated his nature and characteristics with colourful anecdotes. He mentioned that Father Jack enjoyed the odd flutter on the horses though his guiding principle that Irish bred horses were superior to English remained viable only so long as Arkle was running. But it was a quote from one of their last conversations that many of us feel reflected the indomitable nature of the man. "Dying, Mickey," he said to his nephew "is a dreary business - if I were you, I'd have nothing to do with it!"

He is survived by his younger brother, who lives in Boston, Mass, by his youngest sister and by Father Michael Devine, the son of his elder brother Daniel.

MF

Major P.M. Plastow M.C.

Peter Plastow served with the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the Hitler War and gained his MC for the distinguished part he played in the final battle of Cassino, 11 May 1944. General Alexander had made a major reorganisation of the forces under his command by replacing US Fifth Army on the Cassino front with British Eighth Army (Lieutenant General Oliver Leese). Eighth Army consisted of British X Corps, which was made responsible for holding the extreme right flank from north of Cassino to the Adriatic Sea. British XIII Corps, consisting of British 4 Division and Indian 8 Division, with British 78 Division and British 6 Armoured Division in reserve, was to assault across the Rapido river and attack Cassino Town from the south. Polish II Corps would attack Monte Cassino from the north-west. Eighth Army also held Canadian I Corps and South African 6 Armoured Division in reserve as a surprise card.

US Fifth Army (Gen. Mark Clark) was now confined to the extreme left flank and would use the Garigliano bridgehead to launch an attack using the coastal Route 7 as its general axis. Fifth Army consisted of US II Corps and French Expeditionary Corps with US 36 Division in reserve. US VI Corps was still bottled up at Anzio. Gen Kirkman, commanding British XIII Corps, made British 4 Division and Indian 8 Division responsible for forcing the Rapido with 4 Div on the right flank Gen Ward, commanding 4 Div., placed 10 Brigade on his right flank with the task of making the initial crossing and 1/6 Surreys became the extreme right hand battalion of the whole attacking line south of the Monastery.

The Surreys were to lead 10 Bde across the river followed by 2nd Beds & Herts and then 2nd D.C.L.I. The Rapido, here about seventy feet wide, carries an abundant volume of water from the mountains and, being confined between high, narrow banks, flows with considerable swiftness - hence its ancient name. At 2345 hours, 11 May, A and D Companies of the Surreys in assault boats began the crossing. Mortar fire sank A Coy's first two boats, the rest being swept downstream by the current. Nevertheless, A Coy. was on the far bank by 2359 hours. D Coy crossed under heavy machine gun fire but all the Company was across by 0001 hours 12 May. Peter Plastow, commanding A, the leading company, then had to contend with an additional problem; directional tracer fire from Bofors guns had been arranged onto Point 36 to help the troops find their objective but a dense river mist was now drifting downstream, blanking out the tracer.

A Coy, followed by D Coy, struggled blindly forward under intense machine gun fire and then D Coy struck a mine field, sustaining heavy casualties. B Coy were across by 0300 hours and joined A Coy which was now slowly forcing its way up the south-west slopes of Point 36. By 0430 hours A, B and D Cos, joined later by C Coy, were established on the feature.

Pockets of the enemy held out with great tenacity in the caves with which the feature was riddled. In the face of intense fire, C and D Cos went in with the bayonet and after some bloody hand to hand fighting Point 36 was taken. Twenty-four survivors and thirteen machine guns were captured.

The Bedfords followed and took up positions on the Surreys' left. With the crossing of the D.C.L.I. the whole of 10 Bde was across and a shallow bridgehead was established. All day and night throughout 12 May 10 Bde was pounded with all the enemy could bring to bear but the battalions hung on desperately to their positions. At 2300 hours this signal was received from 10 Bde HQ; 'Our tanks across river and advancing north as far as possible. Location not known. All tanks will cross as soon as construction complete. Hold hard to present positions. You have done magnificently. Corps, Division and Brigade commanders intensely proud of you'. On the 18 May the Surreys entered the ruins of the town. Cassino had fallen at last and from then on the Allies were on the move once more.

There is no doubt that if the Surreys, and afterwards the whole of 10 Bde had failed in their appointed tasks the forces downstream would have found the crossing immeasurably more difficult, if not impossible. As it was, with the right flank secured, divisions were able to make the crossing like a row of dominoes. And Peter Plastow had played the leading role in the vital initial assault. The writer came to know Peter well, first as his 2I/C of A Coy and later as A Coy commander when he was acting as CO of the Battalion. We saw much of each other after the war until he moved to South Africa when we drifted out of touch.

CWDG

Captain A.C. Maughan T.D.

Arthur Charles Maughan (Smiler to many of his friends) died on April 19th 1992 from a sudden heart attack. Some years ago he suffered a coronary which resulted in early retirement from the Metal Box Co. Since then he had enjoyed reasonable health and was able to play his beloved golf and travel extensively.

Charles was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment from The Honourable Artillery Company, joining the Depot in November 1939. After a period at Dover he sailed for Africa via the Cape to serve in the Middle East, later to take part in the Sicily landings as a Beach Master. After the War he returned to Metal Box and was transferred to the Midlands where he took a T.A. commission in The Worcestershire Regiment.

Charles was a keen and efficient soldier and enthusiastic and capable sportsman, his loyal and genuine friendship, cheerful and likeable character will be sadly missed by many.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Vera, daughter Angela and sons John and David.

R.W.E.

Sergeant R I Andrew DCM

Ivor Andrew died suddenly on 24 June 1992 at Stithians Truro Cornwall aged 73 years. He joined 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment in October 1939 in a draft from the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and saw active service with that battalion in France in 1940 from which he returned to the U.K. via Dunkirk. Subsequently he was in action with 1/7th Queen's in 44 Home Counties Div at Alamein Oct 1942 and afterwards with the Bn in 131 Queen's Bde of 7 Armoured Div throughout the Western Desert campaign then on to Italy until the end of 1943 and again in Normandy in 1944.

His greatest triumph was however during the Battle of Medenine Tunisia on 6 March 1943 when he commanded number 5 anti-tank gun of 1/7th Queen's and wreaked havoc on 15 Panzer Div finally destroying 8 German tanks. With remarkable fire discipline and with the intention of obtaining the full destructive effect of the anti tank layout he held his fire and remained concealed until 4 enemy tanks had passed his sights. He then opened fire and with a succession of shots knocked out all the enemy tanks. This onslaught stopped the initial attack.

Afterwards enemy tanks went into hull-down positions and heavily and systematically shelled the gun pit and he ordered his gun crew into cover. He then loaded and fired the gun himself destroying more enemy tanks during which time the parapet of his gun site was completely shot away. When the fire had lost its intensity he recalled his crew and for the remainder of the day maintained his gun in action under continuous enemy fire of all natures.

The magnificent example he set had an effect that was decisive in encouraging others to stand firm under circumstances which at times became nearly desperate. For this action he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal although many were of the opinion that for his outstanding bravery he deserved a Victoria Cross. The 6 pounder anti-tank gun fired in this battle by Sgt Andrew, which was brought back to the U.K. when 1/7 Queen's returned from Italy in December 1943, is shortly to be resited at Canterbury.

Beside being a Parish Councillor Ivor was heavily involved in an executive role in many local activities ranging from the RBL to the Rugby Club which reveals his great sense of citizenship. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy goes to his widow Sylvia at this time.

EGS

Lieutenant Colonel C B Gray MBE

Colin Gray joined the Regiment prior to World War II and became best known for his work in the liaison field where he rose to be GSOI (Air) at Central Fighter Establishment, Raynham. He served in Hong Kong with the Buffs in 1949-50 and his extrovert nature gained him an amusing appointment as radio announcer for the Forces Network Radio Hong Kong.

On leaving the Army he first joined the travel business and subsequently became General Manager of the Talk of the Town, now renamed the Hippodrome. A well known raconteur, Colin also had a gift for playing the drums and bongos.

He married Mary, the sister of Major General David Lloyd Owen, they later moved to the USA to be near their daughter in Massachusetts. He died on 12 April 1992.

Death reported in May 1992 Newsletter.

ECK

CSM D Clemens

It was as a long-distance runner that Dave Clemens was best known, but what is so remarkable is that he returned to race running in his late seventies, having been a prisoner of war of the Japanese. Clemens enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1934 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He won his Army cross-country colours in the Inter-Service Championships of 1936. Two years later the Battalion moved to Colchester where Clemens took part in a number of Army and civilian cross-country events. 1938 saw the posting of the 2nd Battalion to Shanghai, followed by a further move to Singapore two years later. Towards the end of the short and ill-fated Malayan campaign, Dave was wounded, but was able to remain with the Battalion.

The dreadful three and a half years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese are graphically described in Clemens' autobiography 'Clem' (published by the Horseshoe Press, Colchester, Essex). On return to England he took up cross-country running again, his last military run was the Eastern Command Championships of 1949. Clemens, now a Company Sergeant Major, retired from the Army in 1951. He was soon actively engaged in civilian marathons and long-distance running which he continued until 1989. He became President of the Colchester Joggers club in 1989.

PGEH

Memorial Service

Regimental comrades, family and friends gathered together at noon on 11 June 1992 in All Saints Church, Kingston-upon-Thames for the dedication of a plaque to the memory of Colonel Peter Wreford-Brown.

The memorial plaque, which was beautifully and simply carved in wood, was dedicated in the Holy Trinity Chapel which houses many plaques honouring distinguished soldiers of The East Surrey Regiment. The service was conducted with dignity and understanding by The Reverend Audrey Smith.

The large numbers attending indicated the high regard in which Colonel Peter was held. Having been commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1929 and retiring in 1959, those present included regimental comrades who remembered him during his pre-war tour with the Sudan Defence Force, his service during World War 2 when he was Mentioned In Dispatches, as well as his later service in Libya and Iraq.

Maureen, Colonel Peter's wife, was strongly supported by members of his family including his brother, Tony Wreford-Brown and his family and cousin, Simon Wreford-Brown. She was also well supported by his sporting friends from the worlds of golf, cricket and football, as well as by her own friends. Maureen was very appreciative of the numbers attending, the verbal tributes from those who served with him and the letters and messages from friends and colleagues who were unable to be present.

The assistance given by the Regiment was very much appreciated. The whole occasion was organised by Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson, the Association Secretary. The Regiment was represented at the service by Colonel Harry Smith. Mrs Rachell Roupell, whose late husband was Brigadier Roupell VC, was also present. A light buffet lunch and a bar were provided in the nearby drill hall of 221 Field Ambulance RAMC, the building previously being the RHQ of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Regimental comrades, family and friends were able to relax and swap stories and memories. Colonel Peter, with his infectious sense of humour, would have approved.

Colonel C.S. Fitzpatrick, a Personal Tribute

I first met Colin Fitzpatrick at The East Surrey Depot in about 1955 when he was posted there as Training Company Commander. We were both recently married and we and our families forged a friendship which has lasted to this day. Despite a slight limp, the result of an accident whilst serving with the Parachute Regiment, Colin was a first class regimental officer who played a full part in all activities and was popular with all ranks. He was a good hockey player, sailor and skier, who was never happier when the weather was bad or he had to take on a black run in difficult snow conditions.

We served together again in Bury St Edmunds at the time of the amalgamation with The Queens and again in Aden in 1962 when he was OC HQ Company, an unenviable task which he undertook cheerfully and with considerable success. His relaxed and friendly manner masked a shrewd appreciation of what was needed and his men soon learned not to try to pull the wool over his eyes. I never saw him really angry but he had a very acid tongue!

I think that this was his last tour of regimental duty but he was a very able staff officer. He was interested in the Arab world and spoke Arabic well and his last job was MA in Jeddah, a posting which he relished. This was of course a "dry" country and Colin and some friends arranged to import whisky labelled as "Non-alcoholic cider". This went well until a docker dropped a case and sampled some of the spillage!!

Colin and his wife, Elizabeth, went to live in East Anglia when he retired but he kept up his contacts with the Arab world and had a job exporting to various countries in the Middle East, involving travel to that part of the world. When I too left the Army, I ended up near Cambridge and we met from time to time on social occasions or with mutual friends. Colin and Elizabeth were always great fun to be with and, although Colin suffered various bouts of ill-health, including the loss of an eye following an accident with a piece of rusty barbed wire in his garden, he remained cheerful and good-humoured - more interested in others and shrugging off his problems with a wry smile. It was therefore a great shock to hear of his final illness and soon after his death a few weeks ago. My wife and I have lost a very good friend and we were privileged to attend his funeral on the 3rd August in Wiltshire, a simple and very moving ceremony.

JGPN.

The Late C.S.M. "Nutty" Edwards.

Some years ago when "Nutty" was an In Pensioner at The Royal Hospital I invited him to come and stay the night with us and to attend my Royal British Legion Branch Meeting in Odiham which he would be invited to address for ten minutes. We collected him at Chelsea that afternoon and brought him all dressed up in his red uniform to our house. He said he would like a rest before tea, so we lit the fire, sat him down on the sofa and left him to it. About fifteen minutes later, I remembered I had shut the door which must never be done when the fire is lit. I rushed back into the room which was filled with smoke, with "Nutty" stretched out on the sofa (in his uniform) fast asleep. I was horrified and woke him up just in time, he was quite oblivious of the fact that I might have killed him.

"Nutty" took the floor at the Meeting after my introduction and within minutes he had the whole group in fits of laughter. After about 20 minutes I tried to stop him but his audience would have none of it. After 30 minutes discipline prevailed and "Nutty" sat down to thunderous

applause. That was not the end of it as he was invited to draw the Raffle. Every lady who came up for a prize was received with a hug and a kiss and some outrageous remark. We took him back to Chelsea after breakfast, the following day he wrote a charming letter to my wife in which he ended by saying he had never slept so well, the bed was so comfortable.

DSG

Annual Church Service

In glorious sunshine about 500 members of the Association, together with members of the Army Cadet Force, gathered at Guildford Cathedral on Trinity Sunday, 14th June, for the Annual Church Service.

Moving prayers and hymns contributed to a memorable service in which the lesson was read by The President, Brigadier M.J. Doyle MBE., and the Address was preached by The Very Reverend Eric Evans, Dean of St Pauls Cathedral.

Afterwards members gathered informally in the Refectory where many old acquaintances were happily renewed.

RF

CSM Bill Elkins

I first met Bill Elkins at Crowborough Camp in February 1947 when 2nd Queen's returned from India. I was a young sergeant conscript and Bill was one of the regular soldiers returning to the regimental fold. Bill took this twenty year old under his wing and for that I was and still remain most grateful.

The 2nd Battalion moved to Dortmund in March 1947. Life in Dortmund in those days took some getting used to but Bill took it all in his stride. He advised many like me of the more difficult ways of post war soldiering, and this was always given with consideration and thought.

As an ex Boy-soldier he knew all the tricks of the trade and his great friends, Honor Bourn and Sid Waldron often referred to him as 'Boy' Elkins. His playing of the bugle at Sergeants Mess functions gave evidence of his early background. We moved to Berlin during the Airlift days and we were both present on the Olympischer Platz when The 1st Bn assumed the duties of The 2nd Battalion.

He returned to Iserlohn with the battalion and was present when I married the daughter of another old friend of his, Sgt Dick Wright. The battalion moved to Malaya during the emergency and on the voyage out I shared a cabin with Doug Fairbanks, George Mitcham and Bill on the 'Georgic'.

Bill served in Tampin and later was posted to 6 Queens at Bermondsey. He rejoined 1st Queens again in Iserlohn in 1957. During the whole of his service he was a loyal Queensman. Those of us who meet at the Union Jack Club for our annual reunion could always be sure to see Bill at the centre table with his other great friends Frank Bohm, Sid Waldron, Alan Fell and Vic Aukett. He spent much time looking up comrades and persuading them to join him for a drink or a chat about old times.

On retiring from the Army he settled in Southampton. To his devoted wife and family I send my very sincere condolences.

DWA

A Plain Tale From The Hills

In 1937 Lieutenant John Armstrong MacDonnell of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment held the unusual appointment of Field Treasure Chest Officer on the North West Frontier of India. At that time operations were in force against the dissident Faqir if Ipi. The Treasure Chest held money - rupees in coin and grimy bank notes of various denominations - with which to pay the khassadars and other friendly tribesmen for a variety of services rendered. Cash was also required when enterprising Indian contractors and their charwallahs found their way to isolated British detachments.

The money was transported from the Treasury at Razmak to their destinations in various ways. In the potentially dangerous areas the Field Treasure Chest Officer travelled in an armoured car, crouching on the floor and clutching his money bag. Sometimes, on the better protected stretches of the road, the FTCO was lucky enough to be offered a lift in the Divisional Commander's car, the General's ADC acting as escort. The most memorable conveyance was the back seat of a Wapiti fighter bomber, which, bouncing over the rough ground behind the camp, took off, just clearing the perimeter wire and made for some almost inaccessible fortress between the tribesmen's mountain fastnesses and the open plains.

His tour of duty over, John returned to the 1st Battalion in Fyzabad, sporting the ribbon of the Indian General Service medal, much to the envy of his brother officers.

PGEH

Horse Soldiers

The account by PGEH in the May issue of the days of horse drawn transport makes interesting reading but records show that life with the "equine friends" was not always without hazard.

In May 1926 it was reported that a Private of the 2nd Queen's was "drowned in the Ganges while washing a mule". Two other Privates were commended for gallantry in attempting a rescue.

RF

Dogged Pursuit

(From Regimental Order Book, The Queen's Royal Regiment, 3rd January 1829)

"The Commanding Officer calls the attention of the Non Com's Officers to the Order he has issued directing that when the Reg't is dismissed the Men are to proceed to their Barracks without noise or running. The shouting and running after a cur dog this morning was a direct disobedience of the order, and must never be repeated, and the Non Commissioned officers will not fail to immediately report any Man who may be guilty of such irregular conduct".

RF

Through Shot And Shell

In 1915 the 1/23rd Battalion County of London Regiment were at Givenchy and itching, as one of their members put it, to show "the stuff of which we are made". Their chance came when they were called upon to attack and carry three successive lines of German trenches. In a charge that was worthy of a place in history they succeeded in their endeavours in a holocaust where carnage and courage were equally mixed.

At 6.30p.m. on 25th May, after enduring heavy artillery fire during which Captain Fearon and Second Lieutenant Ballard were wounded and Lieutenant Stevenson killed, the Battalion climbed out of their trench and charged towards their objective - enemy entrenchments about 1,500 feet long and between 300 and 1,000 feet distant.

Amid a hailstorm of machine gun fire, and under a ceiling of screaming shrapnel, the first enemy trench was reached and captured in hand to hand fighting with Prussian Guards. After holding their positions all night under intensive artillery fire the determined troops advanced successfully to further positions the following day.

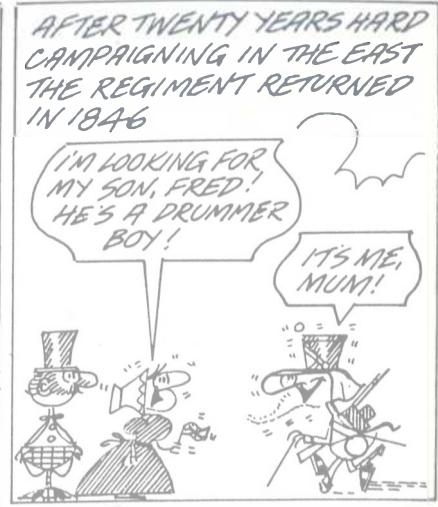
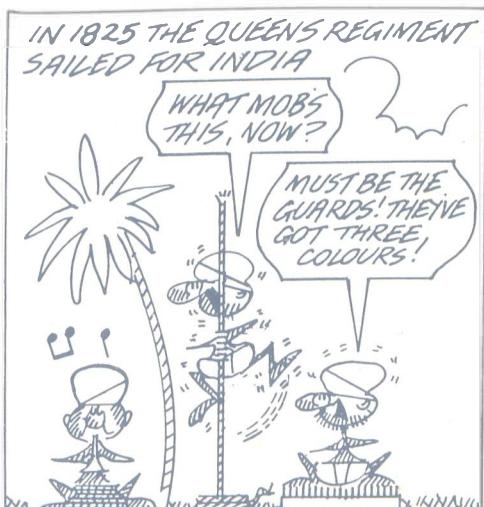
There were many individual acts of heroism. Private Galloway distinguished himself by running out telephone wires before being killed in the midst of his endeavours. Sergeant Oxman performed prodigies of organisation in neutralising German machine gun fire. Miraculously he was unscathed although there were seven bullet holes in his clothing. Lieutenant Clinton was wounded in the knee but, after having his wounds dressed, returned to his machine guns to supervise their withdrawal. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel H.S. Streatfield, later made special mention of the gallantry of the stretcher bearers.

Casualties were undoubtedly heavy but two things which did not fall casualty were the heroism and reputation of the Regiment.

In May, 1918, showing that they were still not devoid of their sterling qualities, the Battalion received written congratulations from Lieutenant General R. Butler, Commanding III Corps, on their successful counter-attack which recovered a temporarily lost position named Hairpin Trench.

Back home in London there must have been mixed emotions of pride and affection, and unfortunately sorrow, among the relatives and friends of those who served City and Country so well.

Regimental History as seen by G Robinson





King Charles II husband of Catherine of Braganza who gave orders for the raising of The Tangier Regiment of Horse and Foot to garrison the Port of Tangier one of the Foot Regiments became the 2nd, The Queen's.



Queen Catherine of Braganza, daughter of John of the House of Braganza the Infanta of Portugal, who became the Queen from whom The Queen's the Second of Foot, took their title.



Piercy Kirke, or Kirk the Elder commanded the Second Tangier Regiment (The Kings Own) He became Governor of Tangier and Colonel of the Queen's in 1682. Died at Breda, October 1691.



Piercy Kirke the Younger, joined the Regiment as an Ensign in 1686. Having commanded the Regiment for thirty years Lieutenant General Kirke died in Gibraltar on New Years Day 1741. Eighteen years of his service had been spent in Gibraltar, so short a distance from Tangier where "his father had ruled the Regiment in its stormiest years" (I Davis)