

MAY 1993



NUMBER 53

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER





## REGIMENTAL AND ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1993



16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811)
26th May	Golf Society-v-R. Marines. Details to members from Golf Society Secretary.
28th May	Presidents Reception - Clandon.
1st June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794)
6th June	Queen's Surreys Association Annual Church Service. Guildford Cathedral 11am for 1115 hrs.
9th June	Review Day Parade, Canterbury.
5th September	Surrey ACF Rebadging Parade; Deepcut.
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943)
2nd October	6 Queen's OCA. Dinner and reunion, Union Jack Club, details from M. Nason TD. 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR
2nd October	Museum Open Day, Clandon.
6th October	Autumn meeting - The Golf Society. Details to members from Golf Society Secretary.
8th October	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Ladies Luncheon - Clandon. Details will be sent with the Newsletter.
16th October	East Surrey Old Comrades reunion, St. Johns, Clapham. Details from F Ramsay MM. 20 Lavender Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3EE
29th October	All Ranks Reunion - Union Jack Club. Details will be sent to all members in the May Newsletter.
5th November	The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Officers' Club Dinner, London (TBC)
11th November	Field of Remembrance, St. Margaret's Westminster. (The details for this service are not yet finalised. The date is the 75th anniversary of the Armistice in 1918.)
14th November	Remembrance Day, Parades at Kingston, Guildford and Bermondsey.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY 1941.

1994

26th March	Association Trustees and committee meetings. Clandon.
3rd June	Officers Club Ladies Luncheon - Clandon.



### **The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)**

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment reports with great sadness the recent deaths of three of its officers. Major John Barr was tragically killed in a helicopter accident in Northern Ireland on 26 November, Major Alan Martin MBE, 1 Queens Paymaster from 1970 to 1977 and Financial Secretary at RHQ since 1982 died on 11 March, and Major Bob Le-Galloudec, former RSM and QM 1 R HAMPS, passed away on 19 March.

Six months after amalgamation, the new Regiment is proving to be a highly efficient and very happy organisation with several notable successes already under its belt.

The 1st Battalion exercise in Kenya planned for early this year was unfortunately cancelled but was replaced by many other interesting activities including skiing in Bavaria, adventurous training in Gibraltar, Spain, Sardinia and UK, and community projects throughout the Regimental area. Subsequently, training was arranged for one company only in Kenya in March and April. Meanwhile the battalion football team won the Infantry Cup with an impressive 6 : 2 defeat of 3 R Irish in the final at Tidworth.

The 2nd Battalion's exercise in Kenya from February to March went ahead as planned and full reports of this will appear in the Regimental Journal in June. On the sporting

side, the battalion teams won the Army Judo Competition, were runner-up in the Army Novices Boxing and won two silver medals in the Cambrian Patrol Competition.

The 5th Battalion mustered 500 all ranks for its final camp with 20 Armoured Brigade in Germany and also won a silver medal in the Cambrian Patrol Competition. One of their new officers, 2Lt Julian Ladd, distinguished himself by winning the TA Cane on his commissioning course at RMA Sandhurst.

The 6/7th Battalion provided 80 rank and file for the Lord Mayor's Procession and, as usual, have had outstanding results in competitions. They won the Army Night Orienteering Championships (TA), a Gold medal in the TA Cambrian Patrol competition and a silver in the Army Cambrian Patrol Championships.

Among other Regular members of the Regiment now reinforcing other units, Gallipoli Company from the 2nd Battalion attached to 1 DERR won their inter-company boxing prior to moving with them in March to Northern Ireland.

All eyes are now being focused on the Review of the new Regiment to be held in Canterbury on Wednesday 9th June. We hope very much that many QUEENS SURREYS Regimental Association members will be able to attend what promises to be a most memorable occasion.

JJW

## Editorial

More bad news of reductions in manpower, this time the savage cuts in Army bands was announced on Budget Day. All our readers have lived through cuts in regiments, units, unit establishment and those who served before the Second World War will remember the days when each battalion had its own Band and Drums. Soon after the War, Infantry regiments lost their second battalions and with it their band, each Infantry regiment retained a band serving and travelling with their First battalion. This will no longer be the practice. The cuts from 63 bands to 29 will cause problems now and in the future. Many ceremonial occasions will now take place without a band. The Queen's Division will have two bands comprising musicians from The PWRR, RRF and Royal Anglian regiments. Yet to be decided, is where they will be stationed, title of the bands, what uniform and other accoutrements they will wear and the future training of the bandsmen. The regimental band is now a thing of the past, and regrettably the regiments will be the poorer for their loss.

The battalions will once again have to rely on their Corps of Drums and it is hoped that they at least, will be spared any future cuts in Army manpower, but as we have all learnt to our cost, when dealing with the Treasury and the new look MOD nothing is sacred anymore.

This edition features our regimental museum at Clandon. For those of you who can visit it is very worthwhile. Admission is free to members producing their Association membership card. Many changes have taken place within the museum in recent years, and we, as a Regiment owe a great debt to Brigadier Michael Clarke who has been Chairman for the last six years, with a dedicated group of helpers he has made our museum such a fascinating and wonderful place to visit.

The Annual Church service once again is upon us, come along and say a few prayers on June 6th, it may help, but you will also be able to see friends who you have served with. The preacher will be Lt Col Mike Walters who was Padre to 1st Bn The Queens from 1975 - 1978.

Best wishes to you all.

Les Wilson

## Regimental Council

The President has decided because of Options for Change, and the future of the Army, to re-institute a Regimental Council of senior retired officers of The Regimental Association, so that he may discuss matters which may affect the Association in the future.

It will normally meet once a year before the main Association meetings but could if considered necessary meet more frequently.

The members of the Council are:

Brigadier M.J. Doyle MBE, President of the Association.  
Lieutenant Colonel W.E. McConnell TD, Chairman of the Association.

Colonel J.W. Sewell, Past President.

Colonel P.A.W.G. Durrant OBE, Chairman, Museum Trustees.

Brigadier M.J.A. Clarke MBE, Past Chairman, Museum Trustees.

Colonel P.R.H. Thompson OBE. TD, Chairman, Territorial Trustees.

Lieutenant Colonel J.B. Ray, Chairman, The Officers Club.

Lieutenant Colonel L.M. Wilson, MBE, Honorary Secretary.

Brigadier R.W. Acworth CBE, Deputy Colonel PWRR.

## President's Notes

Thanks to our hard working Regimental Secretary, Lt Col Les Wilson, I am pleased to record that the Association continues to thrive. In particular more benevolence work than ever before is being carried out on behalf of old members of our Regiments and their dependents, and I know that the Trustees of our funds feel that this is a very proper use of this money built up over many years by our predecessors. I personally consider it the most important of our Association's roles.

It is pleasing to record that the links previously maintained by the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Surrey are being continued by the County with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Towns of Guildford and Kingston on Thames have both conferred their Freedom upon the new Regiment and I understand that the Borough of Reigate and Banstead is to do so also. This will help our Association in keeping in touch with our successor Regiment.

The sad reduction in the number of military bands throughout the army will be noticed by everyone. This will though enhance the importance of the Corps of Drums in infantry battalions where there is no longer a band. You will wish to know that your Trustees recently agreed to fund the purchase of new Sashes for the Drum Majors of the First, Second and Fifth Battalions of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Most of the battle honours to be carried on the new Sashes are those previously borne by the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, so they will be a visible reminder to us all of our continuing links. I hope to be able to present these to the three Drum Majors at my annual reception for the civic dignitaries of Surrey at Clandon Park at the end of May.

I would once more on behalf of all members like to thank Les Wilson for all he does in so many ways on behalf of the Association and in particular for producing this excellent Newsletter.

Mike Doyle

## 'Deja Vu'

So, it is to be The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire). To those interested in regimental history it all seems to have a familiar ring!

George Lewis, elector of Brunswick-Luneburg (popularly known as Hanover) succeeded to the throne of England and Scotland in 1714 as King George the First. His matrimonial arrangements could be said to be somewhat irregular for after his wife Sophia Dorothea had produced a son and a daughter he had divorced her and had her imprisoned in a fortress. For consolation he had no less than three mistresses. It was with one of these that George the First landed at Greenwich on the 18th of September, 1714. She was Baroness Kielmansegge, a lady of such generous proportions that she became known popularly as 'The Elephant and Castle'.

It was perhaps understandable that King George did not wish to have any of his English regiments named after his Queen. So it was that the Queen Dowager's Royal Regiment, the one founded for the defence of Tangier, was renamed 'Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales Own Regiment' after the King's daughter-in-law Caroline.

Dyed-in-the-wool Queensmen will be heartened to learn that thirteen years later when George the First died he was succeeded by his son George the Second. Caroline became his Queen consort and the title of her regiment became 'The Queen's Own Regiment'.

## The Queen's (Southwark) Regt. Association.

The Annual dinner of the 1/7th Queen's Old Comrades Association was held at the Union Jack Club on 6th March 1993 and as usual a number of our Belgian friends from St. Niklaas were present.

Major Ken Jessup acted as Chairman owing to the absence through illness of the President Lt. Col. Bill Griffiths D.S.O. M.C.

It was a very special occasion as it was the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Medenine fought by 131 Bde. in Tunisia on 6th March 1943. This action was later described by Field Marshall Montgomery as "The greatest defensive battle of the Desert War".

It is of interest to note that some of the lessons learnt as a result of that Battle were of assistance to the troops in the Gulf War because of the research and analysis carried out by the Ministry of Defence.

A general description of the battle was outlined by Major Stuart Playfoot M.C. who then explained the layout of the 1/7th Battalion position and particularly stressed the magnificent part played by the anti-tank platoon.

Major Guy Sandys then described in greater detail the layout of the anti-tank guns and the reasons for their special disposition which made the victory possible. This was so eloquently honoured by the Canadian Government who awarded a Gun and Plaque to record the destruction of 27 enemy tanks on the Battalion front. This was a record!

Dusty Miller who was the guest of honour then added a number of humourous stories of events during the Battle. His remarks were warmly applauded.

Finally the toast of "Absent Friends" was proposed by Harry Buckland of the A/T Platoon with particular reference to the former members of the platoon.

Sadly our numbers dwindle each year but the spirit of fellowship, loyalty and camaraderie remains as strong as ever and it is hoped that it will continue for many years to come.

SP.

## Golf Society

The Autumn Meeting of the Golf Society took place at Woking Golf Club on Thursday 1st October. 19 members attended.

We were once again fortunate to enjoy good weather, and the course was in excellent condition.

### The Results of the Competitions were:-

Autumn Bowl	Capt BML Scripps	72 nett
Glasgow Greys Cup	Lt Col FB Herd	68 nett
Heales Memorial Trophy	Maj R Green	33pts
Veterans Halo	Lt Col GS Abbott	38 pts
Petri Plate	Capt BML Scripps	138 nett

### Agg Spring & Autumn Meetings

Pm Foursomes 14 Holes	Lt Col PGFM Roupell and HP Mason Esq	27 pts
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The Spring Meeting will be held on Thursday 6th May, the Royal Marines Match on Wednesday 26th May, and the Autumn Meeting on Wednesday 6th October, 1993.

FBH

## East Surrey Old Comrades Association

The 1992 Annual Reunion took place at Clapham Drill Hall on Saturday 24 October. Sadly, the Association Secretary, Stan Jupe died two weeks before the event. Stan had not been in the best of health for some time, but the suddenness of his death came as a shock. In a short speech, the Association President, Colonel Derek Bishop, paid tribute to Stan and his work for the Association. He also expressed the appreciation of members for the support of Stan's family and Kath Bedford. Kath has done much for the Association over the years and the 1992 Reunion was able to go ahead largely due to her work in taking on the administration on Stan's death. We are much in debt to both Stan and Kath.

The Association remains in good hands. Tony Ramsay has taken over as Secretary and Kath Bedford will continue her assistance. Fred Jenkins has taken on the post of Treasurer.

The Reunion itself was very well attended. The efficiently run bar and its reasonable prices helped things to go with a swing. As is usually the case, one or two members were present for the first time including Sergeant Nobby Clark from Canterbury. Several others present had served with him in Egypt, Greece and Barnard Castle.

Next year's Reunion will again be held at Clapham, on Saturday 16 October. The Drill Hall is well decorated and maintained, and with its secure car-parking arrangements makes a pleasant and convenient venue for our meetings. We look forward to our continued strong support.

DRB

## Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The Association was well represented at the East Surrey Regiment's Old Comrades reunion and also at the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association reunion.

There was a splendid turn-out from the Association at the Remembrance Day parade at Kingston-upon-Thames where we marched past the saluting base to the tune of "A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky" played by the 5th Volunteer Band PWRR. At the Drill Hall the RAMC provided a very good lunch which was followed by a most enjoyable band concert.

The Christmas Draw took place on November 28th in the main hall where a most successful evening was attended by over 100 members with families and friends. our thanks go to all who assisted in this excellent event, including provision of the buffet, and to all who subscribed towards it.

Dates of our monthly meetings are:-

July 31st, August 21st, September TBN, October 30th, November 30th, December 18th.

For those unable to attend our monthly meetings, units for the draw can be purchased through the Secretary, F. Jenkins at a cost of 20p per unit. The closing date for such purchases is first post on Saturday, November 30th.

FJ

*THANK YOU: Once again we are indebted to Major J.L.A. Fowler TD. for material help with our Newsletter.*

## Remembrance Service Guildford

Over thirty members attended the Remembrance Service and Parade at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford to pay their respect to those who have fallen for their country over the years. The Mayor and Guildford Borough Council were in full attendance. Wreaths were laid at the memorial in the church by the Mayor and by Colonel J.W. Sewell representing The Queens Royal Surrey Regimental Association. After the service the usual parade was formed and marched to the town memorial at the Castle Grounds, the salute being taken outside the church by the Mayor, Councillor Anthony Page, accompanied by the Corporation. The band of the newly formed Logistics Regiment played us to the grounds. In the absence of Lt. Colonel Herd the parade was taken by Lt. Colonel Geoffrey Wright TD, the contingent being lead by Mr Vic Slater. At the wreath laying ceremony Colonel Sewell laid a further wreath for the Queens Surreys and Mr Ron May laid one on behalf of The 5th Bn. Queens Royal Regiment Old Members Association.

RM



*Remembrance Day, Guildford 1992*

*Left to Right:- Bob Bookham, Howard Carter, Eric Saunders, Doug Mitchell and Ron May*

## “C” Coy 1/5th Queens, Cranleigh Reunion

Our thanks to the Cranleigh Reunion Committee for moving their evening back a week to allow us to hold our anniversary dinner as near as possible to the 23rd October. Thirty five members attended this very enjoyable dinner at the Cricket Pavilion, Cranleigh on Saturday 31st October, although numbers tend to dwindle these days. Mr Les May, Chairman of the The Queen's Cranleigh Comfort Fund welcomed everyone, specially mentioning the Guest of Honour, the Reverend Castle, Padre to the Battalion, who had travelled from Essex. Also accorded a mention was Fred Tebbenham who had joined the TA seventy years ago and still seemed as young as ever.. The Chairman spoke of the sterling work done by the Secretary and Treasurer, Jackie Petch, in arranging the function. In reply Jackie said that the committee had decided to have a luncheon in future to see if more members could attend. We wish the committee luck with the change over.

RM

## Remembering El Alamein

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle of El Alamein, the 5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members' Association held a reunion dinner at Sandfield Terrace Drill Hall, Guildford for members and wives when just over 100 attended. Music was provided by the Kohima Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Opening the evening the chairman of the association, Lt. Colonel Foster Herd welcomed the guests, many of whom had travelled long distances, especially mentioning Captain Brian Scripps, Geoff Regester, Doug Mitchell and Ron May, all of whom had contributed greatly to the organisation of the evening. The 5th Queen's arrived in North Africa in mid 1942, soon to take part in the battle which commenced on the night of 23/24 October. They were part of the 44 Division which took the full attack from the enemy, resulting in heavy casualties. After re-organisation and re-formation the Queens were part of the force which went from El Alamein to Tunis, Salerno, Volturno and then returned to England to prepare for D-Day and the road to Berlin where the 5th Battalion represented the Regiment in the Berlin victory parade with the 7th Armoured Division.



*Left to Right:- Ron May, Mrs Dorothy May, Mrs Susan Herd, LtCol Foster Herd, Mrs Margaret Mitchell, Doug Mitchell.*



*Left to Right:- Ray Punter, Bill Petch, Roger Chitty, Cecil Burrows, Jack Petch.*

## Congratulations to:-

Colonel and Mrs Toby Sewell on their 45th Wedding Anniversary on 30th January 1993.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Swanson on his assuming command of The London Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Amédée Miéville on the award of the OBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours.



Cyril Taylor has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours. All members send their congratulations to Cyril.

Cyril Taylor joined the Pyrford Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans Association in 1956. He became Secretary in 1958, supposedly on a "temporary basis", but eventually holding the position for thirty three years to become the longest serving Secretary in the Association.

Within that time he has assisted with the annual Pilgrimage arrangements, been National Quartermaster dealing with ties and badges, and later taking over the issue in the U.K. of the Dunkirk Commemorative Medal.

A former member of the East Surrey Regiment, he joined A (MG Coy.) Chertsey detachment in 1937, going to France with the 1/6th Bn. in April, 1940 and being taken prisoner in June. Via Poland and various prison camps, he was eventually incarcerated in Stalag Luft III where there occurred the saga of the Wooden Horse and the great escape. After a long march across Germany to Frankfurt he was eventually released by General Patten's men to well earned and welcome freedom.

GW

## Best Wishes to:-

Doug Mitchell now recovering at home after being rushed to hospital.

Frank Bohm, who sadly has had to have a leg amputated, now once again mobile.

Best wishes, to Brigadier Michael Clarke who has relinquished the appointment as Chairman, Museum Trustees, and our very sincere thanks for all he did whilst Chairman.

## Donations

The Trustees wish to thank all those members who have sent donations to our funds, and in particular those who have provided a little extra in order to supply a copy of the Newsletter for a friend.

## 5 OMA El Alamein Dinner



## The King's African Rifles and East African Forces Officers' Dinner Club

Has been in existence since 1947 and currently has around 450 members. The Club is open to all officers who have served with the KAR, NRR, or Somaliland Scouts. Its annual dinner is held in London, usually on the first Friday in June. Guests of Honour in recent years have included General Sir David Ramsbotham, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Tom King (all ex KAR) and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Life membership is only £10 and cheques should be forwarded to the Hon Sec, Major George Pearson MBE, 'Harambee', Chilton Corner, Great Waldingfield, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0RL. Club ties, the KAR Regimental tie and the ties of many KAR battalions can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Lt Col Richard Corkran OBE, Crockfords, Shurlock Row, Berkshire RG10 0PL.

## 50th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein 1992.

The 8th Army Veterans' Association tour of Egypt to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein was attended by Major Ken Jessup and Major Guy Sandys (who were both in action on the first night of the Battle, 23rd October 1942) together with Vic Cripps, Larry Uren and Joe Wadge from the Queen's Southwark Regimental Assocn. After spending a couple of days in Cairo at the Ghezira Sheraton Hotel, during which time we visited the various tourist attractions of the pyramids, Sphinx, National Museum (including the Tutankhamen exhibition) and the sound and light show at Ghiza. During the latter show we were subjected to a slight earthquake although much smaller in effect than Cairo had experienced in the previous week before our arrival.

We then moved on to Alexandria and after a sumptuous lunch next to ex King Farouk's Palace, we took the Mediterranean coast road to the Alamein Beach Hotel at Sidi Abd el Rabman which was to be our base for the next three days. On the evening of 23rd October we were invited to an Ambassadorial Reception in honour of the veterans of the Battle of Alamein at the British Consulate in Alexandria where in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent we were received by the British Ambassador. The Prime Minister Mr John Major, the Minister of Defence Mr Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Winston Churchill were also present as were the Captain and ship's company of *HMS Argonaut*, in port in Alexandria, who very skilfully were in charge of the dispensation of the liquid refreshments. In a short speech our Prime Minister thanked the veterans present for the part they had played so effectively in the Battle of Alamein fifty years ago.

On 24th October we attended the International ceremony at the German memorial at El Alamein. By rotation it was the turn of Germany to stage the ceremony this year. Pastoral addresses were made in German, Italian and English followed by the laying of wreaths by all participating nations, including representatives of Veterans' Associations, War Graves Commissions and other delegations. Although the service was held at 0900 hours the Egyptian sun was felt by us all before we moved off along the coast road to the vast Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at El Alamein which despite its size is as near as you can get to a country churchyard in the sand, with tropical shrubs in flower tastefully planted around.

Here the Prime Minister in a short ceremony marked the start of the 1992 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal which was followed by the arrival of HRH The Duke of Kent. The Commonwealth Service of Commemoration then commenced which was conducted by the Archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt and North Africa. The Act of Remembrance was performed by HRH The Duke of Kent who then laid a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance for the Commonwealth on behalf of HM The Queen followed by the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and France, representative Ministers of Australia, New Zealand and Greece, the Ambassadors of other participating nations, 8th Army Veterans' Association, Royal British Legion and the Veterans' Associations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

It was a very moving service which included a lament, the Last Post, Two Minutes Silence, Reveille, a Scripture Reading by the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, hymns and prayers by the Officiating Clergy. The solemn nature of the occasion brought back poignant and everlasting memories of our Regimental friends and companions half a century ago, who lost their lives in the first few hours of the Battle, (The 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment) was involved in the opening barrage attack on the night of the 23rd October and sorrowfully lost their Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and three of their Company Commanders, as well as over two hundred other ranks.

A suitably inscribed poppy wreath was laid at the foot of the Memorial. Whilst we were at the Alamein Beach Hotel several trips were organised into the "Blue" to remind us of the conditions we had endured 50 years ago and we visited such well known features as Kidney, Miteirya and Ruweisat Ridges.

On our way back to Cairo Airport via El Alamein, Burg el Arab (formerly rear 9th Army HQ - and now unrecognisable!) and the coast road to Alexandria, the development of agriculture and industry was very noticeable. Cairo continues to grow and motorists still drive on their horn by day and flashing headlights by night and it was not surprising to be told that deaths on Cairo roads number some one hundred daily.

EGS

\* \* \* \*



Anzio Beachhead Cemetery

Left to Right:-

14315472.

Pte. J W Ashton

24th February. 1944

Age 19

1452085.

Pte K Hopper

February 1944

Age 20

4913672.

Pte R Mears

24th February 1944

Pyramids at Ghiza, 22/10/92  
Majors Guy Sandys & Ken Jessup

## Queensmen Versus Panzers - 1

One of my last actions as Colonel, The Queen's Regiment, was to give instructions for the "Medenine" gun to be returned from the Queen's Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn to Howe Barracks, Canterbury. I first saw this famous gun on 22nd August 1950 when I reported to the Depot at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford on commissioning into the Regiment from Sandhurst. As all Queensmen will remember, after walking (marching??) under the Lamb over the gate at Stoughton Barracks, the first thing one saw was the "Medenine" gun standing proudly at the foot of the Keep. The story of this famous 6 pdr is the first of two articles I hope to write detailing occasions when the infantrymen of The Queen's Royal Regiment, specifically the 1/7th Battalion, defeated the elite of Hitler's Panzerwaffe.

On 6th March 1943 1/7th Queen's, with its sister battalions 1/5th and 1/6th, formed 131 Brigade in the 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats), part of General Montgomery's 8th Army in North Africa. The Brigade was holding a position to the west of the town of Medenine, just short of the Mareth Line. Rommel, the famous German commander, had already delivered a severe blow against the Allied 1st Army in Tunisia but he knew that unless he dealt with Monty's 8th Army to his east, he would soon be squeezed between the two Allied armies whose combined resources would inevitably overwhelm him. By 27th February three German Panzer divisions with six Axis infantry divisions were in the area of the Mareth Line. On 5th March Rommel told his commanders that unless they could capture Monty's supply dumps and force his army to withdraw, the days of the Afrika Korps were numbered. He had 160 tanks, 200 guns and 52000 infantry available for the attack - and the Queen's Brigade was sitting right in its path!

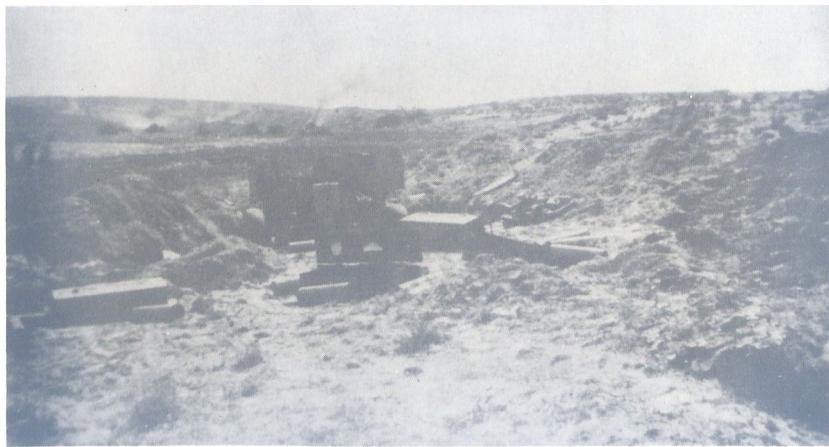
Former members of the 1/5th and 1/6th Battalions will, I hope, forgive me if I concentrate on the actions of 1/7th, for I am after all telling the story of 1/7th's "Medenine" gun! The following account of the battle of Medenine was written by Major Guy Sandys, the anti-tank Platoon commander of 1/7th Queen's at the time of the battle. It appears in Major John Tamplin's history "The Lambeth and Southwark Volunteers".

The anti-tank platoon was formed in August 1942 shortly after the Battalion arrived in Egypt with two troops each 4 X 2-pdr. guns on portees, and was commanded by Captain W. D. Griffiths, with Lieutenant C. M. W. Plumley and myself as Troop Commanders. I took over command of the Platoon in October 1942. In January 1943 a troop Of 4 x 6 pdr. guns was substituted for a troop (No. 2) Of 4 X 2 pdrs. and in April 1943 the Platoon was completely equipped with 6 pdr. guns-the change over and subsequent re-training having almost literally taken place while the Battalion was on the advance. Lieutenant L. H. Cockcroft, a gallant officer who was killed in action with his troop in Italy on 29 September 1943, commanded No. 2 Troop during the successful action at Medenine.

On the night of 5/6 March our patrols heard much movement of transport, and at 0600 hours, 6 March, during 'stand to' enemy shelling commenced. The first report of any enemy movement was of 15 infantry at 0645 hours and this was quickly followed by a strong force of German

tanks (Marks III, III Special, IV and IV Special) advancing along the track parallel to the wadi towards A Company's positions. The leading tanks came into the sights of No. 5 6-pdr. gun commanded by Sergeant R. I. Andrew, who, knowing the anti-tank layout to be mutually supporting and in accordance with prearranged Platoon gun drill, allowed the first four tanks to proceed along the track. The 5th and 6th tanks were engaged and direct hits disabled them, causing the crews to 'bale out'. Fire was then directed on the leading tanks with successful results and further tanks (about twelve in number) swung east and south. Some selected hull-down positions in a wadi on the immediate flank of A Company and were able to bring both anti-tank and machine-gun fire across the Battalion area, whilst they themselves were partly defiladed from our guns. At the same time infantry were advancing on all Company fronts and were heavily engaged by artillery and mortar fire.

Sergeant Andrew took up the challenge, but the targets presented were small, and during the encounter the parapet



*The Medenine Gun*

of his gun site was demolished by direct hits, and he ordered the crew to take cover while he continued to load and fire the gun himself. He disabled a further two tanks which at the time constituted a grave threat to A Company's position and prevented the enemy from entering the main wadi. Sergeant Andrew, whose conduct was exemplary throughout the Battle, fired sixty five rounds 6-pdr. A.P. shot during the day and the assistance provided by Privates Robertson and Crossman in maintaining the ammunition supply under fierce fire is worthy of mention.

The position remained almost static up to 1200 hours when further German tanks advanced towards A Company's area bringing the total to about twenty; and their fire, together with artillery shelling, made movement in the Battalion area extremely hazardous. Having been driven east and south by the effective anti-tank fire from No. 5 Gun (Sergeant Andrew), the enemy tanks then entered the smaller wadi on the left of the main wadi and were seen to form up in close order preparatory to a further attack, which had been reported would most likely start at about 1430 hours. As this appeared to be a direct threat to the left flank of the Battalion, the C.O. ordered that fire from both the 69th Medium and 146th Field Regiments be brought down. However, the first wave of tanks moved forward while the shelling was in progress and after temporarily denting the nearby right-hand positions of the 1/6th Queen's were immediately engaged by No. 7 gun (Sergeant J. F. Crangles) and No. 8 gun (Sergeant Vincent). Two of the leading tanks were disabled at a

range of about 300 yards, but shortly afterwards No. 8 gun (Sergeant Vincent) was, put out of action, not before some good work had been carried out by Lance-Corporal Wilson and Private Odgaard. anti-tank armour-piercing shot and small arms anti-personnel fire was then directed on No. 7 gun, but the crew continued to engage the tanks and the bren-gunner (Lance-Corporal Falla-Phillips) kept up a high rate of fire which prevented the German tank commanders from observing their targets fully. In all about fourteen tanks were knocked out by No- 7 gun crew, who fought magnificently until a direct hit with A.P. shot on the recuperator put the gun out of action. The remaining tanks then had a clear run and were able to approach and surround No- 7 and 8 gun sites. Further resistance not being possible, the crews, after a struggle, were taken prisoners of war. As the enemy forced their prisoners to march away close to their tanks, it was impossible to bring down any fire without causing casualties to our own men. The enemy had, however, been severely mauled and was forced to retire and made no further advance for the rest of the day on this sector. There were a total of four main attacks during the day and at least one hundred German tanks were used against the Queen's Brigade, and forty-five were left after the battle. The Queen's had fought magnificently; our positions remained firm and steady throughout and were not penetrated.

At first light on 7 March, I went to No. 7 gun site and after checking the position, reported back to Battalion H.Q. that the following tanks were lying disabled on A Company's front:

12 Mark IV Special,  
12 Mark III Special, and  
3 Mark III.

Sergeants Andrew and Crangles were awarded the D.C.M. for their courageous actions in this Battle. In addition, Medenine was subsequently selected and authorised as a Regimental Battle Honour.

In his book El Alamein to the River Sangro, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery wrote:

*'After dark the enemy withdrew; the battle was over. It had been a model defensive engagement and a great triumph for the infantry and the anti-tank gun. Only one squadron of our tanks was actually engaged in the fighting and we lost no tanks. 52 knocked-out enemy tanks were left on the battlefield and all but 7 (dealt with by the tank squadron) had fallen to our anti-tank guns. Without wire or mines our infantry with strong artillery support had repulsed an attack of 3 Panzer Divisions and incurred only minor losses in the process. Very great care had been taken in positioning our anti-tank guns and it should be noted that they were sited to kill tanks at point blank range; and not to defend the infantry.'*

It may be interesting to recall that soon after taking over command of 131 (Queen's) Lorried Infantry Brigade, Brigadier L. G. Whistler promised a £1, up to £5, for every German tank knocked out by anti-tank guns. This offer was not known by the anti-tank platoons at the time and it was a pleasant surprise therefore when soon after the Battle of Medenine a letter arrived from Brigadier Whistler containing payment of his promise and stating

that although he was delighted to lose the cash he was nevertheless glad that he put a reservation on the amount!

As readers will know Sgt Andrews sadly died, aged 73, last year. His gun, No 5, which had been made in Canada, was later presented with a plate, the gift of the UK Inspection Board of Canada, in recognition of its having destroyed more enemy tanks than any other surviving gun in the North African campaign. In respect of this action Lt Gen Sir Oliver Leese, Commander 30th Corps wrote:

*"A few days ago Rommel lashed out at the 8th Army and the brunt of his attack fell on the Queen's Brigade. The three Queen's battalions, especially 1/7th, without mines or wire, 'saw off' the attack of two panzer divisions. Everyone agrees it was a most magnificent performance."*

In 1969 I had the great honour and pleasure of joining Brigadier Bill Griffiths DSO MC and Major E G Sandys MC, on a battlefield tour of Tunisia. They had both fought with 1/7th at Medenine, Major Guy Sandys, as already mentioned, being the Battalion Anti-tank Platoon commander. Unbelievably, the gun pits of the 1/7th anti-tank platoon at Medenine were still visible in the desert!

And No 5 gun? In John Tamplin's book "The Lambeth & Southwark Volunteers" Major Sandys describes its journey back to the UK:

*"When the battalion was relieved by the Canadian Army in the Rome sector in December 1943, all equipment apart from personal issues had to be handed over. Since this well known gun was now regarded as Unit property the CO (Lt Col D S Gordon) arranged that it should be retained and brought back with the Battalion to the UK. The latter task was entrusted to me (Major Sandys). The Battalion was due to embark on the SS Boussevain at Naples harbour on 20 December. Naples dock had however, been badly bombed by Allied aircraft prior to the Italian campaign and much shipping had been sunk. The retreating German army had also carried out heavy demolition in order to make the dock unusable and no berth was available. Consequently before embarkation was possible three unturned ships had to be crossed by means of somewhat rickety pontoon bridges. I had some difficulty in persuading the embarkation staff to agree to the shipment of the gun but this difficulty proved to be small in comparision with the task of manhandling the gun over the hazardous gangways to the ship. After many anxious moments the gun was duly hauled on board but none of the ship's company wished to take any responsibility for its care. The OC troops (Colonel Sandeman Allen) was however, very cooperative and eventually it was placed in the bows as deck cargo and made fast. The gun survived the voyage and was unloaded when the battalion disembarked at Glasgow on 3 January 1944. The Battalion encamped the night at the transit camp*

in that port and the following day entrained for Hunstanton in Norfolk. More manhandling was necessary and it can be recorded that on this occasion the railway authorities entered into the spirit of the event when the story of the gun was related to them and were very happy to allocate space for it in the guards van. The gun eventually arrived at Hunstanton and at first occupied an honoured place outside the Golden Lion Hotel which had been selected for the Officers' Mess. .... In May 1944 I delivered the gun to the Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford for safe keeping."

With the closure of the old Queen's Depot at Guildford in June 1959 a new home had to be found for No 5 gun. Lt Col PG Collyer, the Officer Commanding, and RSM Atkins, after indenting for, and receiving, two new tyres arranged for it to go to the Depot of the newly formed Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury, where the CO, Colonel D C Snowdon (Queen's Royal Regiment) was more than happy to receive it. It remained there until 22nd May 1968 when it was moved to the Depot of the newly formed Queen's Regiment, at Howe Barracks in the same city. Once more an ex Queen's Royal Regiment officer, Colonel AG Jones the CO, was in position to receive it and, to everyone's delight, Major Guy Sandys was present for its arrival. That Depot closed in 1969 in yet another centralisation of recruit training and a new much larger Depot, that of the Queen's Division, opened at Bassingbourn. Fortunately Colonel Alan Jones arranged for the gun to move there and on 23rd June 1970 Major Guy Sandys was once more present to see Sgt Andrews's gun installed, near to the Grant tank used by 'Monty' during the Desert campaign, at the front gate of Bassingbourn Barracks. It was very fitting that the first Colonel Commandant of The Queen's Division was Major General Michael Forrester CB CBE DSO MC, an ex Commanding Officer of 1st/6th Queen's.

It would be very remiss of me if I did not finish the story of No 5 (Medenine) gun by pointing out that the officer who implemented my instructions to retrieve it from Bassingbourn, which is now an Army Training Regiment, was none other than Lt Col L M Wilson MBE, your Association Honorary Secretary!

*Pristinae Virtutis Memor*

MFR

*The General's next article will cover the action of 1/7th Queen's at Villers Bocage on 13th June 1944.*

*He would be grateful if any former member of the battalion who personally took part in that action would contact him through Lt Col Wilson at RHQ.*

#### **Singapore and Malaysia**

Following my overseas posting for my employer to Manila in the Philippines I made the decision to spend some time in Malaysia and Singapore, it only being 2 hours flying time away, re-visiting areas that had been familiar to me when serving with A Coy 1st Queens 1954-56.

Unfortunately due to international takeovers and the world wide recession my stay overseas lasted only 15 months, nevertheless we did manage two trips one over the Christmas, the second on route home to join the other 2 million unemployed in the UK. As expected with both

countries gaining independence and 35 years elapsed, changes have taken place.

We arrived in Singapore at Changi Airport, a name familiar to most ex Servicemen who spent time out that way. The name is the same but the airport is not. It is one of the most modern and efficient that I have ever had the pleasure to travel through. The same must be said of the staff, both the airport employees as well as the Government officials, Immigration, Customs and the Police. Despite the startling notice warning travellers that the penalty for drug smuggling is death, there is no feeling of fear or worry that can be felt when facing many foreign officials. Getting from the Airport to the City centre by Taxi is another pleasure, no fuss, no delays, no tipping (tipping is illegal in Singapore), taxis that are clean, as is all the City, meters that work and clearly displayed with a friendly driver who takes you to your destination in the most direct route and is immensely proud of his Country and quite willing to talk about it if you wish.

The long straight road out of the airport is wide with a central divider of very colourful plants for a couple of miles. Most impressive for the visitor being the first sight of the country. On remarking about this our taxi driver explained that if you look closely the plants are in fact in pots. The reason being in the event of a war or some similar emergency they can be easily removed, the wide straight road then doubles up as extra runways able to take the biggest aircraft known. In fact military readiness is everywhere with National Service still compulsory. This may seem a little over the top but with the Cold War over and the major powers withdrawing from the area leaving a vacuum and the oilrich but disputed Spratly Islands coming under the scrutiny of various Countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and China, maybe the need to be ready is essential.

Travel around the Island is very cheap and quick using the MRT (Mass Rapid Transport) a train service that travels underground in the city but overground once out of the city centre. The multi-storey shopping centres are equal to the most sophisticated in the world with the smaller stores housed next to the large multi-national supermarkets still prepared to haggle over the price of goods.

The city is ultra modern with high-rise office blocks, housing and hotels. About 80% of the major roads have been widened into 2 or 3 lane dual carriage-ways. This has meant demolishing buildings on one side of the road but the remaining buildings have been retained after major renovations and look extremely good. All this, plus time passing, has meant that it is difficult to recognise the old hunting grounds but some of the landmarks are still there. St Andrew's Cathedral is still there but instead of being the tallest building around it is now dwarfed by the modern surroundings. The old UJ Club is now the Singapore Army NCOs' club. Many of the old cinemas are still recognisable. The old Artillery stronghold of Blaken Mati is now a top tourist amusement island although the old gun emplacements are still kept as are some of the barracks but opened up as a tourist attraction. This island is connected to the main island by cable cars. Raffles is still Raffles but it was closed for a major refit. But I suppose the biggest surprise is that the original coastline has been altered considerably by a programme of land reclaim. The old Britannia Club which was located on the sea front is now a couple of miles inland.

I even found the tattooist named "Johnnie" who was responsible for decorating many a serviceman's body during the fifties and who claimed fame on two accounts.

One, at that time he was probably the only Gurkha on the Island that was not in the Army and, two, for having two thumbs on one hand. Although he has now retired, his son is carrying on the business but in a different shop, the old Tattoo parlour being closed down in the redevelopment of the area .

Singapore is a great place to visit, with great people and a warm welcome especially to ex-servicemen like me. We took a couple of coach trips into Malaysia. One was just across the Causeway to Johore Bahru, the second a full day to Malacca, now re-named Merlaka. The first thing that hit me was that as Malaysia and Singapore are separate countries each have their own customs posts, not like the old days when you could nip across the Causeway in both directions with no stopping. Now you can expect up to a 2 hour delay during busy times. The second thing to hit me was the lack of acres and acres of rubber plantations that I expected to find and that I thought was the back bone of the economy. Most have been replaced by oil palm plantations.

The third surprise was the obvious emergence of the Muslim religion. Whilst I was aware the Malays were Muslim it seemed to be very low key during the 1950's. Every Malay village that we passed through had a large Mosque in view, whilst all the Malay women and girls wore the traditional Muslim dress, covered from head to toe although we only saw a few of the real fundamentalists who covered their faces with the veil. The guide made one or two interesting points during his commentary. The world demand for rubber had fallen hence the reduction of the rubber plantations and the first palm-oil trees were introduced by the British in recent years but as a garden plant because they looked nice, it was found that they flourished in the local climate and that they could be grown as an export earning crop. He also said that rubber had dropped from the top export to around tenth, with petroleum products as top and tourism coming very close behind.

Malacca was one of the top tourist attraction because of the early European churches and forts, something I was never aware of when we would take a truck for a day's leave to this town during my service days. Then it was Tiger beer, Chinese food, the local air-conditioned cinemas and one or two other local delights which I'm sure will not be difficult for the lads to remember. On returning to the coach we walked past the City Municipal Buildings to find a memorial to all those who had taken part in the action against the communist terrorists. This was in the form of two of the Armoured Vehicles used during that campaign mounted on a plinth, with a plaque detailing the events of that time. Seemed odd to me to find that this chapter in my life would be considered a historical issue and so, could not resist taking a photo of the vehicles. One was the special armoured truck used specifically by the Malay Police, the other was the standard armoured scout car used by all the services.

On the return route to Singapore it was nice to cross roads with sign posts indicating places with familiar sounding names such as Seremban, or even more familiar to ex-1 Queen's was Tampin. This was the Bn HQ for the tour of 1953-56. Nearer to Singapore, Kota Tinggi appeared, where we were introduced to our jungle craft at the FARREL training school. It is still performing a similar function today.

If you have ever wondered if the hardships that we had to go through during our time out there were worth it, to see the quality of life and the happiness of the people in

Malaysia and especially Singapore where we helped build a secure basis for the subsequent independent Governments to develop, I can tell you the answer is yes.

RE

### Military Cemeteries

Military cemeteries all over the world pay silent but visible tribute to the price in human lives paid by members of HM Forces who as well as falling in battle, were victims of disease and other misfortunes.

The cemeteries in Bermuda are no exception and there among members of various other services, lie many members of The Queen's Royal Regiment. An epidemic of yellow fever in 1864 accounted for a total of 52 fatalities among officers and other ranks of the 2nd Bn The Queen's serving on the island and resulted in two commemorative obelisks being erected at Boaz Island and Ferry Point respectively. The former monument eventually became overgrown and was removed in 1980 to the military cemetery at Watford Island.

Between 1901 and 1903, consequent upon the South African War, 4,000 Boer prisoners were accommodated in Bermuda and 40 of these who died are sadly commemorated in a cemetery at Long Island.

Varied memorials are to be found in Prospect cemetery - among them being those to former Governor Lt Gen Sir Walter Kitchener (brother of Kitchener of Khartoum) who died in 1912, Police Commissioner George Duckett who was murdered in 1972 and Pte Lindsey of the East Yorkshire Regiment who died while gallantly trying to rescue a young boy from drowning in 1918.

Another victim of the yellow fever epidemic of 1864 - Dr David Millroy of the 30th Regiment, is commemorated in St Georges cemetery. A Naval hero, Petty Officer George MacKenzie Sampson, who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli in 1915, lies in the Anglican Cemetery.

137 Commonwealth War Graves are also to be found in various churchyards and cemeteries in Bermuda. The Queen's, by reason of their frequent garrison duties in Bermuda, are represented in many of the island's "places of final rest".

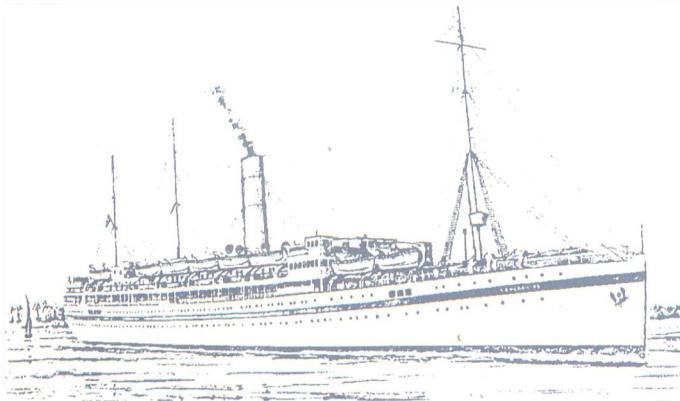
A typical and fitting memorial to them is the one at Ferry Reach which reads:-

*"In this graveyard constructed by the Soldiers of the 2nd Batt 2nd Queens Royals lie the remains of the following N C Officers and Privates of that Regt who died at the Ferry Camp, Bermudas during the epidemic of Yellow Fever. AD1864*

Sergt. G. Chandler	Sergt. H. Bonner
Lce. Cpl. I. Dickson	Cpl. R. Thacker
Pte. S. Tomkinson	Pte. J. Gorrell
Pte. W. Gunstone	Pte. H. Morrall
Pte. W. Rolfe	Pte. T. Clarke
Pte. R. Williams	Pte. J. Morley
Pte. W. Pugsley	Pte. J. Lester
Pte. D. Smith	Pte. F. Stone
Pte. J. Burns	Pte. T. Sharpe

*This monument was erected by the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment while stationed in Bermuda AD 1912-1914".*

## Troopships and Trooping



*Lancashire*

Before and during the 1939-45 War the movement of troops between England and overseas garrisons was by sea. In 1962 it was decided that overseas trooping would be carried out by air, and the day of the troopship came to an end. Before the War the best known troopships in regular service were the British India Steam Navigation Company's *Dilwara*, *Dunera*, *Neuralia* and *Nevasa* and the Bibby Line's *Devonshire*, *Dorsetshire*, *Lancashire* and *Somersetshire*. They were all ships of rather more than 9,000 tons gross with a service speed of 15 knots, designed to carry a complete battalion and a number of drafts and individuals. It is interesting to compare their tonnage with the 25,000 ton cross-Channel steamers of today.

The peace-time trooper had an attractive livery of a white hull with a broad blue band and a yellow funnel. The greater part of the pre-War trooping was to India, the voyage taking three weeks. In the Thirties the troops slept in hammocks, and the day at sea started with the call 'Rouse up, there. Lash up and stow'. The hammocks had to be lashed up with the blankets inside them and stowed in the racks above the mess tables. Each man was supplied with a sea kit bag for every day use, and this too was kept in the hammock rack.

There was a ship's military staff under a lieutenant colonel as OC Troops, a Ship's RSM (generally heartily disliked by the troops) and an Orderly Room staff who contrived to broadcast innumerable messages throughout the day over the ship's loudspeaker system. There was very little comfort in the troop decks where the soldiers ate, slept and spent their spare time. Every day Captain's Rounds took place when the troop decks were thoroughly inspected. The occupants of the best kept mess deck were rewarded with the Captain's Cake, though there was not much enthusiasm for this delicacy. After the daily parades and duties, as Kipling's old soldier recalls,

'The ship is swep, the day is done,  
The bugle's gone for smoke an' play;  
An' black ag'in' the settin' sun  
The Lascar sings, "Hum deckty hai" !

Although the trooping season was in the so-called Cold Weather, it was often very hot in the Red Sea, and the atmosphere in the ill-ventilated troopdecks became unspeakable. Some deck games, such as quoits and tug-o-war were played, but the most popular entertainment was Housey Housey. Day after day there was little to be seen on the voyage, but the call at Port Said and the slow passage down the Suez Canal attracted a good deal of interest.

When the War came, the trooper fleet was augmented by many other ships chartered for war service, and by a number of German ships taken over as prizes and employed as troopers. With the exception of the *Neuralia*, the original fleet of pre-War troopers survived the War and resumed their trooping schedules. Two splendid new ships were built solely for trooping service - the *Nevasa* of 20,827 tons for the BI in 1956 and the *Oxfordshire* of 20,586 tons for Bibby 1957. Near-sister ships, but somewhat different in outward appearance, these ships were among the most attractive troopships ever built. The handsome and stately *Lancashire* was the doyenne of the pre-War trooper fleet. Built in 1917 and broken up in 1956, she carried the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from UK to Singapore in 1936, the voyage taking from 1 to 29 September.

Notes on some of the regular and war-time troopers may be of interest.

### *Devonshire*, Bibby Line

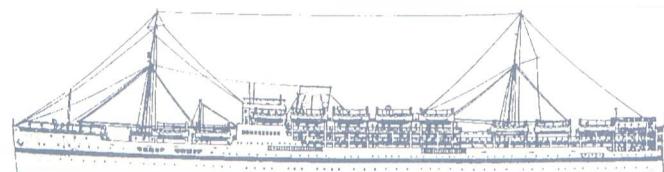
Motor ship. Built in 1939 specially for the transport of troops. *Devonshire* had a gross tonnage of 11,275. She was sold to the British India Line in 1962. Refitted for school cruising and broken up in 1968.

### *Dilwara*, British India Line

Motor ship. Built in 1936 with a gross tonnage of 11,050, later 12,555, she was the first purpose designed troopship. She trooped from 1936 until 1960 when she was sold to the China Navigation Co. and put into service as a pilgrim carrier. Near-sisters were *Devonshire* (Bibby), *Dunera* (BI) and *Ettrick* (P&O).

### *Dorsetshire*, Bibby Line

Built in 1920 with a gross tonnage of 9,345, she was Bibby's first motor ship. She served as a trooper from 1927 and as a hospital ship in the 1939-45 War. Resumed trooping post-War. Sold for migrant service in 1952 and broken up in 1954.



*Dunera*

### *Dunera*, British India Line

Motor ship. Built in 1937 with a gross tonnage of 11,162, she was one of the first group of ships built in the late 1930s to new Government trooping regulations. The others were her sister *Dilwara*, P&O's *Ettrick* and Bibby's *Devonshire*. She had an active life as a trooper world-wide until 1960 when she was converted to an educational cruise ship. *Dunera* carried 1 Queen's Surreys from UK to Aden on her last outward-bound voyage (4 Jan to 22 Jan 1961).

### *Empire Clyde*, Anchor Line

Built in 1921 with a gross tonnage of 16,280 and named *Cameronia*. She spent several periods as a troop transport from 1935. Renamed *Empire Clyde* in 1953. She was one of the largest troopships involved in the Normandy landings. Finally broken up in 1957.

*Empire Fowey*, P&O Line, formerly Nord Deutscher Loyd. Built in 1935 with a gross tonnage of 19,121. Originally named *Potsdam*. Became a prize ship in 1945 and served as a trooper post-war until converted to a pilgrim ship.

### *Empire Ken*, Royal Mail Line

Built in 1928 as the German *Ubena* with a gross tonnage of 9,523. She was managed for the Ministry of Transport as a trooper, having been declared a prize. She was a two-funnelled vessel and was broken up in 1957.

### *Empire Orwell*, Orient Line

Built in 1936 as the German *Pretoria* with a gross tonnage of 17,362, she became a prize in 1945. She was a two-funnelled vessel and served as a trooper. After the 1939-45 War, she brought 1 Queen's home from Singapore. The passage, round the Cape, took from 2 Mar to 4 April 1951.

### *Empire Pride*, Bibby Line

Motor ship. Built in 1941 with a gross tonnage of 9,248. She was managed by Bibby for the Ministry of Transport. After serving as a trooper, she was sold to Greek interests in 1954.

### *Empire Test*, Bibby Line

Built in 1922 with a gross tonnage of 9,380, she was managed by Bibby for the Ministry of Transport and sold in 1954.

### *Empire Windrush*, New Zealand Shipping Co.

Built in 1930 as the German *Monte Rosa* with a gross tonnage of 14,414, she was a two-funnelled vessel and became a prize in 1945. In 1954, off the North African coast, fire broke out in the engine room. She was taken in tow but sank the following day. 1,500 Service personnel and crew were rescued, but four engineers lost their lives. On a previous voyage there had been an engine room fire when the ship had to put into Gibraltar for a week.

### *Highland Princess*, Royal Mail Line

Motor ship. Built in 1929 with a gross tonnage of 14,133. She served as a trooper during and after the War. She brought 2 Queen's home from Bombay to UK (19 Jan to 4 Feb 1947).

### *Karanja*, P&O Line

Built in 1938 with a gross tonnage of 10,300, As an Infantry Landing Ship she carried 1 Surreys from Greenock to North Africa for the 1st Army landings in November 1942. She was sunk off Bougie a few days later.

### *Lancashire*, Bibby Line

Built in 1914 with a gross tonnage of 9,542, she was the first post-War Bibby passenger liner chartered for trooping. She served as a trooper from 1930 to 1956, when she was broken up. *Lancashire* carried 2 Surreys from UK to Singapore (1 Sep to 17 November 1938).

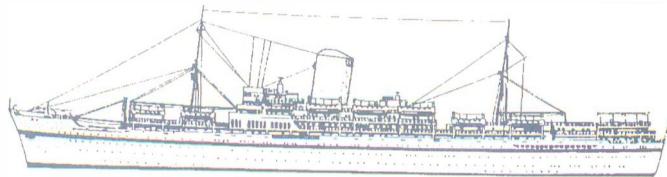
### *Neuralia*, British India Line

Built in 1912 with a gross tonnage of 9,082, she was the *Nevasa* and designed for the UK to Calcutta route. She was taken over as a troopship in 1914 and converted to a hospital ship in 1915. She reverted to trooping after the 1914-18 War and had a long and varied service. In May 1945, at the very end of the 1939-45 War, she struck a mine in the Gulf of Taranto and sank, having served as a troopship for over 30 years.

### *Nevasa* (1913), British India Line

Built in 1913 with a gross tonnage of 9,071, she was one of BI's most celebrated troopers. During the 1914-18 War she served as a hospital ship. After the War she resumed passenger service but became a regular chartered troopship in 1925. During the 1939-45 War she served in many campaigns and was finally sold to be broken up in 1948. Like *Neuralia*, she too had over 30 years service in peace and war. The old *Nevasa* made 14 trips to and from

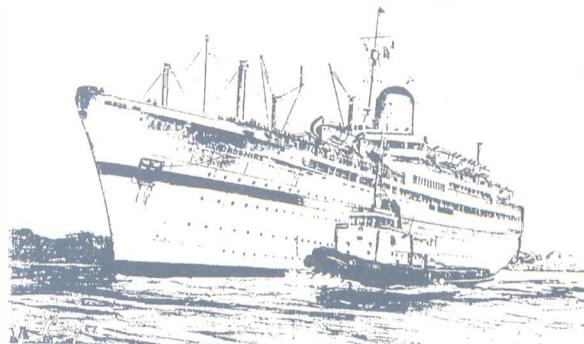
France between June and October 1945, carrying over 27,000 men.



*Nevasa*

### *Nevasa* (1956), British India Line

Built in 1956 with a gross tonnage of 20,160. Near-sister of Bibby's *Oxfordshire*, though somewhat different in outward appearance. Both ships were among the most attractive troopships ever built. *Nevasa* served as a troopship until 1962 when the Army switched entirely to air transport. She was then converted to educational cruising. She was sold to Taiwan for breaking up in 1975.



*Oxfordshire*

### *Oxfordshire*, Bibby Line

Built in 1957 with a gross tonnage of 20,586, she was the last and largest Bibby trooper. Special consideration was given to the comfort of all passengers. Troops slept in three-tier bunks with mattresses instead of hammocks. With their clean modern lines, *Oxfordshire* and her near-sister *Nevasa* were among the most handsome ships in trooping service. Served as a trooper until 1964 when sold to the Fairstar Shipping Company. Subsequently used as a full-time cruise ship into the South Pacific from Sydney under the name of *Fairstar*. She carried 1 Queen's Surreys from Aden to Hong Kong (19 Feb to 5 March 1962). This was the last trooper voyage of the Battalion.

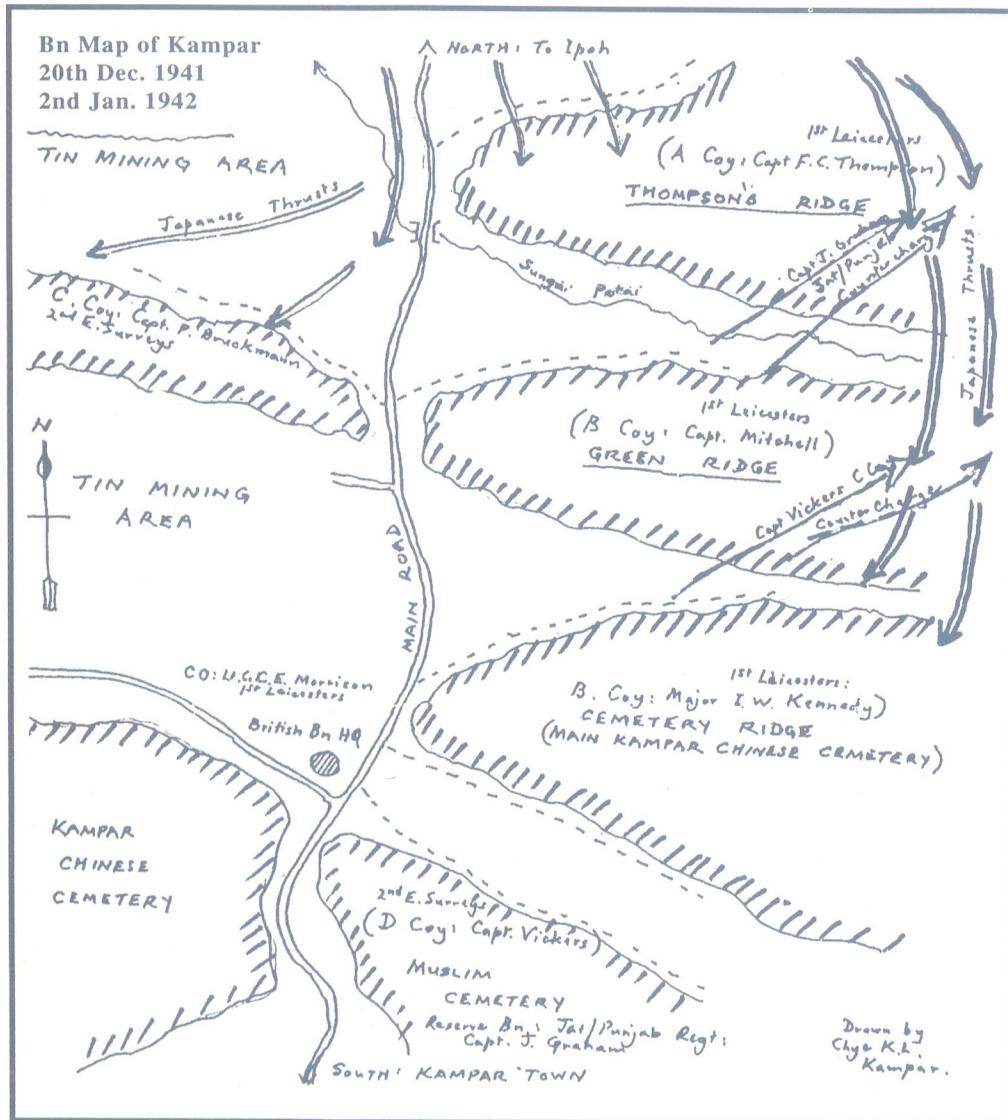
### *Somersetshire*, Bibby Line

Motor ship. Built in 1921 with a gross tonnage of 9,468, she was the sister ship of *Dorsetshire*. She served as a troopship from 1927. She carried 1 Surreys home from the Sudan (19 December 1938 to 3 January 1939). Hospital ship in 1939-45 War. Sold for migrant service and broken up in 1956.

PGEH

## Kampar - Fifty Years On

Of all the Campaigns in which our founding Regiments fought in World War II the Malayan Campaign was arguably the shortest and the bloodiest. Defensive operations seem to earn fewer Battle Honours and decorations and attract less media coverage than successful offensive operations. Bad news is unsaleable because the public's perception of heroism is to do with success, not with retreat. Having, during the intervening years, served with so many survivors of 2nd Surreys, and come to know so many others, the battles of Malaya have always interested me. Therefore I was glad of the chance to tour Singapore and Malaysia in November 1992, to satisfy curiosity and to pay respects to the memory of those who did not survive.



Before my departure from U.K. I had contacted Mr. K.L. Chye of Kampar ("KL" to his friends) who, in December 1941, as a twelve year old had befriended, and been befriended by, soldiers of the British Battalion. He met us in Kampar, and handed us maps that he had prepared (a copy of which I enclose). He led us in convoy, me in his 30 year old yellow VW Beetle, the others following in our hired Telstar, from feature to feature explaining the reasons for the selection of the various company positions. His knowledge was based upon years of research in England and Japan as well as in Malaysia and Singapore. He and his family (like all other civilians) had been evacuated into the hills, but not before he had dug a deep hole and buried, in a cigarette tin, the cap badges of The East Surrey Regiment and The Leicesters, given to him by

his friends in those Regiments and which, then and now, he greatly treasures.

The Japanese, who had invaded Malaya from Thailand and Indo-China simultaneously with the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941, enjoyed all the advantages of surprise, numerical superiority, and weapon supremacy both on the land and in the air. The 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, but recently arrived from Shangai, suffered crippling losses at Alor Star, Gurun, and elsewhere and had withdrawn to Ipoh. There the 270 survivors were ordered to amalgamate with the similarly depleted 1st Leicesters. They were the only two British Battalions in 11th Indian Division - in consequence of which, on 20th December 1941, they were named (and became famous as) "The British Battalion".

The Battalion was reinforced and re-equipped and moved south from Ipoh as part of the newly formed 6/15th Indian Brigade to take up positions north of Kampar. (The positions shown on K.L.'s map differ slightly from those shown at P129 of Vol IV History of The East Surrey Regiment) The land to the west of the main road is substantially as it was 50 years ago (ie swamps and tin workings) but on Captain Peter Bruckmann's Coy HQ is now a Bungalow defended by five ferocious dogs. We kept pretty close together, being given to understand they'd only attack anyone who lingered! The site of Bn HQ is now an electronics factory and yet another enormous housing estate. The tops of the three ridges to the right of the road - so painstakingly cleared of trees and undergrowth before the Japanese attacks started-are again covered in primary and secondary jungle with numerous houses in the valleys between them.

The battle is described in the Regimental History, in great detail in K.L.'s book "The History of The British Battalion", and briefly in the Clandon Museum Publication "Malaya 1941-2". Suffice to say

that the Brigade faced two Japanese Infantry Divisions and the British Battalion on the front perimeter of the Brigade was attacked by the Japanese 41st Infantry Regiment (about the size of two British Infantry Brigades) and outnumbered by at least 6 to 1. The Battalion was outflanked from the high ground to the right of the ridges - probably with the help of Japanese 5th Columnists at large amongst the numerous refugees and it was threatened by Japanese landings to the south. It had no hope of reinforcement or relief and in consequence after four days of fierce defence and counter attack the Battalion was ordered to execute a fighting withdrawal which it successfully achieved in time to escape an all-out attack which would probably have annihilated it.



Teiping, Malaysia (War Graves Commission Cemetery)  
November 92

KL described the battle of Kampar as a major set back for the two Japanese Divisions in general, and the 41st Infantry Regiment from HIROSHIMA in particular. In his own words they were given "a bloody mauling" resulting in so many casualties that the Japanese erected a wooden memorial pillar by the road side just North of Thompson's Ridge to the memory of their dead. The pillar has disappeared but the site is still visited today by elderly Japanese who pause to pay their respects. According to KL even now the Japanese authorities will not admit to the number of casualties suffered, and for many years the Japanese believed they had been held by two Infantry Divisions of Australians (no doubt to do with the confusion of Midland and South London dialects!).



With K.L. near Green Ridge, Kampar, November 92

Before driving up country I had visited the War Graves Commission Cemetery at Kranjie in Singapore; after Kampar I visited the cemetery at Taiping north of Ipoh. The Surreys who died in the battles of north Malaya are buried at Taiping and those who died in the later battles and in Singapore are buried at Kranjie. I took photographs

of a few Surreys' headstones in both cemeteries and these are enclosed. At Kranjie - Corporal Cooper, Privates Shaw, Dye, Leach and Lieutenant Bingham. At Taiping - Captain Kerrick, Corporal Boyce, Privates Jenkins and Holloway and "Sidney Ferris who served as Lance Sergeant John Henry Gunn". Why did Mr Ferris not serve under his own name and, why, I wondered, did he choose the name Gunn - or didn't he choose it? There must be a story here - can anyone explain?

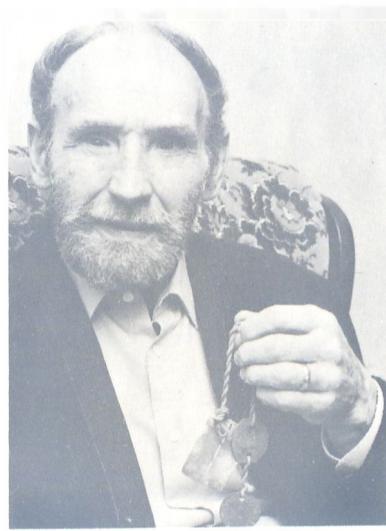
Both cemeteries are kept in excellent condition but are remote from the Tourist Trail and neither are signposted. The Kranjie Cemetery is en route to the Causeway, so it is easier for those commuting by car between Singapore and Malaysia than for those on a package tour in the City. The Taiping Cemetery is even more remote. We found it after some difficulty in the Lake Garden, but there we were particularly well received by the Superintendent and signed his visitors' book; our diligent search was well rewarded. The nearest popular tourist resort is Penang at least four hours' drive away. I, for one, was glad to spend time in both places, but I can well understand why we were the only visitors.

I left Malaysia with a feeling of great pride that I had once worn the same badge as those who fell, and with a feeling of satisfaction that I had visited their last resting place. I hope that this account will re-kindle interest in one of history's great "lost causes" and that the sacrifice of those who fell and the heroism and determination of all who took part will never be forgotten.

WEM \*

#### Bill Slade's Memorable Anniversary

Fifty years ago, on March 31st, three British prisoners of war stood before a German firing squad. They had refused to continue working on track repairs on a railway line that was carrying troops and war materials. Their leader, Bill Slade, was given one last opportunity to comply on behalf of his colleagues. He refused and the shots rang out.



Amazingly all three survived. Norman Cullity was unscathed but fell to the ground; Lawrence Kavanagh was shot in the chest; Bill Slade fell with a wound in the chest, still conscious. As he did so the German officer realising he was still alive, placed his revolver against Bill's temple, sending a second bullet through his head, which destroyed one eye and damaged the retina of the other.

*Bill Slade, who faced a firing squad and lived, holds up his Army dog tags. Tied to them is the metal German tag issued when he was a prisoner of Nazi Forces.*

Now Bill is the sole survivor of the trio as both his fellow prisoners have died since the war. He was only 17 when he joined the Queen's Royal Regiment. Called up at the outbreak of war he served with the Second Battalion in Palestine and North Africa before transferring to the "Irregulars Egypt", known as 'Layforce' after their

commander Colonel Laycock. With them he was involved in desert raids behind enemy lines. Later they became the 50th Middle East Commandos.

Based in Crete, he was involved in several raids on the Italian islands. Later he was among the rearguard facing the German invasion of Crete and was finally taken prisoner.

He had not objected to being a member of working parties as a prisoner and stresses that they were always treated fairly by their German captors.

When ordered to work on the railway it became a matter of conscience: 'Many more were to be killed, more injured. Why should I help the German war effort?' The Germans refused to accept that this work was illegal under the Geneva Convention and it became a battle of wills. To the end Bill expected his captors would punish him by imprisonment for a long term rather than carry out their threat. Nevertheless his final refusal was made as he looked into the muzzles of the German rifles.

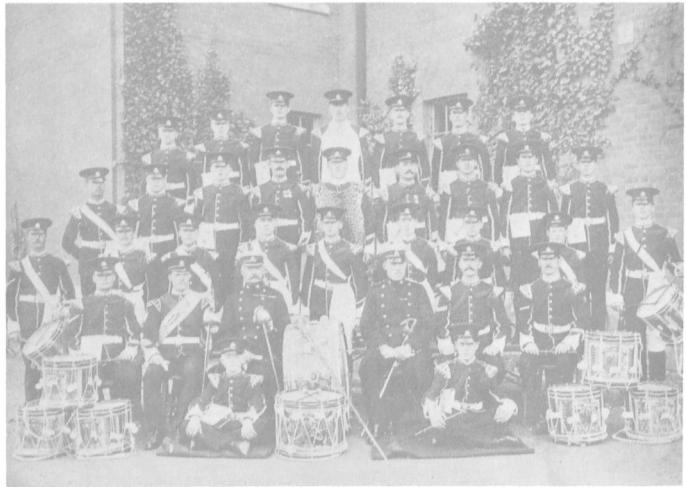
His life was saved by the attentions of an Australian and a New Zealand medical officer and, later by treatment in a German military hospital. He was repatriated in an exchange of wounded prisoners and when he became totally blind he went to St Dunstan's for rehabilitation.

After training he worked as an inspector in industry, using brailled measuring equipment, until his health brought about his retirement. It was also through St Dunstan's that he met his wife, Sally. They were married in 1966 and now live in Aldwyck, near Bognor Regis.

Bill Slade is the only British prisoner of war to receive compensation, his wounds having been accepted as a Nazi war crime. 'Thanks to the efforts of the late Lord Fraser of Lonsdale who was Chairman of St Dunstan's,' said Bill.

St Dunstans.

#### From the Past



*Corps of Drums, Plymouth 1910.  
1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.*

*The officers are Lt Col H L Smith DSO and Captain P B Stafford, Adjutant.*

*Sgt Drummer Cooney and Corporal West. At the foot of the photo is recorded in pencil the names of all those on the photograph and sadly records that Boy H Bowler, Boy M Sutton, Boy Robinson and Drummer Long were all "since killed in action".*

#### Ships That Pass

From time to time members write in the Newsletter of their associations with various ships, some of them Naval and some of them Mercantile Marine. In the May 1992 issue AWEH tells of his passage home from Dunkirk in the destroyer *HMS Venomous* while LWG mentions a voyage from Taranto to Port Said in the Polish ship *Batory*. Both vessels made news headlines on occasions in their day.

*Venomous*, in company with the battleship *Valiant* (32,000 tons) and the destroyer *Whitley*, were anchored in the Mersey in 1919 "in aid of the Civil Power" when, as part of a national movement, the Liverpool City Police were on strike and serious disturbances were occurring. Eventual Naval involvement in the affair was very low key however, and on restoration of normality the warships departed quietly to their bases, causing one wag in later years to suggest that they add "Liverpool Pier" to their battle honours.

In the post war period the *Batory* was the subject of an international incident when she attempted to sail from the Port of London with an illegally held Polish prisoner on board, apparently intended for Communist custody. Local Poles hastily obtained a writ of "Habeas corpus" from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, demanding surrender of the prisoner to British jurisdiction. The *Batory* was stopped in mid-stream by Metropolitan River Police, headed by the Commissioner, Sir John Nott-Bower, who personally boarded the vessel and authoritatively and successfully demanded release of the prisoner, thereby gaining a notable victory for British prestige and justice.

R.F.

#### Book Review

**"Emergency Sahib of Queen's, Sikhs and Dagger Division"** which was reviewed in the November issue, did not give details of how it can be obtained. Details are, R J Leach and Co. 38 Myllemere Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 2BE price £16.95 plus postage, or any good bookshop.

#### **"After Alamein, Prisoner Of War Diaries 1942-1945"**

As indicated by the title, this book deals with a period of Second World War history after the battle of Alamein where the author, then serving as a Platoon Commander in the 1st/5th Queen's Royal Regiment was captured.

Wounded in the leg by shrapnel, he was taken first to Tobruk and later by air to Bari hospital and prison camp in Italy where he was detained.

Life as a prisoner followed the all too familiar patterns of incarceration but quite outstanding among the experiences are the ways in which the problems of inactivity and boredom were combated. Sports, band concerts and a programme of lectures on a variety of subjects all helped to fill the time. Naturally, food, as provided by the camp authorities or by way of relief parcels, was a matter of primary importance.

Various transfers and travels followed as the writer eventually finished in a German POW camp, and photographs in the book show how he made close association with Australian, New Zealand and South African servicemen. There are moments of terror and, ironically danger comes from Allied bombing. 12th January, 1945, a momentous day, was that of the liberation by "the Yanks" when a patrol of the 5th U.S. Cavalry (arriving no doubt in the "nick of time" so beloved in films) freed the prisoners for whom the welcome journey towards England and home began.

A hard backed book, priced at £10.95, it is more a factual record of Prisoner of War life than a narrative, but interesting nevertheless and a very good work of reference on this particular aspect of war.

R.F.

## The Role of the Association in Benevolence

One of the key objectives of the Association, set out in its Trust Deed, is the relief of hardship and need where it occurs in members of the Regiment, which means all ranks of The Queen's Royal, East Surrey and Queen's Royal Surrey Regiments, Regulars or Territorials and their immediate families. There are many organisations involved in Service and ex-Service welfare, nationally, locally and on a Regimental basis. This brief note describes the relationship between them and explains how the Association carries out its role.

A vital function in Service welfare is filled by SSAFA. In addition to providing welfare workers and nursing sisters overseas, SSAFA provides the basic investigation organisation throughout UK. SSAFA has few welfare funds of its own and seldom makes direct grants, but its case workers are deeply involved in the provision of welfare reports. These reports form the basis of most of the Association's welfare case-work.

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) is the Army's major charitable organisation. It does not deal directly with individual cases, and refers them to the Regimental Associations to handle. It has large funds at its disposal and uses these to help the Associations with individual cases, often on a 50:50 basis. It also makes extensive grants to ex-Service charities such as the Regular Forces Employment Association, the Royal Star and Garter Home, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association and so on.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Association makes a large annual grant to the Army Benevolent Fund: effectively, it gets all of it and more back in the support given to individual cases. The ABF sponsor a Supplementary Allowance scheme for which some individuals may be eligible. The ABF also assists with nursing home fees and certain types of holidays. The Secretary deals directly with the ABF in these cases.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is effectively an Association for all three Services which runs parallel to Regimental and Corps Associations. As with other smaller Associations such as the Burma Star and Dunkirk Veterans, it is perfectly acceptable for an individual to be a member of his Regimental Association and of the RBL. The RBL has some investigative capability, as well as some funds held locally for welfare purposes. Occasionally the Association is involved jointly in welfare cases with the RBL.

Welfare cases are handled for the Association by the Secretary. At RHQ Canterbury there is also a Regimental Benevolence Committee which consists of three retired officers. This meets as and when necessary, to discuss and assist with difficult cases. Sometimes individuals complain of the many searching questions asked when they apply for assistance. These questions are necessary so that the Secretary can obtain the maximum financial help for the applicant.

There are many instances of a soldier who has served in a number of regiments. In these cases assistance can also be requested from the other Regimental Associations.

After army service he may have gone to employment in an industry which has its own funds which can be called on to assist. And then there is a mass of State support, some of it very complex in nature, which individuals may not be aware of, or how to claim.

In dispensing welfare funds, the Association has a duty to be consistent and prudent. It has to establish the extent of the need. Once the need has been clearly established, the Association's help is prompt and generous. Money is normally disbursed through SSAFA or similar organisations and occasionally through branches of the Association, not

direct to individuals, so that there is reasonable assurance that it is spent for the purposes for which it is needed.



*Mr Walter Berry and his wife Gladys with their grandson Mathew. Walter is seated in the wheel chair provided by the Association.*

### **Extracts from a selection of letters received by the Secretary:**

*"May I thank you and your committee for the enormous help you gave to Mr Z in purchasing an electric powered wheelchair. He was so overcome and does not know where to begin to thank you all and his Regiment".*

\* \* \*

*"Thank you for your cheque to cover the cost of Mr Z's air fare to and from The Channel Islands. Mr Z is now getting on in years and he thoroughly enjoys his therapeutic holiday. Please express our sincere thanks to the President and Trustees for all their help".*

\* \* \*

*"I write to thank you all most sincerely for your grant. This last few months has been a nightmare, we have never been in debt before. My husband is a good man but since his heart attacks he has not been able to work. Bless you all".*

\* \* \*

*"Thank you for your prompt and generous response to my application for nursing home fees for Mrs Z. SSAFA and the family are so grateful to you and The Army Benevolent Fund for what you have done over the years".*

\* \* \*

*"I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself to express our very sincere thanks for your assistance in providing her with an electric controlled scooter. She is suffering from arthritis of the spine and has great difficulty getting around, even with sticks. You cannot begin to imagine how the arrival of this scooter will help her and our family. She will be able to go to the shops and she will feel much more independent. Our local SSAFA lady came when the scooter was delivered and she explained that it was through The Queen's Surrey Association that SSAFA had been able to assist us. We are both very grateful to you all".*

LW

## "Oxbridge" and The Surreys. July 40 - January 41

After Denstone College 1934 - 39, (Certificate 'A'), I went up to Christ Church Oxford in October '39. Later, many of us asked why, with a certain amount of military training, we were not hustled off to OCTU at once, or even posted to the ranks, so that we might have been some little help to the BEF in France. The answer apparently was that, unless we had joined the TA previously, we were not liable for military service until the age of twenty. So, in 1939 - early 1940 we watched helplessly as convoys of absolute boys went off to the front.

Though difficult to recall now, "Oxbridge" at that time was automatically destined for a commission, if all went well. So there was at Oxford a place called the "Reception Unit", in Manor Road, to which all those who aspired to get into the war repaired at once. Here one had a medical and then signed an "attestation" (I think) which effectively meant that one had joined the Services.

One was assured at Oxford at this time that call-up was a long way away and that work should proceed as normal. But then came Dunkirk which no doubt put a different slant on things. When I returned home in June 1940, I found a letter which read, "We note your 20th Birthday is July 15th. 1940; report to the Depot of the East Surrey Regiment, Kingston upon Thames on July 18th.

My mother drove me from our home in Gloucester to Kingston, and I well remember that my last "peacetime" meal was lunch at the Mitre at Hampton Court. (Even then, I recall her complaining at the expense!) During the afternoon we arrived at the barracks, and after fond farewells to Mother, I advanced to the gates of the Keep.

Here was my first surprise, thoroughly agreed by my colleagues. We were met by one Corporal Brown, who could not have been more welcoming and considerate. One felt reasonably at home in a moment, and he was to remain a good friend.

The rest of the day was not too easy - settling into the hut and awkwardly welcoming a host of total strangers. One interesting point: having been used to dormitories at school, "Oxbridge" made a rather better job of settling in than the others.

An amusing scenario the first evening. "Oxbridge" began putting on its pyjamas. This staggered the others, especially one Wallace who could not get over it. He learned that one of us, John Rolland, came from Putney, and for minutes he could do nothing but pace up and down our room saying, "Cor, Putney's in a sleepin'-suit!"

The second day was the usual drag - learning personal numbers, Platoon number and Company, meeting our Sergeant, drawing all our kit, and having "jabs" - with the, then, usual number of otherwise strong men keeling over in a dead faint.

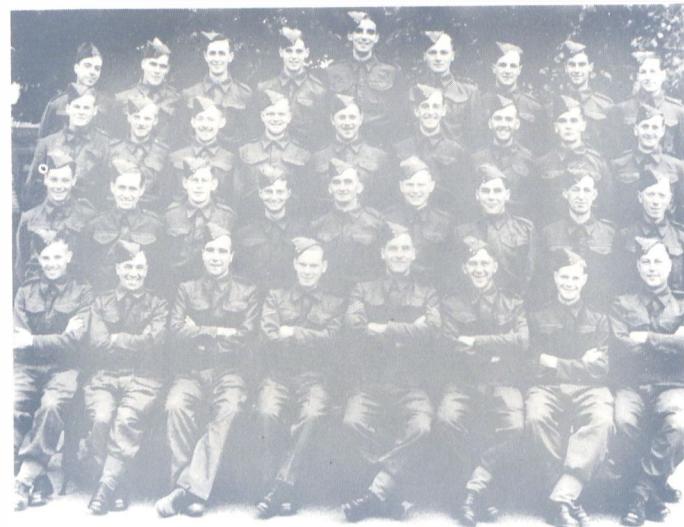
Those of us who had joined at Oxford were given an Ox. & Bucks. prefix - 5386. I cannot recall the Cambridge one.

Our title was "7 Platoon, E Company" - very soon christened by ourselves as the "Sodden Seventh". Our Company Commander was Captain Drew, an actor in civilian life. Our Platoon Commander was one Lt. (Ros) Abbott, and I seem to remember another subaltern called Quarrel (I think) The RSM was Mackenzie. I cannot recall the CO's name, but I do remember meeting one M.A. McCanlis coming out of the mess. As a Gloucester man and crazy on rugby, he was a hero of mine, having played for Gloucester and for England in 1932.

I cannot name our Company Sergeant Major. Later on, when we became 10 Platoon in Richmond Park, it was one "Mutt" Crow. The reason for remembering will become clear later.

Our first Platoon Sergeant deserves a paragraph to himself - a very remarkable man. Wounded in the back at Dunkirk, he had returned to the Depot. He was a man of even temperament if ever there was one. He treated every one of us Oxbridge or not, exactly alike. Due to his wound (and perhaps a bit of beer the previous evening!) he could feel very ill in the morning, and his kit inspections could be murder - but still fair. He could be very cheerful and encouraging. He was the sort, like the good schoolmaster, that one never wanted to displease. I never heard him swear in our presence. He was clever: he used to tell the other sergeants in our hearing - that he had an excellent lot, but not to let them know! He was to leave us in early September to become CQMS of the Company.

One evening, the beer had run out at "The Griffin" in Kingston, where we always drank, so we moved over to the "Crown", where we found Sgt. Goodway. There were five of us - all Oxbridge. I hoped beyond hope that somebody wouldn't make the obvious gaff but one did. "Have a drink Sgt Goodway", said one. "No thanks", came the reply, as he leered at us in turn under his toothbrush moustache, "I never drink with privates"! At that, he took his roll from his top pocket and bought us all a pint.



Back Row: (L to R) Franklin W. Hamilton, Phythian, Rolland, Hensman, Marlow, Hill, Aizlewood, Palms.

Second Row: Diggines, Girdler, Sterling, Chatterton, Perring, Toosey, Woods, Bennett, Johnson.

Third Row: Manning, Clark, Maclare, Beards, Bryant, Jewell, Mosley, Wheeler, Mitchell.

Seated: Sharpe, Nobbs, Templeman, L/Cpl Norman, Sjt Branns, Angel, Franklin, Piper.

Sgt Branns took over from Goodway. Life in 7 Platoon. July - September 1940. For a few days we did some initial training, but it was obvious that this was not on, because of the knowledge of the 'Oxbridge' set compared with those direct from "civvy-street". However, there seemed no way of separating us, due perhaps to lack of training staff. But then authority had a brilliant idea :- sandbagging the Barracks.

On company orders appeared the words, "7 Pl. - OCTU party - sandbagging". So started several days of sandbagging all the ground floor windows of the original brick buildings, and many barrack blocks, Nissen huts and

"Spider" blocks. Quite apart from being incredibly boring, we became rather a laughing stock among the rest of the intakes,

One of our characters, "Ossie" Mosley (no relation) then had a brilliant idea. We would found a union, the rules of which were that each member could fill, carry and lay one sand-bag per hour, with the added proviso that he stopped for a cup of tea at the NAAFI on return from laying.

But, at last, we could stand it no longer. We stormed the Company Office, protesting at this incredible philosophy of keeping the OCTU people back, in order that others should catch up. For some reason, Sgt. Goodway suggested that I be the spokesman for the Platoon. Anyway, Capt. Drew and I had an amicable discussion, and he seemed not the slightest perturbed by the events, and all was quickly smoothed over.

Other memories of this time. The whole platoon was sent out one incredibly hot day to help dig an anti-tank ditch in the chalk on Banstead Downs. It was very uncomfortable, but lightened by "Rosy" Abbott teaching a man with a pick how to "strike, make, break and rake", only to find that he'd been a miner for some years!

One event hurt me personally. It was August 12th, and an RSM'S parade. Suddenly he shouted my name, and when I stepped out, told me to go to the Orderly Room. When I got there, I was asked what the — I was doing, as nobody apparently wanted to see me. At last an ATS. girl said the Chaplain (Wellesley Orr) was upstairs, and perhaps it was he who wished to see me. It was so, to tell me that my father had died suddenly early that morning. My father was a Canon of Gloucester and Archdeacon of Cheltenham designate. He had had a bad time - wounded and gassed - as a Chaplain in the First War.

During all this time, we were, of course, getting a grandstand view of the Battle of Britain, in early September we were transferred to the camp near the Kingston Gate, and became No. 10 Platoon. We were in a "Spider" block, on the Kingston Gate edge of the camp. By now, the whole platoon was working together doing training exercises in Richmond Park. (This camp was the Olympic Village for the 1948 Games.)

On November 5th. 1940. (How appropriate!) at about 9.30 p.m. we heard the whistle of bombs, to which we were quite accustomed. There were eleven of us in our hut. I was writing my diary. Suddenly, however, there was a sort of earthquake and everything went black. Nobody was conscious of hearing a noise, although it was deafening to people in adjoining huts and further away. We all fell into a large hole, none of us daring to speak for a few seconds. But, as we began to move, it dawned on us that, except for the odd minor injury, we were all alive. A day or two later, I found my diary and the blackened page for November 5th, was a keepsake for years.

This is an unbelievable story. One gable end of the hut, was left standing with a couple of floor-boards beneath it. Otherwise, the crater was larger than the hut. On these two floor-boards, Chris Diggines (see photo) was still asleep. When a torch picked him out, we were horrified, because it could well be that the blast had killed him. However, he merely opened his eyes and asked what all the fuss was about!

It was not a large bomb, as fourteen fell on the camp, clearly from the same aircraft. But it managed to carry away three walls, roof and about fifteen wall cupboards which were found all over the place.

Perhaps of interest, by this time, huts were being sand-bagged on the inside, about a foot in from the wall. There were no beds; we slept on palliasses up against the sandbags. Whether this contributed to our astounding luck will never be known. It goes without saying that great merriment was caused by the fact that the only inhabited building to be hit should be that of the "potential officers."!

After much rumour among "Oxbridge" throughout December, during which we had been made up to L/Cpl. (for some unknown reason), we were informed of our move to OCTU - in January the majority of us to 164 at Barmouth. One final memory is being called together by CSM "Mutt" Crow for a farewell oration which went something like this : - "All regular Army officers are congenital idiots; they're not brainy enough for the Law, not good enough to be parsons, so they land up in the Army. But, I am glad to say that I don't see too much of the congenital idiot about you lot."

Just to mention a Corporal Tolliday and a L/Cpl Norman (in the picture) who helped look after us in the last two or three months. Tolliday was as rough as they come, but with a heart of gold. Norman was quiet and intelligent, and we think, hoping to go to OCTU himself. As to post-war history of those who survived, I have scarce information. However, you may recognise Sydney Templeman (second from left, front-row) as "the Lord Templeman", a Lord of Appeal. Peter Palms (back row, right) was in the news for many years as Mr. Peter Palms, prosecuting for the Director of Public Prosecutions, while Paul Beards (centre, second row) I see, from "Who's Who", was a very senior Civil Servant and Assistant Private Secretary to successive Prime Ministers", soon after the war. Clearly, the Army remained his first love, as he was Principal Private Secretary to War Ministers in the 50's and Assistant Under-Secretary of State, MOD, in the sixties.

Sydney Templeman has one of these photographs from me, and my wife and I have been invited twice to the House of Lords, not only to meet him, but also to watch, from a corner of the chamber, a rather historic judgement.

Quite a coincidence. I have met no Surreys since the war. Yet, at drinks with new-found friends last week, the wife, talking of her forbears, suddenly produced a large drawing of an East Surrey attack in the First War with officers and men kicking two footballs in front of them. She tells me these footballs are very treasured possessions of the Regiment. Her family name was Neville.

MGH

#### From The Past



2nd Queen's MT Xmas party 1946, Poona, India

## Regimental Battle Honours

The award of battle honours for distinguished service did not become general until the early part of the 19th Century. The Peninsular War brought many awards, and thereafter battle honours became almost commonplace. In fact, so many were granted that some regiments felt they had been overlooked in earlier battles and campaigns. For instance, no battle honour had been awarded for the capture and subsequent defence of the Rock.

Apart from the omissions, it was evident that there had been no logical system for the award of battle honours. Up to 1914 it appears that no battle honours were given for a defeat, and the headquarters of the regiment must have been present during the action. In his book 'Battle Honours of the British Army', published in 1911, C B Norman writes, 'The whole question of the award of battle honours abounds in anomalies. In some campaigns every skirmish has been handed down to posterity, in others one word has covered long years of fighting. There are regiments whose Colours bear the names of battles in which they did not lose a single man, while others have suffered heavy losses in historic battles which are as yet unrecorded.'

In 1882 a committee under Major General Sir Archibald Alison was set up to look into the inequalities of the existing system and to examine the claims of regiments. As a result, 'Dettingen', fought in 1743, was awarded to the Thirty First on 11 September 1882. However, in spite of this and similar awards, it was felt the Alison Committee did not go far enough and several important battles had been overlooked.

Accordingly another committee under the Adjutant General was formed in 1909 which resulted in the following additional awards to our Regiments:

Queen's 'Tangier 1662-80' 'Namur 1695' and the 'Naval Crown' superscribed '1st June 1794'.

Luttrell's Marines (a forerunner of the Thirty First Regiment) 'Gibraltar 1704-05'.

Seventieth Regiment 'Martinique'.

For the South African War, which lasted two and a half years, all regiments were granted 'South Africa., 1899-1902'. In addition, the Queen's and the Surreys were also awarded 'Relief of Ladysmith'.

The four years fighting of the Great War presented many difficult problems. Some battles lasted several weeks and extended over wide areas. In addition, repeat dates were added; for instance, 'Ypres 1915', 'Ypres 1917' and 'Ypres 1918'. To resolve these complications, it was decided that each regiment should select ten battle honours to be borne on the King's Colour. The ruling that battle honours should not be awarded for a defeat was discontinued. For example, 'Mons' is borne with pride by both the Queen's and the Surreys.

Both Regiments won many battle honours in the Great War, and the ten specially selected were as follows.

### Queen's

'Retreat from Mons'  
'Ypres 1914 1917 1918'  
'Somme, 1916, '18'  
'Messines, 1917'  
'Vittoria Veneto'

'Macedonia, 1916-17'  
'Gallipoli, 1915'  
'Palestine, 1917-18'  
'Mesopotamia, 1915-18'  
'N W Frontier, India, 1916-17'

### Surreys

'Mons'  
'Marne, 1914'  
'La Bassee 1914'  
'Ypres, 1915, '17', '18'  
'Loos'

'Somme, 1916, '18'  
'Albert, 1916, '18'  
'Cambrai, 1917, '18'  
'Selle'  
'Doiran, 1918'

The same procedure was followed for the Second World War. The scale of hostilities was less than in the Great War and consequently fewer battle honours were awarded.

These are the ten battle honours specially selected by our Regiments to be borne on the Sovereign's Colour:

### Queen's

'Villers Bocage'  
'Tobruk, 1941'  
'El Alamein'  
'Medenine'  
'Salerno'

'Monte Camino'  
'Anzio'  
'Gemmamo Ridge'  
'North Arakan'  
'Kohima'

### Surreys

'Dunkirk, 1940'  
'North West Europe, 1940'  
'Oued Zarga'  
'Longstop Hill, 1943'  
'North Africa, 1942-43'

'Sicily, 1943'  
'Sangro'  
'Cassino'  
'Italy, 1943-45'  
'Malaya, 1941-42'

PGEH

### An Unhappy CO

Extracts from orders of 3rd Volunteer Bn, East Surrey Regt. In 1903

*.-The Commanding Officer is much surprised and disappointed at the small response that has been received to the notice inviting candidates for the Special Service Section published in the January orders. Exclusive of officers, only 23 names have been received. instead of, as ought to have been the case, those of practically the whole of the Battalion. Apparently the object of the Section is not understood. Men are invited to enter their names to serve, in the case of a national emergency, for not more than one month in a fortress or garrison town in Great Britain, receiving a gratuity of £5 and Army rates of pay, messing, and separation allowances for so doing. If the large majority of the Battalion is not prepared, in the case of a national emergency, to do this, it is difficult to understand what is the use of the Battalion. Officers commanding Detachments will at once take special steps to explain the objects of the Section to their respective commands, and report without delay as to the nature of the special steps taken by them, and their result, to the Commanding Officer.*

*.-The Commanding Officer regrets to observe that at smoking concerts and other entertainments of a similar character in connection with the various detachments, songs and recitations are introduced which, without being actually indecent, contain double meanings and suggestions of a distinctly indecent tendency. These are neither amusing or edifying, and will not be permitted. It is the duty of the senior officer or non-commissioned officer present, whether acting as chairman or not, immediately to put a stop to anything of the kind, and the acting secretary or other officials by whom the entertainment is arranged will be held personally responsible for any offence against the above order. In justice to the battalion it must be said that the offenders are almost invariably paid performers or visitors, and not members of the Battalion.*

RF

## Namur 1695

Namur, known as Naemen to the local Flemish inhabitants, lies some 35 miles south of Brussels and south east of Maastricht at the confluence of the Rivers Sambre and Meuse. It had been unsuccessfully defended by Dutch troops under the command of General Menno van Coehoorn, a favourite of William of Orange, and was one of a series of many fortified towns in Flanders which had in turn fallen into the hands of the French. Marshal Vauban had invested the fortress in May 1692 capturing the citadel in June that year and van Coehoorn and his remaining troops had escaped.

Up to that time King William's campaign in Flanders had not been attended by any marked success and his Dutch-Anglo army had already been worsted at Steenkirk, Landen and in sundry other actions. There was some feeling among the British troops that they had been left to bear the brunt of the fighting without adequate support from their Dutch allies.

Namur was now in the capable hands of the French Marshal Boufflers. William began his investment of the town at the beginning of July 1695. It was under siege until the 6th of that month when the first attacks on the outer works were ordered. Under the direction of General van Coehoorn the assault was successful but the losses were heavy, especially among the British Regiments. The three Foot Guards Regiments alone lost over thirty officers in the action. A few days later after the allied artillery had opened a sufficient breach in the citadel walls, near the St. Nicholas Gate, the British infantry were again ordered forward to secure the access. This they did but with further severe casualties, losing upwards of 800 officers and men either killed or wounded.

The final massed assault on the fortress followed with British battalions again in the van, losing a further 63 Officers and 925 men in the process. They finally secured the citadel and Namur once more passed into the possession of the House of Orange.

However, it was not until February 1910 that an Army Order was published announcing that King Edward VII had been graciously pleased to approve the following Infantry regiments being permitted to bear "NAMUR 1695" on their Colours

Grenadier Guards	Royal Welsh Fusiliers
Coldstream Guards	Royal Scots
Scots Guards	Kings Own ( Lancaster ) Regt.
Queens ( Royal West Surrey ) Regt.	Royal Fusiliers
Royal Warwickshire Regt.	Bedfordshire Regt.
West Yorkshire Regt.	Royal Irish Regt.
Leicestershire Regt.	Kings Own Scottish Borderers

## Dettingen June 27th 1743

King George II, who was also the Elector of Hanover, in support of the cause of the Empress Maria Theresa, had collated an army consisting of English, Hanoverian, Dutch, Austrian and other Germanic elements on the lower Rhine. The King joined the army, which was under the field command of Field Marshal the Earl of Stair, on June 19th. The 40,000 strong army advanced slowly up the Rhine and into the Main and Neckar valleys. Meantime, a 30,000 strong crack French army under the command of the experienced soldier Marshal Duke Adrien Noailles advanced from the Middle Rhine to block the advance. The two armies approached each other in the Main valley between Hanau and Aschaffenburg. Stair marched along one bank of the Main with Noailles keeping pace with his force on the opposing bank. Unable to induce the Austrian commanders to combine in engaging the enemy Stair elected to withdraw towards Dettingen but found the French virtually blockading the Main defiles.

King George now assumed command of the army which composed 42,000 English, Hanoverians, Dutch and Austrians. Impatient with the supposed delays in the allies opening hostilities the nephew of Noailles, the Duke of Grammont, commanding the flower of the French cavalry, launched a huge charge, abandoning their advantageous position protected by a swamp. This charge came close to overwhelming the allied left wing but was stemmed by the stubborn resistance of the English infantry. The King's horse bolted and tried to gallop off the field, King George dismounted and sword in hand led the English Infantry, including the 31st Regiment, Hanoverian Infantry, and as the French began to break under a cavalry charge, he saw men with buff facings going forward with great spirit. 'Bravo Buffs' he is reported to have called out, at which a voice answered him through the smoke of battle "Sir, we are the 31st, not the Old Buffs" "Then Bravo Young Buffs" came the reply from the King.

George then told the infantry that they might yet have the honour of fighting and beating the best of the French infantry, who were now seen advancing in perfect order. 'The response was three cheers and they charged so successfully the whole French front disintegrated and gave way.

As the day ended the allies held the field and the entire French army was forced to retreat with heavy losses. Many drowned in the swamp lands and the Main. Noailles losses amounted to 5000 killed and wounded.

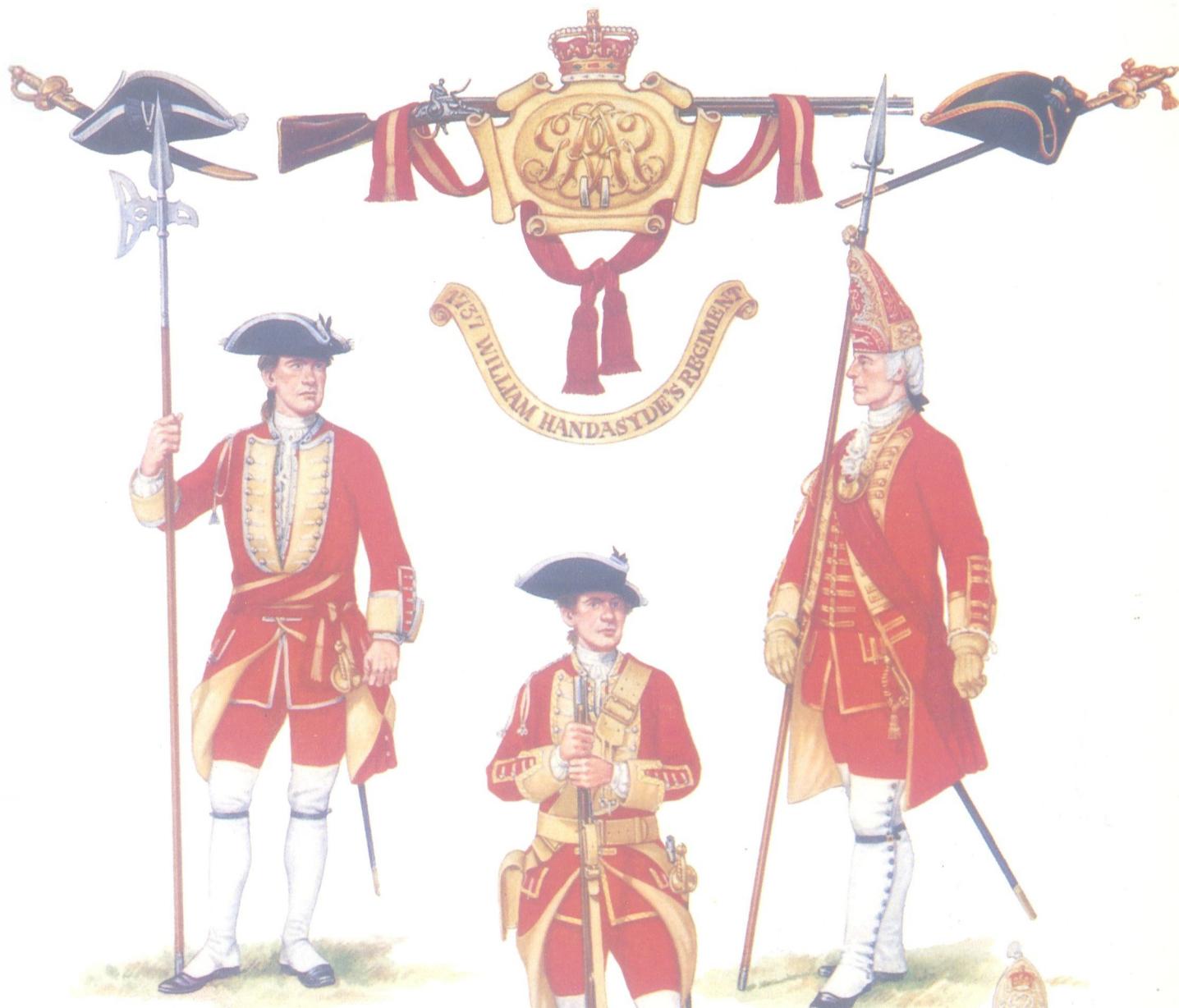
This was the last occasion on which an English monarch personally commanded and led his troops on the battlefield.



1714 THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S OWN REGT

1727 - THE QUEEN'S OWN

NAMUR  
1695



1745 LORD HENRY BEAUCLERK'S REGIMENT

1782 THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE REGIMENT



## Namur 1695 Colour Plate

The central cartouche shows the entwined monograms of William the III and Mary II with William's crown over. On the left is the monogram of William and on the right the monogram of Mary with her crown over.. The gilt gorget was worn by the Captains, the black studded with gold by the Lieutenants and the silver by the Ensigns.. The flintlock musket with dog lock is draped with the Officer's sash.

On the left, behind the musket is a Private's sword and, right, an Officer's sword. The central figure is an Officer armed with a half pike. Top left is a Corporal with silver lace trim to his hat and coat. Top right is a Grenadier, his flintlock with a wide leather sling only carried by grenadiers at this date. Bottom left is a Sergeant with silver laced coat and hat and wearing a sash as a mark of rank. He is also armed with a halberd. On the right is a Private.

## Dettingen 1743 Colour Plate

The central cartouche shows the reversed monogram of George II with the Hanoverian crown over. The flintlock musket had by this date become known by its nickname 'Brown Bess' and is draped with a Sergeant's and an Officer's sash. On the left is a Private's hat and hanger and on the right an Officer's hat and sword now with a gold and crimson knot. The figure top right, is a Sergeant of Battalion Company with silver laced coat and shoulder knot. On the right is an Officer of the Grenadier Company in Review dress. He would normally wear the hat, the grenadier cap being kept for special occasions. He is armed with a spontoon. The central figure is a Corporal. His shoulder knot is of white worsted. The Battalion Company Private, bottom left, is in marching order with canvas gaiters, knapsack of animal skin and a canvas haversack. The Grenadier on the right is dressed for parade.

\* \* \* \*

## The Regimental Museum

The Editor has kindly suggested featuring your Regimental Museum at Clandon Park in this issue of the Newsletter. We are indeed fortunate to have so many fine artefacts that we are able to display. Their excellent condition is a visible testimonial to the past and continuing care and time devoted by many past and present volunteers.

It is worth recalling that until such time as the museum was established in its present location in 1980 its contents had spent the previous twenty years either boxed up or in temporary accommodation. It will be appreciated that Museums do not set themselves up overnight. Although there have been minor changes made during the past thirteen years to the contents of the initial displays and new cases created we have just completed the first major reorganisation of the Museum. The three rooms have now been so arranged that they relate in chronological order the story of initially three, then two and finally the regiment by portraying the further amalgamations in which the regiment has been absorbed in order to bring one up to date.

Although the aim of those responsible for the Museum must always have been one of constant improvement the recent reorganisation is in part a response to the report by Admiral Sir David Williams on the Museums of the Armed Services, published on behalf of the Museums and Galleries Commission in 1990.

We have now become a fully registered Museum under the Museum and Galleries Commission registration scheme. In effecting the reorganisation we have endeavoured not only to reflect the traditions and history of the Regiment but also to attract and educate the general public.

You must tell us whether or not you think we have succeeded. We have recently recovered from the National Army Museum the 'Carlisle' figures, these unique wooden dummies made between 1714 - 1727 and Lieut Daniels' cap. These are now on display as is the recently restored painting by Thomas Daniell of The Burning of the Kent. A full article describing this exciting discovery appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We have a large debt of thanks to those willing volunteers who come regularly every Wednesday and give so freely of their time in caring for the artefacts and the presentation of your Museum. Round trips of 130 miles are not uncommon for some volunteers which is indicative of their dedication. We want to see you and your friends visit the Museum but we also want more reasonably regular assistance or volunteers to join a group we call 'Friends of the Museum', whose contribution is much appreciated, who will assist in talking to visitors whilst helping to

safeguard the displays. Please get in touch if you feel you can help in any capacity.

A visit to the Museum plus a tour of Clandon Park house in which there is the famous Gubbay collection of porcelain and glass, and the excellent National Trust restaurant, with ample car parking makes a pleasant day out.

We conform to National Trust opening hours which are: 1330 to 1730 hours every day except Thursdays and Fridays, from 1 April to 31 October.

PAWGD

## The Missing Picture - Number 96

Now once upon a time - but read on, because this is a real fairy story that came true.

Many of you who have visited the museum at Clandon may have seen a rather dark battered painting in an indifferent wooden frame high on the wall of room 1. Closer examination would have revealed that it was an oil painting of the burning of the East Indiaman *Kent* in the Bay of Biscay 1st March 1825. Other than appreciate the importance of the tragedy in the history of the 31st Regiment, few would have given the painting a second look, but now the story really begins. In September 1992 the Trustees asked Daphne Hill to try and find out a little more about the painting by taking it to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. No definitive opinions were offered other than to suggest that it required restoration and cleaning and that the painting was after the style of William Daniell.

William Daniell RA was born at Kingston-Upon-Thames in 1769 and at the age of ten was taken to London by his artist uncle Thomas Daniell and became his pupil. Thomas Daniell RA was a pioneer of aquatinting and his nephew studied hard to achieve the perfection that his uncle had in this medium.

Colonel Peter Durrant then undertook to endeavour to find out where the original of the painting in the museum might be. Having spoken to Sothebys, they suggested that he write to a Doctor Shellim, an art historian and the acknowledged expert on the Daniells. A letter drew an excited telephone call from Maurice Shellim who said that we might have a long lost picture but he would have to see it in order to be sure. Arrangements were made to take the painting to him in London the following Thursday. A lady from the Peabody Museum in Salem USA who are great collectors of Daniell's paintings was also present. A working Wednesday intervened at the Museum and there was much speculation and 'supposing it was" only to be squashed with "it couldn't be" etc etc.

Within minutes of placing the picture on a chair and turning it to obtain maximum light, Maurice Shellim said that it was an authentic William Daniell oil painting missing for over one hundred and sixty years. Its last recorded mention was when it was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1828. Maurice Shellim was a fund of knowledge on the Daniells and said that William was a prolific painter. He produced four hundred and twenty paintings of which one hundred and fifty were aquatints. The latter group are reproduced in a book, "India and The Daniells" by Maurice Shellim. A full list of William Daniells paintings is not available but our painting is the ninety sixth now known by Maurice Shellim to exist. We have also learnt that an aquatint of the burning of the Kent by William Daniell was published on the 20 May 1825 but the precise date of our painting is as yet unknown. William Daniell died in 1837, predeceasing his uncle by three years. The Sergeants of 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment presented it to the Museum in 1937 but where it had been in the preceding years remains a mystery - does anyone know?



*The Sinking of the Kent*

The painting has now been restored and returned to Clandon.

The picture had been glued to a sheet of plywood at some time in the distant past so the restorer and his team had to painstakingly remove the wood, piece by piece. Having been cleaned, filled with wax and then stretched and framed, the comparison with its former state is unbelievable. The colours and details now revealed will surprise you and we hope you will visit your museum and see the finished result for yourself.

PAWGD

#### All Change

Wednesday 24th March was change of command day at the Regimental Museum. After six and a half years Brigadier Clarke stepped down as a Trustee and handed over the chairmanship to Colonel Durrant. At a small ceremony to mark the occasion the Brigadier was presented with a book entitled "Ships and the Sea" which had been most expertly and attractively bound and tooled by Christopher James, the son of our Museum Assistant, Mrs Penny James.

We owe Brigadier Michael a debt of gratitude for his leadership over this long period, completing his term of office with the major reorganisation of the museum displays. We wish him well in his third retirement.

PAWGD

#### Men Of Distinction



In the regimental museum are portraits of two distinguished former regimental members.

The first, painted in 1848, is of Captain E. Noel of the 31st Regiment who, as Lieutenant Edward Andrew Noel is listed in the History of The East Surrey Regiment as having served in the Sutlej Campaign. At the Battle of Ferozeshah on 21st December 1845,

British troops were under heavy Sikh fire and several officers were killed. Noel's sword was broken in action so he took up the sword of another dead officer and continued in battle. The following day, in an attack on a Sikh battery, he captured an enemy standard and also took prisoner an Englishman named Porter, "who held a high command in the Sikh artillery". Later, at the Battle of Sobraon, scene of Sgt. McCabe's heroic seizure and salvation of the Regimental Colour, a similar feat was performed by Lieutenant Noel in respect of the Queen's Colour which he took from the mortally wounded Lieutenant Tritton. As Noel gallantly led his men forward, the staff was shattered in his hand - a narrow escape from death on what was rapidly becoming a bloody and body strewed battlefield. With such a military record behind him, Captain Noel can truly be said to have earned himself a portrait in the Regimental Museum.

Close to the Captain's portrait is that of Sergeant Major M. Lynch of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. Formerly a Regular soldier with the 1st Queen's, he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Medal for the Second China War 1860 with the bars Peking 1860 and Taku Forts 1860.

A later photograph of him in an album in the museum shows him in civilian clothes, apparently retired, bearded and looking the picture of good health despite the visibly smoking pipe in his hand.



RF

*Pictured above:  
Captain E. Noel, 31st Regiment.*

*Bottom right:  
Sergeant Major M. Lynch, 3rd Volunteer Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.*

## So There We Were

**1663** At Tangiers the Moors were still being troublesome and were often engaged in skirmishes with the Tangiers Regiment (later the Queen's). On one occasion the Moors were reported as "beating back with sticks those of the Garrison who passed the stipulated bounds". On another, "The use of cannon by the Europeans at length diminished the courage of the barbarians".

**1683** Not content with fighting the enemy at Tangiers, officers of the Garrison took to fighting among themselves, various duels being reported and at least one officer being killed as a result. By the end of the year continued occupation of Tangiers was considered to be non-productive and unsustainable, and arrangements were made for withdrawal of the Garrison (including the Tangiers Regiment).

**1693** saw the Queen's in Flanders where they joined the First Royals and Colonel Stanley's Regiment (16th) near Tirlemont in fighting against the French. Morale seems to have been low on both sides as there were many desertions. A Private of the Queen's was court-martialled for "threatening death to his sergeant" but escaped from custody after being sentenced.

**1703** Villier's marines (forerunners of the East Surreys) lost their Colonel (whose name they bore) in a tragic drowning accident and the command passed to Colonel Luttrell who, as was then common practice, gave his name to the Regiment.

The Queen's, in England, were stationed in various parts of Berkshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire - those at Southampton being engaged in guarding prisoners of war.

**1743** The 31st were at the battle of Dettingen when George II personally commanded his troops in battle, being the last English king to do so. Mistaking the identity of the Regiment, the King called out, "Bravo, Buffs", to which some officers replied, "Sir, we are the Thirty-First, not the Old Buffs". His Majesty then rejoined, "Bravo, Young Buffs", thus bestowing a name which the Regiment prized and used thereafter. The Queen's were at Gibraltar where, in August, they received under the authority of a warrant, and probably under protest, two men who had deserted from Lord Semphill's Scotch regiments. More were similarly received during the following month.

**1773** Officers of the Queen's at Gibraltar seem to have been in trouble, as Lieutenants Raitt and Blaney Campbell were court-martialled, although records do not show exactly what for. A "sudden surge of passion" (presumably aggressive rather than sexual) is mentioned with regard to Blaney Campbell who was ordered to be dismissed the service - Lieutenant Raitt being acquitted. The Thirty-First were at St Vincent and endeavouring to control rebellious Caribs, some of whom ambushed an escort party under Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Walsh.

**1813** The Queen's gained themselves a Battle Honour at Vittoria where they defeated the French despite the fact that "Eighty pieces of French artillery belched forth a murderous fire on the advancing columns".

The Thirty-First were in Sicily where they were in a state of readiness, but not engaged, when disturbances occurred at the capital, Palermo.

**1843** The Seventieth Regiment returned home from service in Quebec and were stationed at Portsmouth under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Kelsall, a veteran soldier of forty years service.

The Queen's were in India where Sir Charles Napier

reported favourably on the Regiment - a detachment of which had supported him at Scind in subduing Ameers on the Indus.

**1873** A number of Queen's were taking part in large scale manoeuvres on Dartmoor where "the weather was extremely inclement, rain falling almost without cessation". Others of their colleagues were in Ireland. The Seventieth Regiment were at Rawal Pindi where they were to remain for the next two years. Rather surprisingly for India, health was reported to be very good at this time.



31st Foot.

*1st Batt (Huntingdonshire Regt)  
became E. Surrey Regt in 1881.*

**1893** The East Surreys left Ireland for Malta to commence a two year tour of duty there. Likewise the Queen's were also on the island, having arrived there the previous year.

**1903** Although the Boer War had finished in the previous year, the Queen's were still in South Africa, moving to Kroonstadt where they remained under canvas for two years. One of their regimental officers, Lieutenant Wallace Duffield Wright, serving with the Northern Nigerian Regiment in their home territory, won the Victoria Cross when, with a force of only forty-four men, he successfully repelled attacks of 3,000 enemy troops of the Emir of Kano.

In India the East Surreys were settling down to peace time routine and while at Lucknow received their Queen's and King's South African War medals.

**1913** The Surreys in Burma were nearing the end of their service there and were being withdrawn from outstations to concentrate at Chaubatta and Bareilly and finally at Rangoon for the beginning of a long journey home and (unknown at the time) to war.

In England 381 of all ranks of the Queen's travelled by special train from Bordon to Guildford to take part in the ceremony of unveiling the window in the Queen's Chapel of Holy Trinity Church dedicated to the Regiment in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of its formation.

**1933** The Surreys in England seemed to be experiencing variety as the spice of life. Lt. D.J. ff Campbell embarked for service with the Sudan Defence Force. Members of the

Sergeants' Mess embarked socially in certain of H.M. Ships to enjoy the company of the Royal Marines while twenty five other members, of equally adventurous spirit, embarked on horses of the 4th Hussars when enjoying a social evening with the cavalry at Catterick. Further afield the Queen's were in China where the Japanese were already proving troublesome and showing signs of hostility. The Regiment was complimented on its bearing, conduct and service by Sir Miles Lampton who, in his departure address, said, ".....the Queen's Royal Regiment can regard itself as a pattern for succeeding garrisons in North China to emulate....."

**1943** In a very different form from the "cavalry connections" of the East Surreys ten years earlier, the Queen's found themselves in Italy in company with the Royal Scots Greys with whom they seized Monte Corvino airfield, described in the Regimental History as "perhaps the most important objective on the whole British front" Still seemingly endeared to the cavalry, the Surreys were with the North Irish Horse in a ferocious battle at Longstop Hill in Tunisia. Casualties were heavy but the capture of the hill, and adjacent peaks, set the scene for the final assault on Tunis.

**1953** At Tel-el-Kebir the Surreys suffered several casualties in dead and wounded in the later stages of Britain's policing duties to protect the Suez Canal. The Queen's were in Germany but preparing for service in Malaya on anti-terrorist duties. Both Regiments seemed to have enough on their hands to keep them busy. Few, if any, realised that by the end of the decade they would be unable, individually, to keep themselves in existence.

#### Regimental Depots

In the final report of the committee on the localisation of the Army published in 1875 it was recommended that Regiments be linked to Districts. The outcome of the Report was published in the Army List of November 1876 which showed in Sub-District No. 47 (County of Surrey) the 31st and 70th Regiments of Foot, and in No. 48 Sub-District (County of Surrey), later to be re-designated No. 2 Sub-District, the 2nd Regiment of Foot The Queen's. The 31st (Huntingdonshire) and 70th (Surrey) Regiments, had been linked since April 1873. The establishment provided for a depot of 9 officers and 216 Other Ranks, located at Kingston upon Thames.

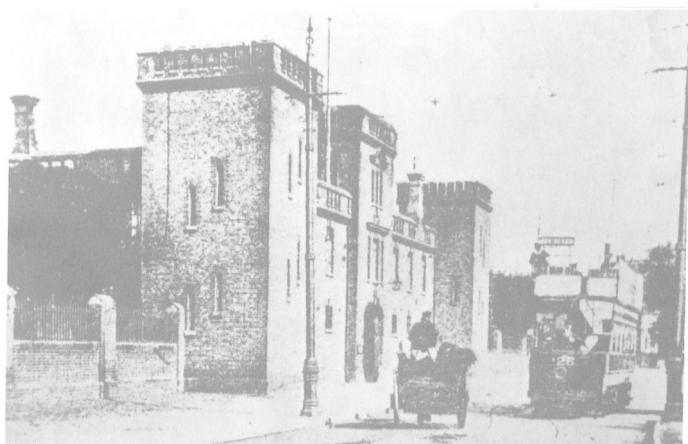
The Barracks in Kings Road, Kingston, designed by the Royal Engineers as a Depot Centre, were completed in 1875, and recruits of the 31st and 70th Regiments were in training there the following year. The Surrey Comet of 1874 remarked the new barracks should have 'a by no means unhandsome appearance'. However, it must be admitted that the Victorian red brick barracks were no architectural beauty, although the massive Keep was impressive.

Stoughton Barracks was completed in 1876 and first occupied on 10th October of that year. It is recorded that from 1876 to 1900 neither the 1st nor the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's spent more than six years altogether in England, serving mainly in India and Ireland.

The Depot was the home of the Regiment where the Colonel of the Regiment had his headquarters. It was the repository of regimental history and tradition and the place where all regular recruits received their initial training before being posted to a battalion. Many thousands of young men passed through the archway of the Keep to be trained as soldiers of the regiment. Older members of the Regiment always enjoyed coming back to the Depot for reunions and other Regimental functions.



*Stoughton Barracks, Guildford*



*The Barracks, Kingston-upon-Thames*

In July 1959 the Home Counties Brigade Depot was established at Canterbury, and recruit training at the Regimental Depot ceased. Three months later The Queen's Royal Regiment amalgamated with The East Surrey Regiment to become The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and it was evident the days of the old barracks were numbered. Stoughton Barracks was finally closed as an Army Barracks in 1983, but the Keep and the Gateway incorporating the Paschal Lamb are being retained by the Ministry of Defence as preserved buildings. The barracks are earmarked by the Guildford Local Borough Plan for housing development. In 1962 all buildings in Kingston Barracks were demolished with the exception of The Keep. A stone, carved with the badge of The East Surrey Regiment over the archway has, sadly, disappeared.

PGEH

#### Fire Power

A report in the Surrey Comet of 12th May 1855, states that when an "alarming fire" occurred in a workshop in Hoggs Mill Lane, Richmond, fire engines from Richmond, Kingston and Hampton (all presumably horse-drawn) were quickly on the scene and - "On discovering the fire, Colonel Challenor and Captain Parratt, with men from the Third Surrey Militia, soon repaired to the spot and rendered much valuable assistance by their being placed in such situations as to protect property and keep the people from getting too near so as to avoid accidents. Captain (later Major) Parratt's sword is in the Regimental Museum at Clandon."

RF



## FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

### D B Chilton MM The Cheshire Regiment writes:-

Dear Colonel Wilson,

On the 9th of September, 1943, the Cheshires carrying Vickers M/Gs landed at Salerno in support of the Queen's Brigade. Two platoons lost touch with the battalions they were supporting. One suddenly emerged at the bottom of Monte Corvine Airfield immediately going into action shooting up everything, accounting for two ME 109's and a larger aircraft which was about to take off. German attacks were so heavy they retired about 300 yards to a lateral road over a narrow gully, meeting the other platoons some Royal Engineers and two A/T guns crewed by the Queens Royal Regiment. All Joined together to defend the area against German attacks who were using mortars and tanks. The A/T guns did not have any time to be dug in by their crews and were positioned out in the open with only the gun shields as protection. The crews fought gallantly, knocking out two tanks and driving off another. Both were knocked out and disabled. The enemy were held until relief. Casualties were heavy: a Major of the Queen's Royal Regiment was mortally wounded and later over a hundred German dead were counted in the area. One MC, two DCMs and three MMs were awarded to the Cheshires for this action.

### Neville Jackson writes from Queensland Australia:-

The year seems to have flown by as usual. My wife Eileen and I have bought a farm not too far from Buderim which we will retire to as soon as we can. We spend two days a week there which keeps us very fit and active.

We celebrated the Glorious First of June this year by inviting Tony Hewitt and his wife Elizabeth to dinner at our farm which was a great success. My wife had decorated the place with all sorts of "Queen's" memorabilia including a Union Jack, which, because we were eating out on the veranda, blew down over Elizabeth in the middle of the dinner. The Hewitts then asked us to dinner in their home in Buderim for Salerno Day.

Tony Hewitt, who served with 1st Bn Queens in Iserlohn, is a Middlesex man initially, and a few years ago wrote a book called, "Three Men on a Bridge" describing his escape from the Japanese in Hong Kong and his long trip to Chungking by foot. Quite recently he returned to Hong

Kong to make a Documentary of his escape which I understand will be shown eventually in U.K. on a TV Channel.

We did hope to have seen something in the news about the formation of the new Regiment on Salerno Day even if only because of its association with the Princess of Wales - but there was nothing shown here.

### Mrs Joy Gallop writes:-

I feel very honoured to have been given the plaque of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. It will give continuing pleasure as it will always be a reminder to me of the happy associations I have had with you all.

*Mrs Gallop was for many years the Mayor's Secretary in Guildford and was always of tremendous assistance to 5 OMA and the Association.*

### R.G. Eaves writes,

In March 1940 I enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment at Devizes in Wiltshire. After undertaking two weeks of military discipline and drills, I was promoted to Lance Corporal, and posted to Minster, near Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, to join the 2/6 Battalion.

Promoted to Corporal and Section Commander in the Bren Gun Carrier Platoon, my duties included driving instruction, training with infantrymen returning from Dunkirk in France, and guarding the local coastline and aerodrome. During this time I took part in the shooting down of a Messerschmitt German plane. Posted to Ipswich, Suffolk, completed battle training, including experiencing mustard gas, giving driving instruction and field training to Polish Officers. Promoted there to Lance Sergeant. Later I was promoted to full Sergeant prior to joining the Eighth Army under the command of the then General Montgomery (Monty) at Ashford, Kent.

We embarked on a troopship, the converted liner *Franconia* to Capetown, South Africa, then moved on to Bombay, India, then by rail to Deolali. After undertaking further tropical training, we embarked from Bombay to the Persian Gulf, on to Basra, Iraq and then on to Baghdad. Finally to Kirkuk where we joined the Persia and Iraq forces (PAI Forces).

Three months passed by travelling desert roads through Palestine Transjordan, to North Africa. At this point we collected Bren Gun Carriers and went into action for the first time at Enfidville until the surrender of the German Forces at Tunis. After reinforcing, we embarked on a tank landing craft across from Ponticagnano Fiano Beaches. On the eighth day of the landing, I was wounded by German machine gun fire whilst attacking German infiltration. At a tented hospital, near the beach, surgeons removed three bullets and I was then taken by hospital ship, to Phillipville now Skida in Algeria for recovery, continued then by rail to Mount Revei, and after further operations by the surgeon, Col Kokinis for the removal of bone fragments and fluid from the lung, I travelled to a transit camp for convalescence and light duties at Geraldo.

After being declared fit I travelled to rejoin the Queen's a then reinforced platoon in Vis, (an island in the Adriatic off the coast of Yugoslavia). Travelled then to Cairo with the Battalion for four days leave. Once leave was over we went to Italy (Benvento) and then via Naples and Rome (Tivoli) prepared for the journey via the northern route in armoured column to reinforce units in the north Italian Gothic Line. After four days of action in Germano, Groce, Sansavino, I was wounded again by mortar fire whilst attacking houses on a high ridge.

I was carried out of the battle zone by stretcher to an ambulance which transported me to Rimini and then I was taken by air (DC3) to Bari in the south east. In hospital at Bari I had an operation for the removal of shrapnel and was then evacuated from Naples in the hospital ship *Dinard* to England and Chester Royal Infirmary. Transferred to Dudley Road Hospital and after six months recovery I was posted to the Queen's Holding Battalion at Gravesend, Kent, giving rehabilitation lectures before finally being discharged at the military hospital at Barming (Orpington) Kent.

**Editors Note:**

*R.G. Eaves finished his five years' service as a Sergeant.*

**G. Swain, Secretary Italy Star Association 1943-45 writes:-**

I was originally in the 7 Bn Ox and Bucks Light Infantry in Italy where my battalion was badly mauled and in consequence was disbanded and many of us were posted to the Queen's Brigade. At the end of the war, several of my comrades in 2/7th Queens became firm friends and to this day we meet even though we live miles apart.

When the Italy Star Association was formed in 1987, Brigadier Macwilliam allowed me to hold a recruiting drive at the Battalion reunion and many members joined - to date we have nearly 30. This year, on our annual pilgrimage to Italy, five members were with us and at Salerno Mick Morris laid the wreath at a small ceremony on behalf of the Association.

Last year, when the Association marched at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the leading rank comprised five members of the Signal platoon and the coverage on the TV showed that we had not forgotten how to march!

I wonder if I might ask you to give us a mention in the Newsletter if you can spare the space.

The Italy Star Association 1943-45 is open to all holders of the Italy Star campaign medal and membership has now reached 1420 (with 30 Queensmen as members). We have branches at Lymington (HQ), Portsmouth, Cheam, East Kent, Oxford, Hull, Warrington, Tyne and Wear, Aberdeen, West Somerset. Our aims are to give a true, history of the Italian campaign, to hold an annual reunion and parade and lunch, to promote visits to war cemeteries in Italy, to keep alive that special spirit of comradeship which existed during the campaign, and to further support the descendants of fallen comrades.

We march regularly at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday. To mark the anniversary of the landings at Salerno we are holding a mini weekend - a supper concert and a parade at Margate. We will be visiting Cassino again in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the battles there. The National Secretary (a former 2/7 Bn Queens R.R.) will be pleased to supply further details: Graham Swain - 76 Manor Road, New Milton Hants BH 25 5 EN. TN. 0425 614884.

**N M Finlay writes:-**

On reading the last Newsletter, I was saddened to read about the death of Colour Sergeant William A Lazard as I was one of the survivors on the same piece of flotsam, which happened to be something like a door. He was a well liked NCO.

**F G Kingett writes:-**

The Newsletter is an excellent publication and much appreciated.

I served with the 42nd Tanks in the Western Desert. In December 1941 sent to Malta, the light tanks were joined

with 2 Bren Carriers of the 1 Devon, 1 Dorsets and 1st Hampshire Regt, forming a mobile light troop.

Returning to the Middle East, and finding that the 42nd were gone. I volunteered for the RF Regt (Raiding Forces) ending up as a Troop Sergeant of 4 heavy machine guns, supporting the Royal Marines in Italy and Yugoslavia.

Now that the London Regt has returned to Clapham Junction, having joined the 23rd London Regt in 1936 and in a small way involved with the Hampshires and Royal Marines and the Surreys, times have turned the full circle.

Best wishes to all.

**C F Cox writes:-**

Whilst in British Columbia, Canada, in June this year, I met 6142288 Leonard Arthur Ernest Phillips, late of The East Surrey Regiment.

Leonard Phillips has written and published a book called "The Drummer Boy".

The book is a very detailed account of service in The East Surrey Regiment. Leonard served with British and Canadian forces for thirty four years and retired with the rank of Captain.

At the time I met Leonard he was desperately ill with cancer but before I left he gave me a copy of his book. I regret to say he died shortly after our meeting. His widow lives in Vernon B.C.

Leonard was a gentleman and truly an old soldier who did fade away.

**R R Boyce writes:-**

Thank you most sincerely for the help you have given not only to myself but to the remaining relatives of our brother Douglas Boyce who was killed in Malaya with the "Surreys".

I found it most uncanny, if that is the word for it, by doing this project that I actually followed my brother's tracks 10 years later with the 45 Commando RM. Apart from the onset of the battles at "Guran" our base camps were the positions the 2nd Surreys fought their horrific battles, so I could well have patrolled his last stand many times.

Brother Doug sailed from Shanghai to Malaya in 1940 and I sailed from Hong Kong to Malaya in 1949 and served there for two and a half years.

Your last extracts from "Chye Kooi Loong's" history of the British Battalion made it possible to finalise the project.

So once again Sir, thank you very much for your kind and most comprehensive support.

Best Wishes to all members of your Association

**L Fish writes from Ontario, Canada**

Thank you for the Nov. 92 Newsletter which arrived the week of Christmas; a delightful Christmas gift. As usual I am most impressed with the content and continue to marvel at the quantity of reading contained.

The letter from G.N. Prior, in the November 92 Newsletter, caught my attention and evoked memories of Colonel 'Nipper' Armstrong's weekly, Saturday

morning parades on our plateau-Nissen hut camp at Veroia, in Greece: a detachment of us, 1st Battalion East Surreys, was stationed at Kozani which was up in the mountains close to the Albanian border.

Every Saturday, leaving a skeleton crew behind, the detachment would motor down to Veroia for the Commanding Officer's parade. The parade consisted of drills and inspections followed by an address of topical import by 'Nipper'. Perhaps I may first elaborate on G.N. Prior's recollection by recalling that particular 'Nipper lesson', in paraphrase since after near 50 years verbatim is impossible:

*"Men of the 1st Battalion! Today I wish to extol the virtues of regularity. Not punctuality on parade, but rather the regularity of bodily functions.*

*When I was in India I would climb, each morning, up to the battlements of our fort which overlooked the native quarter. Over time I observed that one particular, native conducted a daily routine of remarkable regularity. He would arise, evacuate his bowels, perform ablutions then visit his wife. Every morning! This native gentleman was a shining example and a living testament to the principal of regularity.*

*Now there are 3 types of people on earth: 1., the Barrafudga, who goes before breakfast; the ideal. 2., the Hazrikabbar, who goes after breakfast, barely acceptable. 3., the Kubbi kubbi; who goes anytime, and is an abomination! Woe betide any man of the 1st Battalion East Surreys whom I discover to be Kubbi kubbi!*

In like manner, on a subsequent parade, 'Nipper' alerted us to the evils of popular music:

*"There is a plague upon the land and it walks abroad in the form of one, Francis Sinatra. This idol of youth is infecting the universe with his corrupt lyrics and sensuous music. Beware of what this man represents and resist his obscene blandishments."*

Another lecture was on food waste where he had our luckless Quartermaster delving into garbage cans, before the Battalion, to extricate edible portions of discarded food.

The final lecture I recall was when a War Office directive removed the requirement of soldiers saluting when receiving their pay. "Nipper" was extremely incensed, berated us all roundly and gave us a hard time on the parade ground. I thank G.N. Prior for triggering these dormant recollections.

#### **M Baugh from Deal writes:-**

It is only in the last two years that I have joined the Regimental Association. This is more than 40 years since leaving The East Surrey Regiment, and having read my recent copies of the Newsletter, I must congratulate you on its excellence and greatly regret the years I have missed.

Even after such a length of time I have found so much of interest, and many memories have been stirred of days at Invicta Lines, the ITC which is now Howe Barracks and the Depot at Kingston in the post war years.

I was particularly interested to read the article by PGEH in the last issue about life in 1937 at Razmak on the North West Frontier of India. I served there in 1945-46 on secondment to the 1st. Wilts who were the last British battalion to be stationed there.

The Faqir of Ipi and the Pathans was still causing us problems then, with sniping and harassment, although the rifles they used were more modern than those they had pre-war. I learned the reason for this about 30 years later: when talking to a German diplomat in Africa, he told me that during the war he was stationed in Kabul as a military attache with the task of getting weapons to the Pathans, so that British and Indian army units could be tied up on the Frontier rather than being available on the war fronts in Burma, Africa and Europe.

As a result of my time there shortly before Indian and Pakistan independence, I wonder if I might possibly be the last East Surrey officer to have served on the N.W. Frontier?

With best wishes for the continued success of the Association and the Newsletter.

#### **G V Hodges writes:-**

I was delighted to see a picture of Dickie Asper in the magazine. We were at Eton Hall together and the only time that I have come across his name since then was when he won a competition in the now defunct magazine 'Men Only'.

The Aldermen for this ward and a recent Lord Mayor, Sir Hugh Bidwell, did his National Service in The East Surrey Regiment.

One of my uncles who was in the Queens during the First World War, towards the end was given command of a Royal Hampshire Battalion.

#### **G Webb writes from Alicante, Spain**

In the last Newsletter you asked for items of interest for the Newsletter. I have enclosed a copy of 11 Infantry Brigade summary of events for May 1940 which I hope will be of interest to the museum and to your readers.

Whilst serving with B Company Surreys in France, we received orders to move forward and to plug a gap where the enemy had broken through. In the area of La Panne we came under bomb attack. Our PSM 'Wacka' Welch called out that he had been hit in the neck. Investigation showed that the blast had completely removed a boil in the neck which had been troublesome for days. I applied a first aid dressing and we carried on with no ill effects to 'Wacka'.

From the beach at Dunquerque we were embarked on an Isle of Man boat - the *Bon McCrea* - I remember her well and sometimes wonder what happened to her. The Company had just sat down when we were attacked by dive bombers which released five bombs each. As I remember the bombs fell either side of the boat. That is the last thing I remember until it was time to disembark at Folkestone Harbour.

When I was a training sergeant at the ITC Richmond Park I remember the training was beset with difficulties mainly because of the air raids over the London area. The order was that as soon as a siren sounded staying there until 6 a.m. waiting for the 'all clear' to sound. Then, with luck,

we were able to get to bed for three hours until the day started with breakfast at 9 a.m.

One night I was returning to Camp with Sergeant Jim Collins. We entered the park at Kingston Gate and had just got into the trees when there was an horrendous 'swoosh' and we found ourselves surrounded by incendiaries. We hurried back to camp to check that the lads had taken to the shelters. On our arrival we found that the WT Stores were ablaze. We spent that night putting out the blaze and removing stores to safety.

As I have said I served with B Company, 1 Surreys in France and also 70th Bn The East Surreys. On return from India where I served with the RWAFF I was posted to Canterbury. I returned to Kingston at the Depot and was demobbed in 1948

Best wishes to you all.

#### F A Staples writes:-

In my copy of the Association Newsletter No 52 I see that you are inviting personal accounts for inclusion in the proposed booklet entitled "The Surreys in UK, France and North Africa 1943-45", which I think would be a most interesting idea.

I joined 10th Surreys from an ITC in Chichester in July 1942 when the Bn was under canvas in Tavistock Devon.

At that time the CO was Lt Col Brooke and the adjutant was Capt Branncked?, I can also remember the CSM of "B" Coy was CSM Hurley, there was also a CSM Bonham and a little while after RSM Williams joined us.

The Bn spent most of its life in and around Plymouth and Dartmoor. We did a tremendous amount of training on Dartmoor, very cold, very wet. We used to envy the convicts in Dartmoor prison at night when they were inside and we were in holes in the ground on the area around the prison.

The Bn suffered a great deal by being drained by large drafts being taken to all sorts of other units but mainly to the other Bns in M. East ie 1st Surreys for one.

We went to Northern Ireland in early 1943 and spent almost a year there, more intensive training mostly in the mountains in Co. Down and on the firing range in Ballykinlar. All troops who spent any time at all in N. Ireland will remember the Sandys Home at Ballykinlar. We also had a week of what is now called R & R at Warrenpoint; no bugles, no reveille or lights out, a holiday in fact. We returned to England early in 1944 and after a few more moves we found ourselves staffing a pre invasion camp at Hambleton in Hampshire.

Once the second front had started further drafts were taken from the Bn and in June 1944 I found myself on a draft to Normandy where I was transferred to 1st R Norfolk and from there on it's quite another story.

I believe the 10th Surreys was disbanded in Aug. 1944 and although the Bn did not see action as a single unit it would appear that we all did our part in the war effort but under all different colours and all diverse cap badges.

I sometimes think it would have been nice to have remained in one regiment for the whole of my service but the lads in the Norfolks soon "cottoned on" to our London accents and I keep in touch with them to this day.

With reference to N. Ireland, I would suggest that there are very few service personnel who served there will ever forget the Larne/Stranraer ferry. It must be the worst patch

of sea in the world because most people were violently seasick either going on leave or returning to their units.

I recall one occasion when I was on leave at home in London when I was taken ill and was admitted into the local hospital.

On being discharged I made my way back to Larne and it was a particularly bad crossing, in winter, and I was so sick that the ferry had arrived and tied up and troops were disembarking, I was still "chucking it up" over the side. I finally managed to get down the gangplank to be met by the RTO with the news that 10th Surreys had returned to the mainland a couple of days before. The ferry was to return within a few hours and I was to be on it.

I pleaded with the R.T.O. who could see the state I was in and he advised me to go to the transit camp nearby and report sick, which I did.

I shall never forget the sight, at Larne Transit camp the sight of a pile of empty tin cans as high as a house. They all once contained McChonchachies stew which we appeared to live on during my stay there.

When I finally found the battalion at a place called Hassocks in Sussex I was called before our CSM to explain my absence. It appeared some administration mix-up had occurred and I was not sent a telegram advising me of the move.

#### Extracts from a letter from Lt Col A C Miéville OBE the last Commanding Officer 1 Queen's to the President.

Lieutenant Colonel Miéville was awarded the OBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

Dear Brigadier Mike,

*Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter. It is a great honour to receive the award and, as you can imagine, I am absolutely delighted.*

*I will always be grateful for the support I received from your Association throughout my time in command. I am only sorry you were away when I visited Clandon Park with Jane and was so well entertained. I was delighted to hear that the link will continue with the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment so that all that is good from our founding regiments continues to be carried forward.*

*I will always be thankful for the loyalty and support of the officers and men of the Battalion and their long suffering families. This award is a tribute to them and will always remind me of the experiences we shared together. I hope they feel so much pride and pleasure in the announcement as I do. May I wish you and Ann and, the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association a happy New Year and the best of luck for 1993 and the future. I hope it will not be long before we all meet up again.*

Yours ever

Amédee



## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?

**Mrs. Joyce Bourner** of Flat 12, Spinnaker Court, The Fairway, Rochester, Kent ME1 2QQ, writes that she had seen a mention of our Association in Saga magazine which aroused her interest as she had previously had two direct connections with the Queen's Royal Regiment.

The first was through her cousin S/Sgt. Ted Hardy, who went from the Duke of York's School, Dover to Kneller Hall: secondly through her cousin she met Pte. Eric Webber (from Newbury) to whom she became engaged, but he was killed in action when serving in Italy presumably with one of the two Queen's Brigades.

Mrs. Bourner relates that she had many friends in the regiment and still has many photographs of those old days, in particular of the musicians of the Regimental dance band. Unfortunately she has lost touch with her cousin and would be delighted to hear from him or anyone knowing of him or Eric Webber.

Please reply direct to Mrs. Bourner

**Wilf Werendel** lives at 9, Gosceline Walk, Honiton, Devon EX14 8EW. He served in C Coy 1/6th Queen's. He says he is rather in the wild where he is and would very much like to contact any Queensman within reasonable reach. Devonian Queensmen please note. Wilf later transferred to the Drums and in Africa served as part of the AA platoon. He left the 1/6th on medical grounds when in Holland.

Please reply direct to Mr. Werendel.

**Captain L Dickie** The daughter of Captain Leslie Dickie, 6th Bn. later 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, is seeking details of her father. Ex Sgt Wellbelove has been able to tell her that he was with D Coy 1/6th in France and Belgium and was evacuated through Dunkirk when the battalion were at Southampton he went to the 4th Recce Regt. and no further details are known about him. If any reader can help please write to L. Wellbelove, 24 Avenue Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2RB.

**P B Kingsford**, who served with 1/5th Queens in the Western Desert is trying to contact a Private Keohave who was the platoon runner. Anyone who can help please write to PB Kingsford, 58 Lowerfield Rd, Chester, CH4 7QF.

**Mrs Jackie Clode**, of 66 Park Road, Hythe Kent CT21 6ET has enquired about her father, Lt F C Peter Hall who was reported missing in the Tebourba area (Tunisia), 3/4 December 1942. She was born four months after he was reported missing but would welcome any information. Lt Hall was commissioned in the Artists Rifles but was seconded to 1 Surreys and was a platoon commander in D Coy.

### Mess Dress, 1930 - 1066

A record of mess dress and undress uniform worn by our Regiments on social occasions before and after the last War is being compiled. There are few details available in

Regimental records and we are having to rely on members' memories and on photographs.

Recollections would be very welcome, but photographs would be specially appreciated. Any photographs lent to us would be returned having been copied. Replies, please to The Editor, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY.

### G Braiden writes:-

I wonder if it is possible through the Newsletter to enquire if there are any members around who were in Greece in 1948-49, in Salonika (The Surreys).

I was in HQ Coy working in the RAP and was a member of the Coy football team. I know that quite a few of the team were in the Corps of Drums.

I know it is a long shot, but I would like to hear from them if they are about.

I have been reading the History of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regt. and I came across a passage reference the wearing of scarlet tunic in Hong Kong on the Governors House Guard. I was one of the guard NCOs to wear this coat on duty and I can say that it was an honour to do so.

Any reader who can help G Braiden, please write direct to:- G Braiden 7 Nethersole Close, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7DP.

**THANK  
YOU!**



**STAND  
EASY!**



**SIGNALS**

### Signals

From Captain Bolton - London District Queen's Surreys Association. Best wishes to you on this the 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Sobraon.

### From 2 PWRR

Greetings from the Commanding Officer and all ranks 2 PWRR, on this our first celebration of Sobraon Day as the new regiment. Today is a reminder of our forebears determination over the masses! Sgt Bernard McCabe seized our colours 147 years ago. We look forward to seizing our new colours in not such a dramatic way, but with as much pride!!!

## Colonel Piercy Kirke, The Queen Dowager's Regiment and the Monmouth Rebellion.

A lecturer/guide to the battlefield of Sedgemoor is apparently propagating the myths about the behaviour of Colonel Piercy Kirke and The Queen's after the battle; blackening the names of both with statements and anecdotes that are completely untrue. For instance, he states that The Queen's (then the Queen Dowager's Regiment) escorted the infamous Judge Jeffreys during the so-called Bloody Assize and that Kirke was an appallingly brutal character who, among many other things, behaved scandalously to a lady.

The following article is another attempt, this time in more detail, to set the record straight. A copy of it has been sent to the lecturer/guide.

It is never easy to expose a myth for what it is, a misconception based either on a misunderstanding or a deliberate invention, largely because most people will believe only what they want to believe.

The myth that the Queen Dowager's Regiment (later The Queen's Royal Regiment - 2nd of Foot) escorted Judge Jeffreys during his Bloody Assizes some two months after the Battle of Sedgemoor (5 July 1685) is a case in point. It is based partly on a misunderstanding and partly on deliberate efforts by such historians as Lord Macauley and Dr Toulmin to blacken the character of the Commanding Officer, Colonel Piercy Kirke, holding him responsible for most of the atrocities connected with Monmouth's Rebellion.

It is an indisputable fact that Judge Jeffreys was escorted by the Queen Consort's Regiment, later the 4th King's Own, commanded by Colonel Charles Trelawney.

The confusion has arisen because The Queen's were raised as the 1st Tangier Regiment and became the Queen Dowager's Regiment, and the 4th King's Own was raised as the 2nd Tangier Regiment and became the Queen Consort's Regiment. Thus both were Tangier Regiments and there was a difference of only one word in their subsequent titles.

Colonel Davis, author of the meticulously researched history of The Queen's quotes the War Office marching Book Vol.1 pp 272-213 and Marching orders Vol.11 pp 26-27 to support his statement that "as a matter of history it was the Queen Consort's Regiment that was ordered to escort Jeffreys on his circuit". Judge Jeffreys, accompanied by four other Judges, did not leave London on their journey to the West Country until the beginning of September, whereas on 31 August the Queen Dowager's Regiment (The Queen's) was ordered to march to Plymouth, more than 70 miles, as the crow flies from the area of Monmouth's Rebellion. On 29 August the Queen Consort's Regiment (The King's Own) was ordered to march from Portsmouth to Taunton. it arrived, marching by easy stages, on 10 September and no doubt occupied the billets which the Queen Dowager's Regiment had left ten days previously.

On 11 September The Queen's (Queen Dowager's Regiment) were ordered to march from Plymouth to Kingston-upon-Thames. They went via Plympton, Brent, Ashburton, Chidley, Exeter, Honiton, Axminster, Crookhorne, Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Middle Wallop, Andover, Whitechurch, Basingstoke, Hartford Bridge, Hartley Row, Bagshot, Staines, Egham, and

arrived at Kingston on 2 October. Thus, at the time when the atrocities were being committed in the West Country, Kirke and his Regiment were, as Colonel Davis says, "far away from the terrible scenes".

According to Savage in his 'History of Taunton' many of the stories told of Kirke's brutality are exaggerated and many absolutely untrue. He was a violent, passionate man, and when on parade would curse and swear and threaten in the most outrageous manner but he seldom carried out his threats.

It is probably perfectly true that Kirke, a man of his time, who was never unwilling to supplement his income, was prepared in certain circumstances to relax his vigilance over his prisoners, but one of the most scandalous of the stories Doctor Toulmin tells about him is most certainly untrue.

According to Doctor Toulmin, a lady made a bargain with Kirke, offering what is euphemistically described as her honour in return for the life of a relative, variously described as husband, father or brother. Kirke enjoyed the lady and the relative was hanged.

However, in his 'History of Taunton', Savage says that when the historian Doctor Smollet died an interesting letter was found among his papers. Dated 12 March 1759 it was signed by John Merrill of Poland Street, London, who wrote that he wished to refute 'this vile and horrible story falsely told of General Kirke'. The true facts had been reported by Martin Killigrew, an officer of The Queen's who had been present, and the story probably emanates from 'the violent hatred in the west country because of the executions, and Kirke's outrageous, passionate behaviour - a constant habit of his, although it seldom went beyond words.

What really happened was that Kirke was ordered by the Court to execute twenty rebels. A relative of one of the condemned implored a Mrs Elizabeth Rowe to intercede with Kirke for the man's life. This Mrs Rowe was probably the wife of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Rowe in the Regiment and therefore able to approach Kirke with some chance of success. Kirke was standing on a balcony to watch the executions when the lady made her plea. Kirke at once 'conceded her prayer' and turning to Lieutenant Bush, the officer nearest to him and who was considered to be the most stupid man in the Regiment, said sharply: "Go and bid the executioner cut him from the gallows", assuming that Bush had heard the name of the man concerned.

Bush, who had not heard the name and was too stupid to ask for it, hustled off to the executioner and said, "Cut him down".

"Which him?" asked the executioner. reasonably enough, "for there are twenty".

A rebel who had noted what had been going on spoke up and said he was the man. He was released and ran off, while the real man, who was 'devoutly praying and preparing for his end', paid no attention to what was happening and was executed with the rest.

As Colonel Davis says, "it is certainly a curious circumstance, if Kirke was the demon of cruelty he is made out to be, that the people of the town where his cruelties were enacted - Taunton - should be so proud of him and his troops, in their brave relief of Londonderry some years after, as to devote a whole evening in drinking his health in public, "the expenses of which may now be seen in an old church book" (Savage).

## Brief diary of events of 1685

5 July	Battle of Sedgemoor (near Bridgewater) Kirke and the Queen Dowager's Regiment (The Queens) remained at Bridgewater until 8 July.
7 July	Captain Barber's Company of the Queen Dowager's Regiment which had been left at Pendennis was ordered to march to Plymouth.
8 July	Kirke and his Regiment moved to Taunton.
29 August	Colonel Charles Trelawney and the Queen Consort's Regiment ordered to march from Portsmouth to Taunton.
31 August	Kirke and the Queen Dowager's Regiment ordered to march from Taunton to Plymouth.
Early September	Judge Jeffreys left London for Taunton.
10 September	Queen Consort's Regiment arrived at Taunton.
11 September	Queen Dowager's Regiment left Plymouth for Kingston-upon-Thames.
2 October	Queen Dowager's Regiment arrived at Kingston.

CJDH

## The Early Days in 1939

How great it was to read Sid Pratten's story in an earlier issue of the Newsletter, of our early days at Caterham.

All the "boys" Sid mentioned were lads around the 20/21 age group, who were called up with the first Militia and some had just finished, or nearly finished, their Apprenticeships and myself, I had just finished 5 years in Fleet Street so I was not happy just as I was going to earn a good wage.

We were mostly boys from the East End, i.e. Canning Town, Plaistow, Silvertown and some from the Barking and Dagenham area and we all met up at London Bridge Station and caught the train to Horsham Station and were met by private transport (lorries) supplied by Capt. Stuart-Menteth. The transport then took us to a local hall where members of the Territorials led by Sgt. Bill Harding took our particulars, and I remember in that hall a full size billiard table on which we all dumped our private kit.

We were then taken to Caterham, where we were billeted in private houses and I was lucky to share a room with two others, George Flint and Freddie Cardwell, in a large room with three single beds and the lady of the house was paid 9 pence (about 4p today) and the Army supplied the old grey blankets. We also paid her 6 pence each a week and for this she gave us a cup of cocoa at night. After a few weeks we got our Army boots and we had to leave these outside the back door!

If only a photo could have been taken of all our crowd of soldiers in that first two weeks, what a great photo it would have been! Just imagine a group of soldiers - one had a forage cap, another an overcoat, another a pair of boots, the other a battle dress jacket, and this went on for a couple of weeks. "Fred Carno" or "Dad's Army" would have had nothing on us.

As Sid said, we would muster on the Village Green and we would march off to Kenley Aerodrome and sometimes we

would be in step and we went there for Small Arms Training in the dirty, dusty hangar.

After a few weeks we all had our full uniforms, although some still had the cardboard box gas masks, and by then we had our Army boots and thick grey woollen socks which gave our feet blisters and the local chemist made a fortune out of us, selling foot powder and creams.

The biggest "Con" after completing our training, we were given, I think, 7 days leave and came back just before Christmas in time for us "Militia" to do guard duties at Biggin Hill Aerodrome and Tatsfield Wireless Station and whilst doing the guard duties it snowed very hard and so bad at Tatsfield we were snowed in. We had to boil the snow down for water and in this time the soldiers were home on leave!

Not long after the guard duties, we got our orders to go overseas and off we went to France. We arrived at Agincourt where we lived in tents and most of our time out there, after a little training, was spent helping to build a French railway line, using the long "Froggie" shovels.

Later on disaster struck, the Germans had broken through Belgium and into France and the BEF was forced to leave France. We couldn't make Dunkirk so we were ordered to Abbeville and then on to Cherbourg, and on our way we often lived on food that we stole or found in farmhouses where the people had left. The best occasion was when we came across a large 'NAAFI' and no-one was there and we got fags, chocolate and drinks free. On this march we kept under cover by day and marched by night.

On arriving at Cherbourg we managed to get on one of the last boats to leave and we had to leave on the dockside all our rifles, arms, etc., and the boat, well over-loaded, arrived at Southampton. After being fed we boarded a train for an all night ride arriving at Newcastle. What a great people they were and how wonderful they were to all the boys.

We marched from Newcastle Station to Fenham Barracks and what a bedraggled lot we were, unshaven, scruffy and all of us with lice in our clothes and on arrival at the barracks we went into a field, took off all our clothes, threw them on a bonfire, went inside and had a good bath. We were then examined by the Doctor and given a new set of clothes, which were very much appreciated. In the next day or two we were sent home on 72 hours leave.

It has been a good laugh writing this and I could have gone on longer about leaving the North of England and coming down to the Dymchurch/Ashford area but perhaps I'll do that another day. Helping me write this was my very good old pal, Wally Jennings, who like most of us is now retired and enjoying himself. He spends 6/8 weeks at his home in Wickford, Essex and then 6/8 weeks at his daughter's house in France where she lives with her husband and family. I'm happy enjoying myself in Southend, although I lost my wife in December 1989.

Writing this has been a great help in remembering my many good friends I met in the 2/6th Queens and I am so happy meeting them all once a year at our Salerno Reunion, and once again, that Reunion is thanks to Sid Pratten and I hope I go on meeting them for many years to come.

RL

## Drumming Through National Service

In June, 1958, I was called up for National Service and joined The East Surrey Regiment. Basic training was done at the Depot at Kingston-upon-Thames. From there I joined the First Battalion in Cyprus and went with the battalion to Libya, where we spent some months, it was there that I volunteered for the Corps of Drums, having had some previous experience playing in a Sea Cadet Corps band. The Drum Major was P.B.A. Howells, known to all behind his back as 'Perce'.

There, under the tuition of the Drum Sergeant, 'Ted' Fulker, I started to learn my trade. I joined a qualified drummer as 'Supernumerary', standing duty drummer until I was deemed proficient to go solo, we had no flutes at that time and music for drill parades etc. was provided by bugles and drums playing marches like 'Burma Rifles' and 'Assam Rifles'. Strange as it may seem, not everyone owned a wrist watch in those days, but I had one and it was borrowed by many of the drummers until the inevitable happened and it was returned broken. I have it still, stopped at the time of its demise all those years ago. Lack of watches was no great problem to the rest of the battalion, of course. They knew the time of day by the various bugle calls.

In December of '58, we came home on the '*Empire Fowey*'. After Christmas leave I rejoined the unit in Blenheim Barracks in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, during a snow storm. The whole camp froze up for what seemed like weeks and the contrast between using 'a Thunder box' in the open in Benghazi with its heat and flies, and using one on an open football field in East Anglia with thick snow and near freezing temperatures I leave to your imagination. We then started training in earnest. I was 'promoted' to side-drum. Hours were spent at blanket covered tables in the huts learning the rudiments, and, as the weather improved, outside with drums. Marches were learned parrot fashion, with the Drum Sergeant whistling or 'singing' the tunes and the parts pinned on an easel, until we became proficient at reading a drum score.

Practice didn't end with 'no parades'. We would get together casually, two, three or more, and rattle out beatings and marches at the drop of a hat, bringing the slower learners along until we had it off pat. Bugle practice also went ahead during the working day, and marches like 'Mechanised Infantry', 'Sambre et Meuse' etc. were introduced into our repertoire. In this way I learned the very first march I ever played as a drummer with the band, 'Under the Double Eagle' (which for some reason we knew as "Under the double shuffle, cha cha cha").

One fine morning we were joined on the square by a motley crew carrying musical instruments, whose indifferent drill nearly gave 'Perce' apoplexy, but they showed that they could play, and to my astonishment, the beatings I had learned at the blackboard fitted exactly with the melody. Would wonders never cease? More training followed, endless hours of practice, drill, bull, the daily routine broken by bouts of duty drummer, when one lived and slept in the Guard room and carried out the duties of playing the calls of the day at the appointed time, and heaven help you if you slipped up.

Spring and summer came and went and we had a pretty full diary. There was Beating Retreat, perfected on the square and carried out in various places, such as on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds, the rehearsal for which was at 7am in the middle of town. The locals must have been very forgiving because they turned up to applaud the actual performance later that evening. Then there were Passing Out parades for various Regiments, the Suffolks for instance, at their depot just up the road, with their unplayable (as far as we drummers were concerned) "Speed the Plough". Then there were the Northamptons with their equally awkward "Rule Britannia". There were carnivals, tattoos, drill parades and not least, the Amalgamation Parade, when The East Surrey Regiment amalgamated with its sister county regiment, The Queen's Royal Regiment, thus fulfilling the old proverb,

"Star of the East,  
Lamb of the West,  
Put 'em together  
and \*//E& all the rest".

I am proud to say that I was one of the last drummers to wear the Star of the East, and to parade with our magnificent silver drums with their embossed badge and battle honours, and their hoops painted in the black, maroon and buff of the regimental colours.

Later we paraded again before the Duke of Edinburgh when he presented new Colours to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. It was also during 1959 that the Regimental Band and Drums took part in the Lord Mayor's show in London, and I can never hear 'Holyrood' without remembering that occasion. It rained, of course.

The Corps of Drums was ruled at this time by Brian Morris, all six feet seven of him, a charming man who treated me as a personal friend and I visited his home and shared a meal with him and his wife on several occasions. I was now Lance 'jack' i/c drum stores.

The Drums were about 30 strong at this time, fielding sixteen side drums and perhaps another dozen or more with flutes and bugles. The flutes had come up with the Queens and their Drum Sergeant, Stan Richardson tried hard to get a section going, not with great success I'm afraid. Certainly the 'Old Grey Mare' wasn't what she should have been.

Looking back, I don't think there were any problems in the actual amalgamation of the two Corps of Drums, probably because the bulk of both corps were National Servicemen who were not too steeped in regimental pride and whose main concern was with the general lack of money, cigarettes, leave and girls in roughly that order. Not that we didn't give a damn, we did care about our turn out, and getting things right, and I like to think that, all in all, we were as good as most and better than some.

We had other jobs to do, of course. First and foremost we were trained as infantrymen, and if not acting as the enemy on battalion schemes, we doubled as CO's and HQ defence platoon. We also had a pretty comprehensive first aid course so that we might act as stretcher bearers. Then there were the usual fire piqets and cookhouse fatigues, and the disastrous evening we were ordered to unpack the new SLRs when everyone got liberally covered in the thick grease with which they were sealed. Not to mention the equally disastrous muster parade some time later when we proudly marched on the square carrying our new rifles at the slope...

The RSM, 'Peachie' Oram must have had a soft spot for the Drums, but the Band Master, 'Bill' Snowden, for some reason preferred to hear his Band and spent many a parade imploring the sixteen side drums to play quieter.

But first and foremost it was in playing our instruments well that we took greatest pride, that, and our turnout. When it came to bugling it was a matter of great personal pride to get the calls right. Reveille was the Naval or 'Charlie' call. I

sometimes played Retreat as the Naval 'sunset' and once received a commendation from the Colonel for doing so. First post was always a bit of a challenge with the high notes at the end, but for me Last Post was the call you just had to get right. Is there any call in any Army which has the same haunting quality? Perhaps the American 'Taps' comes nearest?

Let me share with you one magic moment. It was winter, the stove was glowing a dull red, the drums around the room were doing their usual nocturnal creaking and plunking as temperatures affected their tension. We had all turned in, and were chatting idly until someone said "Ten o'clock". The window was opened wide, moonlight glittered from frosty rooftops and painted everything silver. Into this sharp night air came the first soft notes of Last Post, and then sweetly and perfectly paced, the notes as pure and clean as the moonlight, the tonguing deft and sure for the 'cookhouse' bit, and then slowing, the soft melancholy of the final bars, the last dying note, like a question left unanswered in the air, no end to this note, just the fading, fading, stillness. And the catch in the throat and the silence lingering on and the soft good nights because there was nothing else to say.



and my heart lightens and I step out once more with them in the bright morning sunlight and a cloudy sky", and all the world is young.

In June 1960 my two years ended. I was 21, but I'd gained more than just two years in age. I went round to say my goodbyes. Everyone was busy preparing for the Colchester Tattoo and there were many new faces, (the last intake of National Service men,) and the goodbyes were brief, almost casual. The new storeman was even busier preparing for the move to Aden, and then to Hong Kong, and then I was outside: goodbye Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, to which we had just moved, a brand new Barracks then, and hello civvy street.

Unlike many of my 'Mukkas' I had not been counting the days, I had thought deeply about staying on, but I felt then and still believe strongly today that the Army had not done enough to encourage us to stay. The attitude seemed to be 'Right you B..... s, we've got you here and we're going to make you sweat' 'when perhaps they should have been saying' 'ok lads, you've got to do it so let's make it worthwhile'. For most of the lads doing their N.S. it was something to be endured, a time of sweating it out on a few shillings a week, of going without, tossing up whether to buy a pack of cigs or a pint, going to the pictures or saving your money for a weekend at home, hoping the family might come through with a few bob. Why, oh why did the Government not pay us the rate for the job? Regular pay might just have persuaded many of us to stay in.

We were an army on the cheap, like our fathers and grandfathers before us during the two World Wars, and like them we gave better than we got. There were many things that I loved about the Army; the pomp and ceremony, the sense of tradition and the pageantry, the comradeship, a certain sense of belonging. In my mind's eye still I see them, the long ranks of khaki swinging by, I hear their feet on the gravel, and the music sounds on down the years, and I lift my head

TS

*The Editor thanks The Corps of Drums Society for permission to print this article*

## Hamala Revisited

(In 1968, the 1st Battalion undertook a nine month unaccompanied tour in Bahrain. CO, Lt Col (Brig) HC Millman, OC A Coy: Maj (Brig) M J Doyle, OC B Coy, Maj (Maj Gen) M F Reynolds, OC C Coy: Maj (Col) J Davidson, OC Sp Coy: Maj (Col) J W Francis, Adjt Capt (Col) A C Ward RSM (Lt Col) Wilson. The Adjutant returned 24 years later- to advise the Amir on restructuring the Bahrain Defence Forces following the Gulf War).

Arriving by Club Class Gulf Air B737 was a little more comfortable than the Britannia Airway 707 - but one wondered if Muharraq International Airport was the same place! Take-offs and landings made it as busy as Gatwick and the new marble-lined terminal would have been the envy of the British Airport Authority. Driving across the causeway to Manama one soon noticed that the stench had gone whilst the Island had grown, large areas of reclamation - 20 storey Hotels and a population of half a million due to the large influx from the Indian sub continent.

The Amir and his son The Crown Prince, reminded me of the occasion when they honoured the Battalion by attending a Dinner Night. He recalled 'taking salt' with the Regiment and gave a most vivid account of the Drums (D/M Max Maloney) Beating Retreat before dinner with the sticks being illuminated. What was the name of the large - very large sporting Commanding Officer with a red face?

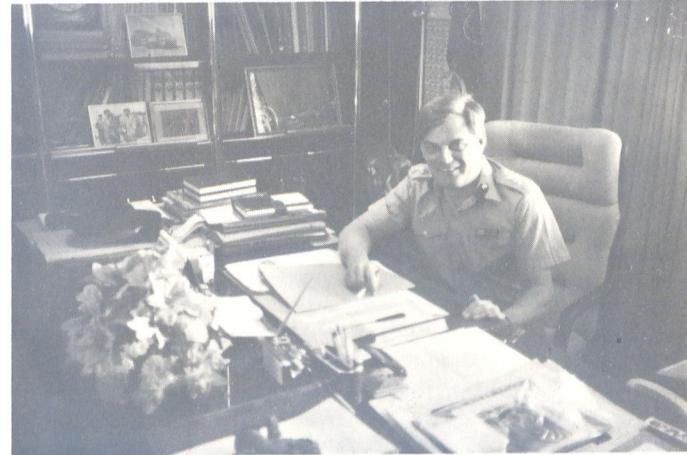


*The view outside BHQ looking towards the entrance to the camp and the guardroom.*

The following day driving along the tree-lined three lane dual carriage-way past the Ruler's Palace; goats, donkeys and camels had been replaced by BMW's, Mercedes and Lotus's. The road to Hamala seemed unchanged. Long-poor surface following a rusty oil pipe line with increased litter in the desert (obviously 'Blanco' Quickeiden had not been around for 28 years!) Simmering in the heat haze, Hamala came into view - the low lying Twynham huts, the high chain link fence like Stalag V. In at the front entrance past the Guard Room, the Kingdom of Sgt 'Ali' Ibrahim and Cpl Manual to Battalion Headquarters. The Gardens had grown a little but all was very unchanged. Having been given a warm welcome by the Artillery Commanding Officer now occupying the Camp, I was taken on a tour. First the PRI - still the PRI the scene of the most famous coup in the Regiment when the CO and RSM raided the backroom to find all the Company Commanders plus Paymaster (Maj R Ewart the leader) digging into the beer at 1100 hours after a heavy guest night! The swimming pool was still in use (and as can be seen from the picture) little changed, likewise the open space beside the pool where nearly continuous boxing matches had taken place under the control of the

RSM and SSI Arthurs. One remembered Cpl 'Sammy' Sambrook, 'Bluey' Hedges, 'Slaps' Hoey, Ray Wisden, L/Cpl 'Walley' Charman, 'Chiao' Ruel, Pte Freddie Goff and Sgt 'Lofty' Perryman providing great entertainment.

Past the Church which was as we had left it but with a mosque built alongside. The square on which the grand Tattoo had been held; the open space for the numerous "potted sports" which had always been timed to prevent a lie-in on Regimental holidays! But it was the gardens around the accommodation - the fruits of the garden competition won by the QM and MT platoon (Peachy Oram had a hand!) that were now truly amazing. All were flourishing. The officers' mess garden and accommodation were little changed except that the ante-room had been replaced. It had at last been burnt down a couple of years ago!



*Colonel Tony Ward sitting in his old office. The furniture was not as smart as in this picture and the desk is much tidier. The RSM did NOT allow flowers in those days. The haircut (or lack of it remains the same!).*



*The author outside the old BHQ building and inspecting the gardens! (Note signed cigarette packets at base of palm- it would not have been there in 1968).*

Leaving the camp at the back, the stables were still in use. Memories flooded back, Sergeant Major Rippion falling-off - Moore and (McCullagh)? the two grooms and the author falling of his horse in the sea!

Bahrain in 1992 is a highly developed independent state proud of its former links with the United Kingdom. Its Armed Forces, now consisting of nearly a Division, display many of the traditions, customs, but above all high standards which I Queen's was able to demonstrate to the infant Bahrain Defence Force.

## "Hellfire Corner"

In May 1940 I joined 50th Queen's at Caterham when Lt Col A P Block was in command, Major Alan Upton was second in command and RSM Peter Picton was the senior warrant officer.

I was seconded to Movement Control Dover for the period of the evacuation of Dunkirk, rejoining the battalion at Seaford and was then posted to 166 OCTU as an instructor. Returning to the battalion in October 1941 I found it was now commanded by Lt Col Paul Adams and the Battalion had been renamed 15th Queen's. Thus I missed the battalion's south coast defence role with headquarters at the well known girls' school Roedean. It was at Seaford that Lieut Leslie Hollis was married. On his wedding night a telephone call alerted the battalion that Germans had landed at Winchelsea and Rye. Fortunately this proved to be a false alarm so Leslie was not recalled. Leslie was a specialist with a bull whip and, after the war, returned to Australia where he put the whip to good use cattle ranching. Major Alan Upton was still second in command but left to command the 30th Battalion. There were then a succession of 2i/cs, Major "Wingy" Willis who amazed every one with his ability to don and tie his gas mask as fast as anyone with two arms, Major B E L Burton who went on to 1/5 Queen's and Major George Grimston who stayed with the Battalion until it was disbanded in 1943 and later commanded 1st Queens in Burma.

The Battalion provided one company based in the Dockyard. This company provided an officer, 2 NCOs & 2 men as additional AA protection aboard mine sweepers, trawlers, MTBs & MGBs. A variety of exploits were recorded of the disposal of trawled mines by gun fire and hair-raising accounts of encounters with E Boats in the Channel, and the battalion were praised for their co-operation with the ARP and took part in rescuing people from bombed buildings.

'C' Company under the command of Capt A W V Domony had the responsibility for the height known as Fort Burgoyne. It was here that a complete intake from civilian life were trained up to Queen's standards. The Company 2i/c was Capt Charles Cole - he retired after the war and is well known for his work at RHQ. Platoon Commanders were Doug Fosten who specialised in aircraft recognition, John Slowman wounded at Salerno and later joined Army welfare at Naples and Gordon Prosser who was killed in action in Italy.

There was great rivalry between the companies in all aspects of training, sport, schemes, turnout and discipline and this led to the battalion as a whole being acknowledged as one of the most efficient in South Eastern Command. Maybe one day the Saga "THE CASTLE TO BURGOYNE" may be published! Other companies were commanded by Major P G T Kingsley, of whom it was said "You do not get put on the mat by Pat you just play cricket on a sticky wicket". Pat organised most of the sporting activities of the Battalion. Captain Reg Wynn who won an excellent DCM in France before commissioning, became 2i/c of 2/7 Queens in Italy. Captain Dan Beattie, a fiery redhead who later in 1947 was adjutant of 1/6 Queens, and Major "Trotty" Lennan had an old banger that had the greatest difficulty in negotiating Castle Hill!

HQ company was composed of the mortar platoon under Nigel Oram, the battle patrol under Lt Michael Eastham (now Sir M Eastham QC) who trained the patrol up to commando standards, carriers under Lt Geoff Appleton and a signals platoon. Lieut David Rossiter, Pte Beresford, Sgt John Howe, L/Cpl David Jacobs and Cpl Swain formed the basis of the Battalion concert party and with others

provided excellent entertainment for off-duty soldiers, much of the music being composed by David Rossiter. Derek Drainwell was the adjutant. He with his brother Philip were very experienced bridge players. Philip was posted to 2/5 Queens and was wounded at Groce commanding a company. The Intelligence office was under control of Michael Levien. The Quartermaster, aptly named Packer, will be remembered for enlivening many a mess night with his impersonation of an Indian charwallah accompanied by some rather risque barrack room ballads. When Monty assumed command of the South East the Battalion were called upon to take part in large scale exercises called "Binge and more Binge", and there was a Monty saying, "Do you get up in the morning full of Binge?" you can well imagine the troops altering the last word to "Beer".

The moats at the Castle and Fort Burgoyne provided excellent venues for assault courses, and 25 yard ranges, which were used to toughen up all ranks. This led to the expression "Bash on" at Burgoyne and the expression stayed with me throughout the service. There were a steady drafting in and out of regular soldiers and these helped to maintain a high standard of discipline and training. At Burgoyne there was CSM Pedlar Palmer who finished the war as RQMS at the salvage depot, Haifa, CQMS Frankie Chalcraft who ensured no shortages and CSM 'Dooly' McCoy with D Company. On his retirement he became a safety officer with GKN. Sgt Tarry Kew was musketry sergeant and later became RSM 2/7 Queen's.

The Battalion route marched from Dover to Knowle Park - Sevenoaks with the responsibility of training the Home Guard in that area. "C" Company were detached to Crockham Hill as additional security for Winston Churchill's home at Chartwell. Off-duty soldiers assisted local farmers in hay making and strawberry picking. They earned high praise for their hard work, good manners and discipline. Cpl Buck was the MT Corporal for the detachment and assisted in maintaining the fleet of local ambulances.

On returning to Dover it was learnt that the Battalion was to become a Reserve and Training unit for drafting recruits, this meant the dispersal of many well trained officers and NCOs to front units. In October 1942 we were informed by the local brewery representative that the Battalion was on the move and it proved correct for our next posting was to Honiton - Devon, but that is another story.

AWVD

## Inspection By Monty

Dover, in the early years of the War, was Hell Fire Corner to the popular press, presumably because it was a target for German long range guns. In fact it was a much quieter, safer place than London at night. We Surreys lived in comfort and safety in the Citadel barracks, built by the great military engineer, Sir John Moore, of Corunna fame. Dover Castle, proudly overlooking and guarding the harbour since pre history, stood defiant on one great cliff. By contrast the Citadel, totally invisible from the sea when built, hid itself on the other. But the cloak of invisibility had been rent by a vast barracks building added at a later date. Seen from the sea, as I saw for myself sometime later, it stood out from above the surrounding off white green like a great box. We lived underground with no parades or other normal army formation activities to bother us. Garrison orders forbade more than three soldiers congregating at any one time in the open air for fear of the above mentioned German guns. We did have some casualties as the result of carelessness with weapons, or

downright stupidity, but only one by enemy action. He was hit on the head and killed by a lump of cliff dislodged by a German shell.

Posted to command 5 Corps, which included Dover Garrison, "Monty" soon rescinded all such cowardly restrictive rules. He announced that parades at full strength were to be resumed at once and that he himself would inspect each Battalion or similar formation under his command very shortly - and by Golly, he did!

The 11th Battalion of The East Surrey Regiment at that time was made up almost entirely of young Londoners put into uniform at and after Dunkirk. The CO, Colonel Drake Brockman, was a regular soldier, and as were the Second in Command Major Davies, the RSM, and the Chief Clerk, Colour Sergeant Booth, known respectively as D-B, 'Whoopie' (because he always looked gloomy) Davies, "RSM" and, naturally, "General" Booth. This excellent team, supported by three or four young regular officers of two or three years service had transformed these milkmen, postmen and bank clerks into a keen and proud body of trained soldiers, not altogether inexperienced, having been defending the coast at bleak Pevensey before becoming part of Dover Garrison. They liked their gruff CO, they knew he was just, even handed - below the surface kind - a true professional.

One thing they had not experienced was a ceremonial parade. Rumour had it that the Garrison commander had reported to Monty that D-B was too old and not really fit to command. Even after the first rehearsal on the great Citadel parade ground one could sense the will of the men - "We'll do the old boy proud. We'll show Smarty Pants where he gets off". Still the inspection was an event I was not looking forward to with any pleasure. He had been given command of our Corps a few weeks previously and his reputation - 'he had made his previous command the most Tigerish in the British Army' seemed more than borne not by the fact that he was on leave, staying in our town and spending his leave inspecting local battalions. What a man!

The great day did not begin too well. I was in the Orderly Room before 8.30 and ran through in my mind for the nth time all the arrangements we had made. As soon as the Ceremonial Parade at 10 was over, all officers, holding any positions of responsibility - the 2IC, all Company Commanders, PRI, QM, Doctor, Padre, and so on - were to go at once to prearranged stations and there to stay until I gave them the "All Clear". If the General wanted to see any of them, the victims, summoned by phone or runner, were to come doubling to the Orderly Room, each followed by a stooge carrying all likely and unlikely documents. Then the victim was to answer all questions verbally, but if documents had to be called in evidence, then they would be there, right outside the door. All administrative arrangements, as far as I could see, were laid on. Even the MO had made up, and I had inspected and persuaded the CO to sign in the appropriate spaces the most bogus Sanitary Diary ever produced. As to the Parade itself I saw no reason to worry. It was an "at home" game. We were to be drawn up on our own Square, to move to the CO's words of command, as we had been drawn up and had moved before in rehearsal parade on each of the three previous days. These had gone without a hitch. Our men, at least, showed no sign of letting any Corps Commander, new or old, make them nervous or jumpy.

So all seemed well. There were no "last minute" arrangements to be made, and then I saw a slip of paper on the floor. Quite why I took any notice of it I still do not know. Perhaps the act of picking it up was something to

do, something to help pass the empty hour of waiting. But as I picked it up the evidence of my eyes began to register in my brain. This was no ordinary scrap of paper from yesterday, fallen on the floor and not yet swept up. It was a freshly written note in the handwriting of the night duty officer. "Record of message from Brigade. Corps would inspect at 0915 NOT 1000." Oh, my God! That duty officer must be roasted alive for not letting me know as soon as he received the message. But the roasting would have to wait. It was now 0840. Parade ordered for 0930 in ample time to receive the General at 1000. And now he himself would be on the square at 0915.

It says something, perhaps, for the good arrangements that had been made for this great inspection day, that we were able to alter them at such short notice and that they still worked smoothly. Sure enough the troops were lined up on parade, seemingly as cool and unruffled as usual, at 0910. I took my place to the flank of the fourth company and thought "Now everything can go to the devil. We've made all arrangements and if they don't work, that's just too bad. There's no more I can do about it." Mechanically and almost subconsciously I went through the motions of springing to attention, saluting and so on as with part of my mind I was aware that the cavalcade of brass hats, ADCs and so on had arrived and taken its place at the saluting base. That most spectacular response to the command "Advance in review order!" was carried out with exact precision, 650 right feet joining their left partners to the halt at the 15th pace, heels stamping as one, the loud staccato sound of marching turned instantly to dead silence as if by a single monstrous click. The General's solemn procession snaked its way slowly through the ranks of the first Company, then the second and was now approaching the third. So far, as far as I could tell from watching out of the corner of my left eye, there had been no hitch. The men, as usual, were standing steady as rocks, refusing to be made nervous by any General. They had presented, sloped and ordered their arms in their familiar veteran style. One felt, vaguely, an aura of something approaching boredom from the ranks. Certainly the proceedings so far were solemn and tedious and slow in the extreme.

And now the Corps Commander had reached somewhere about the left hand end of the front row of the third Company, but I noticed with some surprise that a tall General, escorted by a few satellites, had become detached from the main inspecting party and still appeared to be talking to the right hand man in the front. Suddenly the solemn and oppressive atmosphere was shattered by a great gust of honest, hearty laughter from the tall General. Recovering himself, he hurried on and attached himself again to the Corps Commander. One could see that a few words of explanation were passing and then the hitherto inhuman countenance of General Montgomery actually melted into a smile. Even the Colonel, whose face had been a mask of impassive correctness, hiding such acute anxiety as perhaps only I was aware of, grinned at last. The atmosphere, so suddenly made human, now seemed charged with mutual friendliness and respect, where previously all had been aware of anxiety and suspicion. Nothing now could go wrong, I felt. And in fact the remainder of the inspection, the solemn march past, the falling out of the officers and so on all went with the clockwork precision of the first rehearsal parade. Rather too well perhaps, because inspecting generals prefer some mistake to happen, if only to give them material for their final comments.

Later I heard the cause of the laughter. The Divisional General, a large, extremely capable and also extremely human and charming person, must have found himself

becoming increasingly bored by the atmosphere on the parade ground. At last he saw a face he seemed to recognise, the face of the CSM of C Company. "Haven't we met before somewhere, Sergeant Major?" the General asked after looking at him earnestly for a minute or two.

"Yes, Sir. I was your batman, Sir, for a short time."

"My goodness, yes. Then you were in the ..... when I was a Company Commander there."

"That's right, Sir."

"Now let me think, when did we last see each other?"

"Well, Sir, begging your pardon, Sir, the last time I saw you, you had just fallen off your 'orse in a bog in Ireland, Sir."

Parade over, I nipped down to the CO's office to make sure all was in order. 'General Booth' and I stood by the open door. D-B appears, looking worried, followed by Monty, who gets my smartest, much rehearsed salute. Looking coldly at me he enunciates, coldly, "I don't think we want the Adjutant, do we?"

Against all appearance, we had in fact no need to worry. Within a week Monty was back on a private visit to see D-B again, to assure him how highly he thought of the 11th Surreys and of their CO. He added "I am very short of good staff officers. Can you recommend a couple of possibilities? Within days, without any interview, appointed solely on D-B's word, Captain J M (Mickey) Jourdier, a young regular officer, was appointed G2 North Kent and Surrey area, and I found myself a G3 at South Eastern Command.

Yarns about the inspection were swapped by all and sundry as soon as it was all over. As usual on these occasions one could almost feel the very Barracks buildings themselves heaving a sigh of relief as the General's cortege was seen disappearing down the hill. A monumental heave before settling back in to the normal, decidedly more lethargic routine of barrack life.

Only one of the yarns remains in the memory as worth repeating. It was told in his own naturally dramatic way by White, our concert party compere. "No, I don't think the General spoke to a single officer, apart from the CO and perhaps 'Whoopie' - except, of course, Waldron. He has a free choice of about 40 harmless and normal officers and one Waldron, and he has to pick the one Waldron. 'And how long have you been with this battalion?' asks the General. 'Wuff, wuff, wuff, bubble, bubble' replies Waldron. I couldn't once hear any sound that remotely resembled a Sir. 'Oh indeed' says the General and passes on quickly. He seemed a bit shaken to find that we had what he took to be a Free French officer with us." This was (as I did not know at the time) General Sir Brian Horrocks - then Lt Gen and no Sir of course.

EGB

#### Corporal E. Foster, VC

At a recent exhibition at Sotheby's London, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Orders and Medals Research Society a number of important British gallantry awards were loaned by private collectors and national institutions. The awards covered the period from 1800-1950. Included in the exhibition were the medals of Admiral Sir John Duckworth KB, who was officially mentioned for his gallant conduct at The Battle of the Glorious First of June, and Admiral Sir Charles Bullen GCB, KCH who was also present at the battle. A number of Royal Marine medals were also on display including those of Corporal W E Sparkes DSM whose exploits were recorded on film, 'The Cockleshell Heroes'. A private collector very kindly loaned the medals of Corporal E Foster VC, 13th Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

When asked about his Victoria Cross by a Daily Express newshound in 1937, 'Tiny' Foster, ex-Corporal of the 13th East Surreys, exclaimed 'My VC. I want to forget it. But it did me a bit of good all the same. I was made a dustman before the war and the VC made me an Inspector, so I'm glad I got it.' Ever contented with his lot in life, the big man continued, 'I'm quite happy in my job, with my bit o'gardening, bit o'pictures and bit o'football.'

Edward 'Tiny' Foster was a South Londoner, born and bred. After a rudimentary local education he was employed by Wandsworth Borough Council and, following the outbreak of the Great War he responded to the call and volunteered for the 13th Service Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment. Composed almost entirely of local men, the Battalion soon became known as the Wandsworth Regulars, and 'Tiny' Foster, at nigh on six foot two and twenty odd stone, quickly became a familiar and, no doubt respected, member of the Regiment. After training in Southern England, the 13th East Surreys arrived in France on 3 June 1916, and went into the trenches opposite Lens, north of Albert. Later the Battalion moved to the Somme Valley and was in the front line near Bouchavesnes, when the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line commenced in the Spring of 1917. It was in April, during the capture of Villers Plouich, in front of the Hindenburg Line, that 'Tiny' won his Victoria Cross. His citation which appeared in the London Gazette of 27 June 1917, best tells the story of his valour:

*'For most conspicuous bravery and initiative. During an attack the advance was held up in a portion of a village by two enemy machine-guns which were entrenched and strongly covered by wire entanglements. Corporal Foster, who was in charge of two Lewis guns, succeeded in entering the trench and engaging the enemy guns. One of the Lewis guns was lost, but Corporal Foster, with reckless courage, rushed forward and bombed the enemy, thereby recovering the gun. Then getting his two guns into action, he killed the enemy gun team and captured their guns, thereby enabling the advance to continue successfully.'*

His gallantry was also recognised by the French who awarded him the Medaille Militaire. On 21 July, he was decorated in the forecourt at Buckingham Palace by King George. 'Tiny's' Battalion went on to see a good deal more fighting and was later heavily engaged in the Battle of Cambrai, where it was involved in the action at Bourlon Village. In 1918, the Wandsworth Regulars suffered devastating losses in the Battle of Lys and were surrounded at Fleurbaix.

After the war, 'Tiny' was elevated by a grateful Council to the post of Dusting Inspector, and became a familiar figure on his rounds of Wandsworth, Putney and Roehampton. On Armistice Day 1920, he was one of the VC's present at the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. Over the years he attended various reunions and other events, including the VC Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 1920 and the VC Dinner at the House of Lords in 1929. It is not uninteresting to note that as an active member of the British Legion, he was one of the three VC's who turned out to support the County Rally of the Legion at Guildford in 1932. One of the others was Commander Basil Guy. 'Modest and unassuming', 'Tiny' Foster, 'a big man with a big heart' died suddenly on 22 January 1946.

*These extracts are reproduced by kind permission of Mr David Erskine-Hall of Sotheby's to whom we are most grateful for allowing us to publish.*

## Regimental Deaths

*Allaway* - On 29th January 1993, Private Charles Walter Allaway, aged 73 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Private Allaway Served with 1st and 1/6th Battalions. Taken prisoner in 1940 he spent the remainder of the war as a P.O.W.

*Burchett* - On 29th March 1993, Private Ernest (Pop) Burchett, aged 101 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Burke-Easton* - On 10th December 1992, Corporal Charles Burke-Easton, aged 76 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Corporal Burke-Easton served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in India, Sudan, China Malaya and Singapore. Taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942 he remained a P.O.W. until the end of the war.

*Collyer* - Recently, Private R. L. Collyer, aged 76 years, C Company 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Served with the battalion in the BEF, Middle East and Italian Campaigns.

*Eastham* - On 3rd March 1993, Captain Sir Michael Eastham QC, aged 72 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Sir Michael was a High Court Judge of the Family Division and was knighted in 1978. During the Second World War he was with 15 Queen's at Dover Castle and Redcar, and with 13 Queens at Pilsworth. He commanded the Battle Patrol. Later he served with the Commandos

*Griffiths* - On 23rd April 1993, Lieutenant Colonel William Dilsmore Griffiths DSO and bar, MC and bar, aged 78 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Obituary will be published in November Newsletter.

*Morris* - In December 1992, Private T Morris, 1/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

*Offield* - Recently, Private H. Offield, aged 75 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Served with the 6th and 1/6th Battalions in the BEF and Middle East.

*Pamplin* - On 12th January 1993, In-Pensioner Leslie Charles Pamplin, aged 77 years, The East Surrey Regiment. In-Pensioner Pamplin was a Sergeant in 1 Surreys and was discharged in 1943 after being severely wounded. He was an In-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital from 1990.

*Platts* - On 24th December 1992, Corporal Peter Platts, aged 66 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Corporal Platts served in the Middle East with 1/6 Queen's as C Company Clerk

*Pryor* - On 18th March 1993 Corporal Richard (Dick) Pryor, aged 81 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. C Company, 1/5th Queen's.

*Smith* - On 10th November 1992, Private Walter Smith, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Smith served with the Regiment in India from 1940 to 1944 and then joined the 1/5th Queen's.

*Spells* - On 27th February 1993, Private Ernest (Ginger) Spells, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Private Spells served in the M.T Platoon 1/5th Queens.

*Turner* - Recently, Sergeant R. Turner, aged 75 years, was Signal platoon sergeant 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and served in India (Allahabad, Lucknow and Poona).

*Tweedie* - In March 1993, Captain Vincent Gordon Tweedie, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Awarded The

Military Cross for gallantry at El Alamein whilst serving with 1/5th Queen's. He was wounded in June 1944.

## Regimental Families

*Lewis* - On 27th May 1992, Mrs Edith 'Pat' Lewis, beloved wife of Henry Lewis, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Mrs Lewis served in the ATS - 1940-1945.

*Mitchell* - On 29th December 1992, Mrs Jo Mitchell, beloved wife of Major A Mitchell, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

## Obituaries

### Captain L A Phillips

Len Phillips' long and interesting life is chronicled in his autobiography 'The Drummer Boy'. Enlisting in 1938, he served in the Drums of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment and became a prisoner of war of the Japanese in 1942. After the War he transferred to RASC and was commissioned in 1963. He emigrated to Canada and served in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the rank of captain.

Len is survived by his father, Mr Ernest Phillips, who served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War. Mr Phillips, who will be 97 on 1st January 1993, is probably the oldest soldier of The East Surrey Regiment.

PGEH

### Lieutenant Colonel P D Connery MBE TD

I met Philip when I joined the TA on its reformation. He was then a Battery Commander in what was then known as 598 (Queen's) Regiment RA. He soon took over the Command, and quietly commenced to turn it into 598 LAA Regt (4th Bn. Queen's Royal Regt) RA. His perception of what was required led to the creation of an extra-Establishment Signal Troop, which he appointed me to Command. A pair of unsatisfactory PS Adjutants caused him to ask me to take this appointment, and it was there I really began to know him. He was a Beau-ideal of a CO, and I have never met one to equal him: he had the ability never to be disturbed by abnormal things and was a kind but firm master, delegating absolutely "Method", after having explained what he required as a result. He was always available for help or advice, given with wit and humour, was an admirable judge of human strengths and weaknesses and was able to make allowances for them. With all this, his deep Christian faith, although totally unobtrusive, gave him an inner tranquillity which was deeply impressive on all who met him. I only knew him angry once and then he was frightening, both to the culprit and to me. Without any visible effort he transformed the unit from a rather happy-go-lucky group of life-sized "War-gamers" into a Regiment that could more than hold its own with any Regular Army LAA Regiment. His ability to relax amongst his brother-officers, and to see clearly and understand the point of view of the TA soldier was unique in my experience. Philip would have been followed anywhere by every single man. Towards the end of his command, the unit, which maintained its dual esprit de corps as a Bn. of the Queen's Royal Regiment, and a Regiment of the Royal Artillery, was being honed up to become the air defence unit of the 16th Airborne Division - a role which the continual establishment changes of the period ended before it started.

Of his distinguished war record, I knew nothing, for he never spoke of it. His son wrote "He was called up with the TA in 1939, serving firstly in the UK. In 1943, he passed 4th out of 60 in the Staff College course final assessment: was heavily involved in the planning for D Day, making at least one trip into occupied territory. He volunteered to serve in the Far East, accepting a drop in rank, and fought with the 5th Indian Division in Burma and Malaya, being one of the first British soldiers to re-enter Singapore".

His musical life we slowly discovered and were in a way very proud of - not many units could boast a CO who sang tenor in such a prestigious ensemble as the "Tudor Singers" in the Wigmore Hall, whilst helping out in the more complicated verses of "O Gorblimy, how ashamed I was" in the Sergeant's Mess or at an OR party. I recall how enraptured the whole Regiment was when he sang "Watchman, what of the night" in duet with a Corporal/Bombardier whose talent he had discovered.

All his life he maintained the Queen's traditions, and long after the unit disappeared in the welter of amalgamations, those who could, met on the Glorious First of June, and it was always Philip who gave the order "Braganza" followed after the march, by the toast "The Royal Navy and the Regiment".

He died as he lived - in command of the situation, like the Christian Gentleman he was, and if I ever get to where he has undoubtedly gone, I am sure his first words to me will be "Come along Dougie, there's work to be done".

He was a great-hearted man and very much beloved.

DHE

#### **Major T. F. Connolly**

Tom Connolly, who has died aged 89, was a well-known character in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the nineteen twenties and thirties. On return from Dunkirk in 1940 he served as Quartermaster in No 3 Commando for 21/2 years and then served in the Royal Military Police until the conclusion of hostilities.

PGEH

#### **D Goodman**

Denis Goodman who died in December 1992 was a loyal supporter of The East Surrey Regiment. He served in the 2/6th Battalion in France in 1940, and on return to England was posted to the 1st Battalion. He took part in the North African landings in November 1942 but was badly wounded at the Tebourba battle the following month. Although unfit for further service as an infantry soldier, he maintained his support for the Regiment. He was instrumental in getting Regimental assistance for the 1/6th East Surrey carrier memorial at Risquons-Tout in Belgium. A few weeks before he died, and in spite of severe physical difficulties, Goodman insisted on making a special visit to the Regimental Museum as a farewell Regimental pilgrimage.

PGEH

#### **D Harden**

David James Harden who died at Guildford in October 1992, aged 88, had long and celebrated connections with the town.

Born in Warhorne, Ashford, Kent he came to Guildford in 1922 when he joined The Queen's Royal Regiment with whom he served until 1930. After demobilisation he

became a builder for a time but in 1940 entered the service of the Guildford Borough Council in its health department. Three years later he and his wife Elsie became joint curators of the Guildhall where their duties included caring for some of Guildford's greatest treasures, the town plate.

He also acted as court usher and in 1946 became the Council's sergeant-at-mace and sword bearer. Retiring as the Guildhall custodian in 1969 he continued as mace-bearer until 1979 when he finally laid down the heavy silver mace at a full Council meeting where the Mayor, Mr Ron Burgess, paid tribute to his work for the Borough for nearly forty years.

The funeral took place at Guildford Crematorium where, with family mourners, the Mayor of Guildford and other former and present members and officials of the Borough Council were in attendance.

David leaves a widow, Elsie, a son and daughter, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The former Queen's man will long be remembered in Guildford as a conscientious public servant who carried out his duties with dedication and dignity.

#### **Errata**

The Regiment shown after the late S Jupe in the notices of deaths in the November issue of the Newsletter was incorrect. It should have read The East Surrey Regiment. The Editor apologises to Mrs Jupe and her family.

#### **Royal Cambridge Home For Soldiers' Widows**

As the title suggests, this is a Residential Home for the widows of soldiers who served some time in the ranks of the Army. A peaceful and pleasant house with its own large garden only a field away from the towpath near Hampton Court.

There is accommodation for some thirty residents who have their own bed-sitting rooms and choose their own lifestyles in a safe, warm and comfortable environment, with expert care staff on hand if required.

Medical, chiropody and hair-dressing services are available on the premises.

The Royal Cambridge Home is a registered Charity and its charges are well below those of other homes and certainly within the limit of statutory support benefits.

There is nothing in the least military about the way the Home is run, but its association with other Army charities has resulted in treasured privileges - invitations to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Festival of Remembrance, etc.

Residents maintain their independence and have every opportunity to involve themselves individually or in groups in life outside the Home.

For information write or telephone the Superintendent, ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS, 82/84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AH, Telephone: 081 979 3788.

## Captions to cover colour illustrations

### Front Page

The central feature of this case is The Queen's dark green silk banner, awarded for all regiments of the first seven Regular Army Divisions of the British Expeditionary Force who served in France from August to November 1914. A similar banner awarded to The East Surrey Regiment hangs in their Regimental Chapel at Kingston-upon-Thames.

Flanking the banner are an officer and NCO in service dress of the period 1914-1918. Reproductions of drawings made by an East Surrey Officer in the trenches in France 1917 are depicted on the walls either side of the case.

### Back Page. left to right clockwise

Central to this case is the signed portrait of HM Queen Mary who was Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Regiment from May 1937 until her death in 1953. On the right of the case is the full dress tunic and other militaria of Major General Sir John Longley, Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment from 1920 to 1939.

A view of room 2 which covers the period 1900 to 1920.

Case 19 in room 3 reflects the involvement of 2 Surreys in the Malaya campaign 1941-42 and their amalgamation

with 1 Leicesters to form the British Battalion and 1 and 2 Queen's operations in Burma 1943-45. 1 Queen's fought in Assam and 2 Queen's were part of the force known as "The Chindits". The silhouette of the mule and his handler reflect the important part played by these rebellious animals.

A view of room 1 which is dedicated to the period 1661 to 1899. This room also contains the "Carlisle figures" and Lieut Daniel's Grenadier cap of 1757.

Case 27 room 3 shows photographs of Colonels of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment from 1939 to 1959 and Colonels of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment from its formation in October 1959 until it amalgamated with the other Home Counties regiments to become The Queen's Regiment.

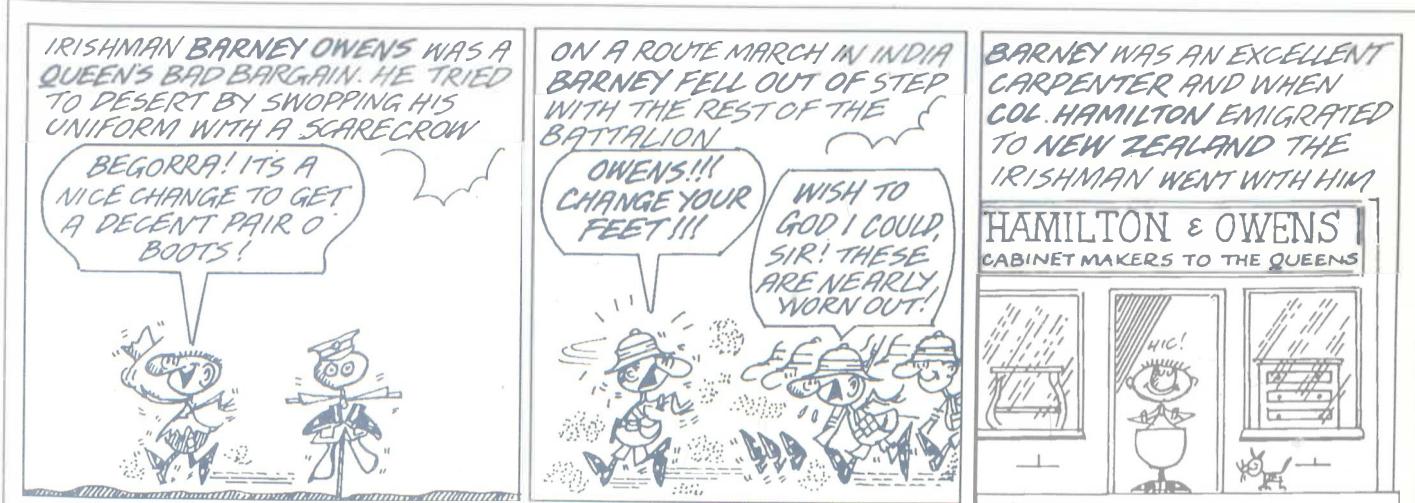
Case 6 room 1 shows artefacts of the regimental connection with India from 1866 onwards. Prominently displayed is the Burmese bible box, a relic of the 2nd Burma war and a Lieutenant Colonel's shell jacket of the late 19th century.

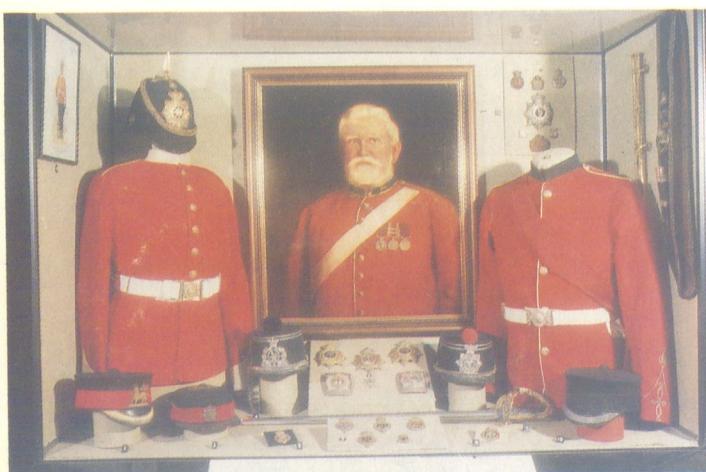
Case 8 room 1 contains more fine examples of Surrey Militia head-dress including a model shako of the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia 1862-69 and a striking painting of Sergeant Major M. Lynch.

### Barney

"Barney," an Irishman, was one of The Queen's bad bargains. While with the 1st Battalion, at Colchester, he had attempted to desert, and exchanged his uniform for the rags of a scarecrow. With the 2nd Battalion he did not improve; always in trouble, reporting sick to escape duty, he was constantly punished for malingering. On one occasion on the march from Peshawar, Barney was lumbering along out of step with everything and everybody. Lieut. Fullerton, noticing this, said sharply, "Owens, change your feet." Barney replied, "I wish to God I could, Sir, for these are nearly worn out." Barney went before the Commanding Officer, and was awarded 168 hours' I.H.L. for his injudicious remark. He went sick at Subathu, and complained that he was a mass of pains. The doctor, Surgeon-Major Temple, V.C., kept him under observation, and then sent him down as a prisoner for malingering. Col. Hamilton looked at him for some time, and then said, "What am I to do with you, Owens? - you are no good either to yourself or to the Battalion." Owens spoke up, and in a deep brogue said, "Sir, I am a good Catholic like yourself. I am no good as a soldier and I never shall be, but I am a better workman than any man in your regiment, and if you just let me go to work in the shops, I'll show you." The Commanding Officer took him at his word, admonished him, and sent him to the workshops Barney had made no idle boast. There was nothing in the cabinet-making or carpentering line he could not accomplish. While working in the shops he did a considerable amount for Col. Hamilton, and, in the end, the Colonel purchased Owens's discharge, and took him to New Zealand. Whether he eventually made good is not known.

### Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson





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