

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT



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President
Brigadier M J Doyle MBE

Chairman
Colonel W E McConnell, T.D

Secretary & Editor
Lieutenant Colonel L M Wilson, MBE

Regimental Headquarters
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
(Queen's and Royal Hampshire)
Howe Barracks, Canterbury
Kent CT1 1JY

Tel: Canterbury (0227) 763434 Ext. 4253

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1993



Drummer, The 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment of Foot c1825.



REGIMENTAL AND ASSOCIATION EVENTS



1993

20th December BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

1994

10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846)
26th February	Museum Trustees meeting, Clandon
12th March	Territorial Trustees meeting, Clandon
26th March	Association Trustees and Committee meeting, Clandon
26th March	2/7th Queens Annual Reunion
23 April	Ypres Day (1915)
23 April	Annual St. Georges Day lunch, 23rd London/42 RTR Assoc., St Johns Clapham, details from Major D Conran TD, 5 Cherwell Lodge, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QH (0865-53587)
5th May	Golf Society, Spring Meeting - Sudbrooke Park
14th May	5 OMA Reunion Dinner, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford.
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811)
25th May	Golf Society, Royal Marines match, North Hants Golf Club
27th May (TBC)	Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors, Clandon
1st June	200th Anniversary of the BATTLE of the GLORIOUS FIRST of JUNE 1794
3rd June	Officers' Club, Ladies Luncheon, Clandon
5th June	Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral
1st August	MINDEN DAY (1759)
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943)
5th October	Golf Society Autumn meeting, Woking Golf Club
4th November	Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion, Union Jack Club
13th November	Remembrance Day

Editorial

The President has congratulated all those members who work so hard in our regimental museum at Clandon in his notes. In the last edition we paid tribute to Brigadier Michael Clarke who stepped down as Chairman before the new season opened. Readers will have seen that his place has been taken by Colonel Peter Durrant, who had already started preparatory work for the 'new look' in the museum. Much of the do it yourself work was carried out by the new Chairman, ably assisted in this area by Roy Harding, and during the summer many tributes have justly been paid to the museum staff by visitors to the museum. We wish Colonel Peter and his staff continued success in their dedicated work in displaying our Regiment in the County of Surrey.

It was most gratifying to see so many of our Association travel to Canterbury and take part in The Royal Review in June. We were blessed with a lovely hot day, and a number of our members and their wives, were presented to the Princess of Wales.

Sadly, this edition records the passing of several distinguished officers and soldiers of the Regiment, Bill Griffiths and Guy Sandys both served with distinction in the 1/7th Queen's, Wilfred Luff DCM, a veteran of the First World War, and Colonel Lance East. Many of our members, regular and territorial will remember him as Adjutant or Commanding Officer before, during and after the Second World War. A fine officer, whose love of his Regiment and the welfare of its officers and men never deserted him, even in his last years when he was so grievously crippled.

Frontispiece. Drummer The 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment of Foot c 1825.

From an original water colour by Charles C. Stadden and printed with his permission.

Depot companies of the Regiment, after being stationed in the Isle of Wight removed to Canterbury in the Autumn of 1825. The Service Companies of the Regiment were at this time in India.

In 1823 the drummers and fifers of the Regiment were ordered to change the jacket colour from red to blue (WO3/242 PRO)

This year has seen several 50th anniversaries. Next year will be no exception, many Surreys will recall the battles in Italy in particular and finally 1994 see's the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of the Glorious First of June. We all hope for a splendid turnout at the Cathedral on June 5th 1994 to mark this occasion. Best wishes to you all.

Les Wilson.

An appreciation and thank you.



The President presenting a coffee table drum to Major and Mrs John Fowler on behalf of The Association. We are most grateful for their continued support.

President's Notes

It appears that after the recent turmoil and change caused by amalgamation, the battalions of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have all settled down happily and that things are working very well. Members of our Association will recall that in the past we linked ourselves more closely with those we saw as our immediate successors in the First Battalion of the Queen's Regiment than with the other battalions. Your Trustees have now agreed that this will not be the case with the new Regiment, which we will look to as a whole as our successors rather than any particular part of it. It is hoped that our contacts will remain equally close.

You will see in this Newsletter, for which yet again we are indebted to Les Wilson's excellent and hard work in producing, that your Association's routine activities continue. In particular our benevolence work on behalf of our members remains of especial interest. Again I congratulate Les Wilson on all he does in this field.

Members will have noted that this is the year of 50th Anniversaries of many important wartime battles, and many readers will have particular and personal memories of what took place when they were serving with our former regiments fifty years ago. Those of us who were not involved will always thank them for the role they played and be proud of the Battle Honours they helped earn.

I congratulate all the many people who work so hard in our splendid Museum at Clandon Park. In particular on behalf of all members of the Association, I thank Brigadier Michael Clarke for all he achieved in his six years as Chairman of the Museum Trustees, and thank Colonel Peter Durrant for having taken on this onerous role. It is to be hoped that the Museum will outlast us all as a proper record of our forbears and we are therefore most grateful to the many volunteers who do so much to ensure the excellence and interest of the varied displays. Further help would of course always be most welcome.

Mike Doyle



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

The Royal Review of the Regiment by its Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess of Wales, was held at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, on Wednesday 9th June. Among 5,000 past and serving members of the Regiment present were over 200 members of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, a most impressive turnout.

The Review started at 11.30 am with a spectacular parade at which the highlights were the descent of the Regimental Free Fall Team, "The Flying Dragons", with a Regimental Brooch for the Colonel-in-Chief, a faultless "feu de joie", and the speech by HRH The Princess of Wales, during which she said that, "for a 31 years old woman to have 2,500 men under her command is quite a feat!".

The Colonel-in-Chief later visited the 2nd Battalion crèche and toured all the marques before leaving the barracks at 3 pm. The ceremonies concluded with a fine Beating Retreat by the massed bands and corps of drums of the Regiment. It was an unforgettable day graced by the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief and blessed by brilliant sunshine throughout the proceedings.

After the Royal Review the 1st Battalion trained hard for their move to Northern Ireland in September. However before leaving they succeeded in winning the Infantry Cricket Championships when they defeated 2 PARA in the finals at Tidworth. The battalion is now firmly established with its families in Omagh.

The 2nd Battalion ran the UKLF Mortar Concentration on Salisbury Plain in July and August before themselves training for their short tour in Northern Ireland starting in November. One of their soldiers serving, with the

Regimental Information Team, Private Alan Clark, bravely rescued two children from a burning house in Ashford in September and received well-deserved media coverage for this heroic act.

Meanwhile our TA battalions have both been to camp, the 5th to Stanford in Norfolk and the 6th/7th to Okehampton in Devon. Much useful training was done at both localities.

Salerno Day on 9th September marked the first birthday of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Much has been achieved during this first year, including winning the Infantry Football cup, as well as the Infantry Cricket and the Army Judo Competition, and reaching the finals of the UKLF Boxing Championships. These many successes augur well for the future of the Regiment.

Finally, we were delighted to learn that our Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Anthony Denison-Smith MBE, has been selected to be the next GOC Southern District in the rank of Lieutenant General, starting early next year.

JW

2/6th Queen's Reunion

Fifty five attended this function held at The Union Jack Club, on 11th September 93 and a very enjoyable time was had by all, we were sorry to miss such stalwarts as Lt Col Bill Peet who is not enjoying the best of health at this time.

The report on the SALERNO trip was well received and the book by Dr Angelo Pesce on Operation 'AVALANCHE' was well studied by those present.

A booking has been made for the corresponding day in 1994 at the Union Jack Club, particulars will be sent out early next year.

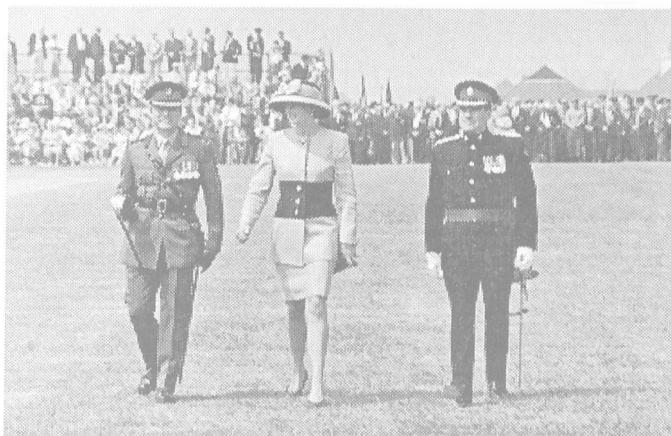
SBP

23rd London and 42nd RTR Association

We seem to be settling down to at least 60 at our annual reunion - a good turn out. Both the retiring and new Commanding Officers of the London Regiment attended our last lunch and we handed over the official history of the 23rd London Regiment for their archives. They take a lively interest in their antecedents and continue to make us most welcome. They have a permanent display of photographs and memorabilia at St Johns Hill which is fascinating. At the final Gazala Day party there last year - we decided to only meet once a year in future on St Georges Day - they renamed the old Sergeants Mess the Gazala Room, and in it is hung the painting of Colonel Rodney Martin 'crossing the wire' with his Tanks, together with a suitable citation. Their interest in their past is most heart warming.

DC

Royal Review



Colonel M.J. Ball, Parade Commander, HRH The Princess of Wales and Major General A.A. Denison-Smith MBE, Colonel of the Regiment.

5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association

The Association held their Annual Reunion Dinner at Sandfield Terrace Drill Hall on the 8th May, when 150 members attended, many of them travelling long distances, even from as far afield as Wales.

After a silence in memory of "absent friends" the Chairman, Lt. Colonel Foster Herd, welcomed members and expressed the hope that they would have a happy evening. He spoke of his pleasure at seeing so many members of today's Territorial Army present and taking an interest in the Association. Tributes were paid to Colonel Toby Sewell, who was deputising for the President of the Association, to Lt. Colonel Les Wilson Secretary of the Association, to Captain Brian Scripps, PSAO Sandfield Terrace, and to other helpers and organisers who contributed to the success of the evening. Richard Ford, Curator of the Regimental Museum at Clandon was welcomed and mention made of the present attractions of the Museum.



Major R Saunders, Lt Cols L Wilson, D Patterson, Col J W Sewell, Lt Col G C H Harris, R Ford, Lt Col F B Herd, Capt B Scripps, Capt J Patterson, Lt Col D Wilson, R May and D Mitchell

At the end of the proceedings all members felt that they had had a most enjoyable evening and went home with happy memories of past Regimental experiences and renewed associations and friendships.



Tommy Atkins, Jack and Edna Homersham, Syd Barker, Tom Best and Les Wilson.

On Wednesday, 9th June forty members went to Canterbury to see The Review of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Colonel in Chief, this being the first time that the new Regiment had been on full parade since its formation. In perfect weather the Princess took the salute as the

Regiment marched past, followed by a parade of Association members from the past Regiments. After lunch the Princess walked round, chatting to members who were presented to her, among them being our member Jack Homersham and his wife Edna. Beating of Retreat by the Kohima Band and Corps of Drums completed a very fine Regimental day and our thanks must go to Lt. Colonel Les Wilson for all the arrangements made on behalf of the Old Comrades Associations.

Sunday, 25th July was a sad day for the Woking Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans Association who finally closed their doors due to lack of support through age, illness and lack of persons to take over official positions.

It was decided to lay up the Branch Banner in St Peter's Church, Old Woking where, at the final ceremony several other Branch and Association standards were on display before a congregation which included many former Queen's members.

It was with great sadness that we heard in June of the death of Colonel Lance East at the grand old age of 93 years. As a regular soldier he had a distinguished career, both militarily and in the field of athletics. The Old members Association was well represented at his funeral.

RM

Salerno Dinner

The 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association held a dinner at The Sandfield Drill Hall, Guildford on 18th September to commemorate the Salerno landing of 1943. The Association Chairman, Lt. Colonel Foster Herd, welcomed everybody, including Mr J. White and Mr L. Bazern, Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer of the Aldershot Branch of The Royal Hampshire Regimental Association. Memories of the landing were stirred when Colonel Harry Bott gave an account of the battle as he remembered it. At the end of the evening the Chairman thanked all the organisers and their wives for their efforts which had made the event such a success.

RAM

50th Anniversary Salerno Church Service and Parade

On Thursday, 9th September 30 members and wives of The 5th Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association were invited to join The Hampshire Old Comrades Association in a 50th Anniversary Church Service at The Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot. The lesson was read by The Venerable Peter Mallet, Chaplain to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire) before a congregation of about 400 people. Two hundred members took part in a march past afterwards, headed by the Kohima Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. A buffet luncheon was provided later at the Civil Service Club. The chance to foster close relationships between both Regimental Associations was greatly appreciated.

RAM

Short Measure

Copy of a Surrey resident's letter found in a scrap book at Clandon Museum.

Dear Lord Kitchener

Jan 1916

I am writing to tell you that I think it is a great shame that our gardener, Mr Morton, who is willing to fight for his country, cannot because he is a quarter of an inch too short. He would make a very good soldier and he wants so much to go and we have no other man to go so we should like to send him.

We have got a photo of you in uniform. You look very nice.

Yours affectionately.....

Museum Notes

We have recently closed for the "winter" period following a seven months open season in our reorganised state, enhanced by the new lighting which the Association generously provided. Judging from comments overheard and received the Museum has been appreciated and I am grateful for all those who help in so many different ways to enable it to function.

We need volunteers to write museum companion booklets in the series to cover The Queen's in North Africa and The Queen's in Malaysia 1954-57. Are there any willing volunteers? The Museum would cover any expenses involved and help in collating material.

The following artefacts have recently been generously presented to the Museum:-

A pair of miniature Colours made by the Royal School of Needlework in 1938 for 6 East Surreys. Presented by Colonel Thompson as Chairman of the Territorial Army Trustees.

A sword c.1870 that belonged to the 19th Rifle Volunteers and found in an antique shop in New York. Presented by Captain Greico (US Army (retd)).

A 1959 photograph album/scrap book providing a unique record of 1 Queen's final celebration of "The Glorious First of June", prior to amalgamation. Compiled and presented by Major General David Lloyd-Owen.

Entrance to the Museum is now by way of the basement (ground level) as for the Restaurant and National Trust shop. Entrance is free.

PAWG



These lovely miniature colours of 6th Surreys have now been handed over to the museum by The Territorial Trustees. They are now on display in the museum.

Seen here is Colonel Peter Thompson, Chairman, The Territorial Trustees and Colonel Peter Durrant now Museum Chairman.

Presentations and Thanks



Lt Col Robert Lyle with the President, having just been presented with a print of The East Surrey Regiment. Lt Col Lyle has now resigned as a Trustee, having been involved on committees and as a trustee for the past twenty nine years.

Drum Majors' Sashes

At the President's reception for Freedom Town Mayors of Surrey, the President presented an embroidered sash, on behalf of The Association to each of the drum majors of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Members who travelled to Canterbury to watch The Royal Review in June will have seen the drum majors on parade with the new sashes.



The Drum Majors of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Reproduced below is a letter from The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General A A Denison Smith MBE to the President.

Dear Mike

I am writing to thank you and the Trustees of your Regimental Association for your most generous gift to The Regiment of the three Drum Major sashes for our three Corps of Drums.

Your Association, I know, was always closely identified with the serving element of The Queen's Regiment and your commitment now to our new Regiment is so helpful to us all. The inclusion of our title in that of your Association is further evidence of this support and we are most grateful for this decision. Not only does it show that we are the proud inheritors of your regimental traditions and history, it also promulgates our name in the County of Surrey.

I would be grateful if you could pass on to your Trustees my deep appreciation and sincere thanks for their support and generosity.

Yours ever

Anthony

H.M.S. Howe

Admiral Earl Howe, the victor of the Battle of the Glorious First of June, has certainly, and properly, been well remembered by the Royal Navy over the years.

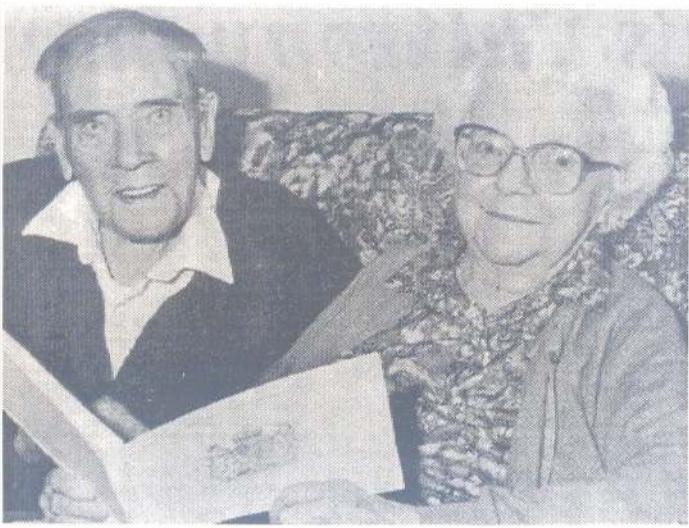
On April 9th, 1940 a battleship, built by Fairfield shipyards, was launched and named after him. The very latest of her class, she saw service with the Home Fleet 1942-44 (with a spell in Force "H" in 1943) and was in the Eastern Fleet 1944-45. In my own Naval days I saw her at Rosyth in 1944, a powerful and menacing figure, with other ships of the Battle Fleet.

She was finally scrapped at Inverkeithing in 1958.

R.F.

Congratulations:-

To George and Ellen Collins on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary



George and Ellen holding their congratulatory Platinum Wedding Anniversary greetings from HM The Queen.

Congratulations are certainly due to George and Ellen Collins of Guildford who recently celebrated their platinum (70th) Wedding Anniversary and received a telegram from the Queen. A veteran of The Middlesex Regiment in the First World War, George was working with Post Office telephones in Guildford when he married Ellen in September, 1923. Joining the local Territorial Army, the 5th Queen's in 1932, he was called up for active service in 1939 and in the following year he was taken prisoner and wounded at Dunkirk where he won the Military Medal. After the war he re-joined the Post Office from which he retired in 1965. Both George and his wife have been active members of the Royal British Legion for many years and George is an enthusiastic student of military history. At their celebratory party they were joined by their seven children, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

RF

Golden Wedding Congratulations to:-

Mr. and Mrs. W J Walker on their Golden Wedding Anniversary July 31st 1993.

Harry and Jessie Skilton who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 29th 1993. Harry will be remembered by many Surreys and Queens Surreys. He ran the Surreys boxing team for many years.

Birthday Greetings to:-

Colonel Geoffrey Bevington who celebrated his 90th birthday on 31st October.

Arthur Scriven who celebrated his 90th birthday on 6th November.

Best Wishes to:-

Major General Francis Piggott, Colonel 'Buck' Buchanan, Lt Cols Bill Peet and Tony Hannaford. Doug Mitchell, Jack Homersham, Dave Boorer, A Sanger and G Deacon.

All have been unwell recently and have been to hospital or have been treated at home. There are many more of our members who have undergone surgery or hospital treatment. Not all notify the Secretary, they or their friends sometimes forget to let us know. Readers should please remember that benevolence funds are available, subject to certain rules, for such necessities as after care holidays,

travel to visit members (or their dependents) in hospital, plus of course the usual requirements of heating or warm clothing. Do let the Secretary or your nearest branch Secretary know, if you hear of a comrade or dependent needing assistance and we will see how best we can assist.

Congratulations to:- Lt Col Jonathan Riley on three counts, promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he is to command 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers, and on the publication of The History of The Queen's Regiment of which he is the author. A massive undertaking which has taken some six years of his spare time. The Queen's Regiment is indeed most grateful to him.

Congratulations to:- Surrey Army Cadet Force on the first class rebadging parade they held on Sunday 5th September in the presence of Richard Thornton Esq OBE JP. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Surrey. During the parade The Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Major General A A Denison-Smith MBE presented a new County Banner to The Surrey Army Cadet Force. The Banner is equivalent in The Army Cadet Force of Colours in the Regular Army.

All who attended were very much impressed with the standard of drill and turnout of these young men and women.



Surrey Cadet Force New Banner is dedicated at the Drumhead Service

A Real Old Soldier

A book entitled "Tales of Old Soldiers" by Tom Quinn, and recently published by Alan Sutton Publishing, contains accounts of Army life in the First World War. Experiences in that conflict have been recounted by ten veterans, among them being well known Woking resident Clarrie Jarman, a former Queen's man.

In 1914, like many other enthusiastic youngsters, he put his age on by twelve months and enlisted in the 7th Bn. The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. After training at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, he went to France where he endured all the horrors and privations of trench warfare on the Western Front.

His military career was brought to an abrupt end on the first day of the Somme in July 1916 when machine gun bullets shattered his right leg which later had to be amputated below the knee.

Discharged to civilian life, he resumed his former career in engineering but later became a schools inspector - a job he did for thirty-six years before retiring at the age of sixty-five. Of indomitable spirit, he never let his war wound and experiences defeat him but maintained an active life style which, among other things, included the sport of cricket. He comments, "I was always reckoned to be the best one legged wicket keeper in Woking".

Still with us at the sprightly age of ninety-seven, we wish Clarrie well and hope he will notch up a century.

Soldier Firemen

Recent threats of a firemen's strike brought talk of the use of troops to man fire appliances as was done in a similar situation some years ago. But the idea of soldier: firemen is not new, certainly in Surrey Historical researcher Maureen Shettle of The Fire Brigades of Surrey Preservation Trust has unearthed the following two letters regarding the Kingston Volunteer Steam Fire Brigade which was formed in 1870 by members of the 12th Surrey Rifle Volunteers.

Printed letter from the Kingston Volunteer Steam Fire Brigade, Kingston upon Thames, to the Sun Fire Office.

Dear Sir,

23rd May 1872.

May I venture to solicit the support of your office on behalf of the Kingston Steam V.F.B. which was started about 18 months ago by some of the Members of the 12th Surrey Rifle Volunteers. Until the formation of the Brigade there was but one fire engine in the large populous district.

We have succeeded in raising a sum of money sufficient to purchase one of Shand & Mason's best Steam Fire Engines, and we have a well drilled and thoroughly efficient body of men (all volunteers) to work the engine. We are, however, in need of funds to pay for the mens' accoutrements, extra hose etc., and the Committee hope that your company will help them to discharge the liabilities they have incurred by a donation or small annual subscription.

I am aware that applications of this nature are numerous and that some offices decline to entertain them; but I hope that the application I make on behalf of the Kingston V.S.F.B., will be treated as an exception to the rule on the ground that all the men being volunteers, there is no charge made for their attendance at fires, and when it is considered what heavy charges are frequently made for such services, we think we have some slight claim to the assistance of the Insurance Offices - I annex a list of those offices which have already subscribed, and hoping to be favoured with a reply,

I remain, Dear Sir,

Frank McGedy,

Chairman of the Committee.

Norwich Union £10.10s.0d.

Law Union £5.5s.0d.

County £4.4s.0d.

Atlas £3.3s.0d.

North British & Mercantile £2.2s.0d

Royal £2.2s.0d.

A second but undated letter from the Volunteer Steam Fire Brigade was also attached, which reads as follows:-

Sir,

I am requested by the Committee of the Kingston Volunteer Steam Fire Brigade to lay before you the following statement:

Fire Brigade originated by some members of the Volunteer Force, has been established about two

years: it is composed of 12 members, who give their time gratuitously, and who have, by constant drill and attention to their duties, attained a great state of efficiency, as has been amply proved at the several fires which have happened since the brigade was organised.

It possessed one of Shand & Mason's powerful steam engines, with all recent improvements; 600 feet of new hose, two hand pumps with 30 feet of delivery hose; and a new hose reel. This gear is all kept in the most perfect order, and the arrangements for horsing and dispatching the engine, in case of fire are most complete. The engine and other appliances referred to cost about £500 of which sum a balance of £100 still remains undischarged. The annual expenditure for rent, etc., entailed on the brigade may be set down at between £35 and £40.

Having regard to the very inadequate means provided by the Corporation of Kingston for the extinguishing of fires and to the scattered and important character of the surrounding district, the possession of a steam fire engine and an efficient brigade must be considered a great boon by the inhabitants and the Committee feel that they have a fair claim on those who are thus benefitted for their support. They therefore confidently make this appeal for aid in paying off the balance of debt and in providing the means of meeting the necessary annual expenditure.

List of subscribers attached.

F. Montagu Arnold. Hon. Sec.

But Kingston was not the only place to have a connection between its soldiers and firemen. When the 13th Surrey Volunteer Rifles held their Annual Fete in Stoke Park, Guildford in 1870 the Guildford Volunteer Fire Brigade, by special invitation, marched into the Park headed by the Guildford Town Band. In the following year, on the occasion of the Bath and West Show at Shalford Park, attended by H.M. The Prince of Wales, a guard of honour was mounted by the 13th and 14th Surrey Volunteers (Guildford) and members of the Guildford Fire Brigade. The inclusion of the last named element may have been due to the fact that His Royal Highness himself was an enthusiastic firefighter and was an honorary member of the London Fire Brigade whom he sometimes actively accompanied at fires.

In 1882, on the occasion of the Whit Monday Surrey Fire Brigades Competition at Weybridge, a procession of firemen through the town was headed by The Band of the 3rd Bn. East Surrey Regiment.

During the Boer War a detachment of volunteer firemen went to South Africa to act as stretcher bearers and medical orderlies. In the Second World War the London Fire Brigade fireboat Massey Shaw crewed by firemen, went to Dunkirk and assisted in the evacuation of British troops. On the return of Allied Forces to the Continent in later years a contingent of National Fire Service personnel served overseas to give supporting fire protection and cover.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE EDITOR "VIGILES" THE MAGAZINE OF THE FIRE BRIGADES OF SURREY PRESERVATION TRUST.

Recollections of India

This article written by Mrs Helen Keane, formerly Helen Himely recalls the days of service in India before the Second World War.

My parents both died in 1929, and at the end of the 1929-30 winter it was suggested that I might go out to India to join my brother, Marcus, in The East Surrey Regiment. We had a close association with the Regiment as my mother's only sister had married John Longley when he was a captain in the Regiment in the nineties. Now he was Major General Sir John Longley KCMG.,CB., and Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment

Mrs Paton, the wife of the second-in-command, was at home but was due to go out to join her husband. She very kindly asked if I would like to accompany her and stay with them in India. So in a state of excitement and pleasure I accepted Mrs. Paton's invitation. In due course we sailed in the "*City of Venice*" from Southampton. She had been taken over by the Government as a sort of troopship, and her passengers were mainly married families going out to join their husbands, also a few troops and a handful of 1st class passengers including ourselves. It was all a big adventure and I enjoyed every moment and the wonderful thrill of the new scenes and sounds of life that opened up in the various stages of our voyage to Bombay. Port Said, the Suez Canal, Aden and finally our arrival at Bombay, about three weeks from the time of leaving England.

Bombay, where Marcus met us, was indeed an eye-opener. I just could not believe that there could be such crowds of jostling, shouting people. Chaos indescribable! Smells, dirt, hot sun - in fact, a truly unimaginable scene out of which order eventually prevailed and we found ourselves ensconced in a first class compartment of the Frontier Mail bound for a 36 hour journey to Rawalpindi. Marcus had his faithful bearer who had organised the coolies into sorting out our luggage. Bedding rolls and suitcases in the carriage and trunks in the luggage vans. It is so long ago since all this happened that I cannot remember what a first class compartment looked like, to the best of my memory there were one or two armchairs, bunks that let down for sleeping purposes and its own toilet. The windows had two or three shutters, a dust proof mesh and slatted wooden ones for night use, and the usual glass. My impressions of that journey, my first introduction to India, were of an endless plain of arid and parched land. Later I realised that out of that vast expanse of what I thought of as semi-desert, people lived and eked out a living growing their crops and raising their livestock. Water was pumped from wells and irrigation channels dug and life went on. The halts at the various stations left me spell bound. I cannot begin to describe the crowds that were waiting the arrival of the train. Passengers about to embark with bundles of every description. Everyone seemed to be shouting and screaming at each other. Apart from passengers were the sellers of sweetmeats, fruit and various eatables and drinks. I cannot remember everything that was shouted 'Garum dudh' (hot milk), and so on. We went to the restaurant car for meals when the train stopped, as there were no corridor carriages. If we could not do this, meals were brought to our carriage by the bearer.

The Regiment was stationed at a part of Pindi called West Ridge, and there the Patons had a bungalow. I remember having a horse, and most mornings I used to go riding and spent quite a lot of time going round a jumping course which circled the Polo ground. There were jumps of all sizes ending up with two large mud walls. I felt a real glow of triumph when I could tackle these, and felt safe and secure in the saddle. There was, of course, the usual round

of tennis parties and dances at the Club. The Indian Cavalry regiment then stationed in 'Pindi' was "Sam Browne's Cavalry" commanded by Colonel Ganon, whose daughter, Brenda, I remember well. In May the Regiment moved up to Kuldana in the Murree Hills above Pindi. Kuldana was quite near Murree and I still stayed with the Patons. I had my own bearer who looked after me. It was near enough to Murree to walk to the Tennis Club which I did most days, a bit of a struggle up a steep wooded hillside, known as a knud. Sometimes one could hire a small pony to ride called a "tat", with the owner - known as a "tat wallah" walking behind. I spent a very happy summer in Kuldana with the Patons, returning to Pindi in the early autumn.

In the autumn of 1930 I got engaged to Bill Himely, a subaltern in the Regiment, and we were married in Christ Church, Rawalpindi on December 18th 1930. My brother Marcus gave me away, and Bill and I left the church under the traditional Arch of Swords. We had a honeymoon in Delhi and Agra, naturally visiting the Taj Mahal.



*The bride and groom, January 1931
Rawalpindi*

After our honeymoon we returned to Pindi. There were no quarters for us so we lived in a guest house run by a Miss Christy. It was very comfortable and we had our own sitting room. Bill was due for Home leave and we set sail for England in the Spring and disembarked at Plymouth. We spent the summer with our various relations and in October our daughter was

born. We returned to India in the late autumn, bringing with us an English nannie for Pamela. The Regiment had by then moved to Lahore and was stationed in cantonments, a few miles distant from Lahore City. One Company was always kept at Birdwood Barracks in the city. We lived at the beginning of our married life in Lahore in Army Mansions, which was really a large block of flats with a communal dining room. The living quarters were spacious and comfortable with a verandah. The move to the Hills for the hot weather was to Dagsai which was on the first step on the narrow gauge line from Kalka to Simla. We lost our baby daughter soon after reaching Dagsai. That summer we had some leave which we spent in Kashmir, enjoying the comfort of a house boat and the beauty and peace of those lovely lakes with the mountains in the distance. When the summer was over and we returned to Lahore, we shared a bungalow with another couple. Actually we ran our own half independently with our own servants; a bearer, a khitmagar who waited at table and was responsible for the dining room, a Ghisti who saw to the heating of the bath water and filling the bath when it was needed. The bath was still the old-fashioned tin tub and the bath water ran out through a hole in the wall. The bath was on a stone floor with a brick surround to save the floor of the bathroom from getting the matting soaked. Also, in the bathroom was the inevitable "commode" or "Thunder Box" as it was called. This was in the charge of the sweeper whose name implies his duties

- to sweep the rooms as well as seeing the 'Thunder Box' was always ready for use and never left undelighted with. If one had dogs it was his duty to prepare their food and exercise them when necessary or if the owner was unable to. The sweeper was the only person who could handle dogs, being of the lowest caste. There was also a chowkidar or night watchman and a mahli (gardener).

I was lucky that winter of 32/33 to have my own horse which Marcus had given me, and I was able to enjoy a season's hunting with the Lahore Hounds of which he was one of the Whips. The Meets were always in the very early morning, before the sun was up enough to kill any scent. The Meet was usually a few miles out from cantonments, at a milestone on one of the main roads. We hunted on Thursdays (which was an Army holiday) and Sundays. The sycs started early with the horses and we drove out. I well remember those early mornings when there was a fresh brisk feeling, almost a touch of frost in the air, and seeing the sycs sitting round a fire of thorn bushes, holding the horses behind them. Hounds came in a van, and as soon as it was daylight we moved off to find our jackal. I think sometimes we hunted a scent - in other words a 'drag'. As soon as the sun got up it was time to go home, but those mornings were fun to look back on and never forgotten.

We moved to Pachmarhi in the Central Provinces in the spring of 1933 when Bill was posted as an Instructor at the Small Arms school. Pachmarhi, at an altitude of about 5,500 feet, had an equable climate and was a very pleasant place to live in. My son, Michael, was born while we were there. We had three happy years there, leaving in January 1936. Bill rejoined the Regiment at Fyzabad, and Michael and I returned to England. And so ended my life in India after six years, looked back on, for the most part, with much pleasure.

HK

Destination Kwai by Jack Shuttle

The following extracts are reproduced with the author's permission from a book he has written about his experiences during the Second World War whilst serving with The East Surrey Regiment.

Introduction.

I enlisted as a Territorial with 'A' Company, 2/6th. East Surreys at Chertsey Drill Hall in May 1939 and after mobilisation at the end of August spent the next three months guarding the railway sidings at Sharnal Street station, near Hoo in Kent where we slept rough on the floor. At the end of November we were relieved and I joined twenty other ranks and six junior officers on a draft to Shanghai in China, where we became members of the 2nd. Battalion. After being licked into shape with several weeks drill by RSM Ted Worsfold, we were allocated to various Companies and shortly afterwards I was appointed as a Company Clerk with HQ Company.

In September the battalion moved to Singapore where we stayed until February 1940, during which period I transferred to 'B' Company in the same capacity. Our next posting was to Tangjong Pau near Alor Star in Kedah, just a few miles from the 'Thai' border.

During June a notice appeared in Part 11 Orders requesting the services of a Pay and Messing Accountant for the Penang Garrison and I was selected for the post. That was how I happened to be on Penang Island on that fateful day of 8th December 1941 when Malaya was invaded by the Japanese.

I subsequently joined 2nd Echelon at Malay Command HQ in Singapore and transferred from the Surreys to the Indian Army Corps of Clerks, eventually spending three and a half years in Jap captivity - firstly at Changi and then, from November 1942 until August 1945 in Thailand in numerous camps along the River Kwai.

1941 Penang

At 9.30 am precisely on Tuesday 10th December Japanese aircraft, in perfect formation, appeared in the sky above us in groups of twenty-seven. They were attacked by the valiant Brewsters but by the end of the raid all five were gone, one being shot down immediately above our heads; as the pilot, Battle of Britain veteran Flight Lieut. Vigars, bailed out he was encircled and machine gunned all the way down to the ground. Fortunately, though, he survived unscathed. A total of seventy bombers made a concentrated attack that day on Georgetown, their bombs falling on the crowded streets in broad daylight, causing thousands of casualties among the poor unsuspecting inhabitants. The only response we could offer was small arms fire, which was completely useless but at least gave us some encouragement personally. There was a mass exodus of the local civilians that evening, hordes taking to the hills, turning the place into a ghost town overnight. The atmospheric was weird. The next morning we helped the Civil Administration with the gruesome task of removing the putrefying dead for burial and whilst doing so experienced further raids. These continued at exactly 10.30 am daily, using a lesser number of twenty-seven planes in waves of nine.

Events on the mainland soon decreed that Penang was untenable and we received orders to prepare for evacuation. We immediately commenced denial destruction of all our equipment and vehicles, so my brand new typewriter, accepted with much pleasure only a few months before, had to go. I damaged it with vigorous blows with my rifle and then hurled it down on to the concrete ground below. Leaving Glugor Cantonment on Tuesday 17th December to board a vessel bound for Singapore, we fully expected the daily air raid and spent several hours busily loading it with much trepidation. The Gods were with us, though, and for the very first time the attackers were absent. We really were a sitting target, being completely exposed.

Sunday 15th February 1942, Singapore

....a direct air attack was launched on us at 4.30 pm. I was busily typing away on the ammunition boxes facing the wall with main doors, both front and rear, wide open when there was the most terrifying, deafening explosion. The next thing I recall was shouting "This is it", and diving by reflex action on to the concrete floor, my steel helmet flying away in the opposite direction. A hot blast circulated my limbs and as I gathered my wits I realised that the hall was densely thick with a haze of dust and rubble and that a huge fire was raging immediately outside the double front doors. Suddenly remembering that the room contained spare ammunition in our make-shift furniture we rapidly removed it out of the back doors away from the fire area, after which we had time to appraise the situation. How lucky I had been to escape unscathed! A whole stick of bombs had been dropped across our compound and a horrific scene greeted us, the huts on the other side of the drive about twenty feet away having been completely destroyed. Here had been housed the Indian sepoys on detachment and all who were not on duty at the time suffered severe casualties, mostly killed. One of the bombs had fallen directly in their midst and we owed our lives to the open doors allowing the blast to pass right



through our building without hindrance. This was the hot air experienced around our legs.

Other bombs had dropped just behind us and here there were more casualties, killed and wounded, to be attended to. Two of them were Indian cooks from the Sergeants Mess and as they were stretchered away one, badly injured in the chest and bleeding profusely, apologised for not being able to complete 'Sahibs supper', a valiant man. In the Stamford Road at the busy intersection just outside the entrance to the beleaguered Indian quarters, a passing despatch rider had received the full

Mounting Guard at Sharnall Street, October 1939. J Shuttle on the right and next to me is Dick Coventry who, together with Charlie Ellis on far right joined the 1/6th. The other two men joined 2/6th Surreys and remained with them.

impact of the explosion and all that remained were his burnt out motor-cycle with his charred fingers still gripping the handlebars. The road, as had now become commonplace throughout the city, was strewn ankle deep with rubble.

It was later discovered that we were even luckier than had been thought. Closer examination revealed that an unexploded bomb had in fact penetrated the building.

No more cables were despatched whilst we quietly waited. It seemed that the air raid was the final fling by the enemy and at 8.30 pm the all clear sounded for the first time since that fateful alert in the early hours of Friday. It was now the 15th February 1942 and we had capitulated.

The quietude was deafening.

JFS

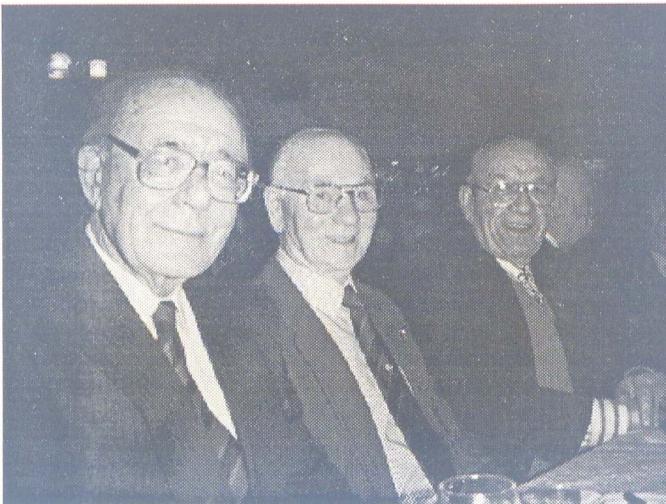


J.F. Shuttle at Shanghai in 1940.

Reunion



Harry Neale, Eric Clapton, AN OTHER and Stan Trifit.



Gerald Duffy MM, 'Ginger' Murray and 'Jumbo' Powell.

Quetta

The recent catastrophic earthquake in India recalls a tragically similar incident (commemorated here in verse) at Quetta in 1935 when 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment were actively involved and two of their members, Lance Corporal G. Henshaw and Private A. Brook were awarded gallantry medals of the Order of the British Empire (later converted to George Crosses).

*The trembling earth, the sudden quake,
The rumbling sounds as buildings shake,
The crashing ruins tumbling down,
The mortal blows to stricken town.

The wreckage strewn with dead and dying,
The piercing screams and anguished crying,
The faltering steps of those surviving,
The welcome sight of troops arriving.

The Queen's march in with measured tread,
The air of brave men, finely led,
To aid and succour is their task,
They'll do it well. No need to ask.

They work as heroes day and night,
Midst horror, blood and ghastly sight,
They bear the stretchers' grisly loads
O'er rough hewn tracks that once were roads,
They dig for trapped, and bury dead,
Emotion stifled - little said.

Then when at last their task is done,
They march away 'neath Indian sun,
And leave behind the scene of pain
Where Quetta's town will rise again.*

Poem written and composed by Richard Ford

So There We Were

1663 The Tangiers Regiment (later the Queen's), serving in Tangiers, were perpetually getting involved in clashes with the Moors, and sometimes being caught unawares. On one occasion it was reported that, "the officers, horse, workmen and reserves being within to refresh themselves, the Moors suddenly appeared in three bodies, each consisting of 500 and half that number as reserves, assaulted us with great celerity".

1713 Not for the last time in history a reduction in the regiments of the Army was ordered following complaints from the Treasury over the cost of maintaining overseas garrisons. Following the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, the employment afloat of Goring's Marine Regiment (a predecessor of The East Surrey Regiment), which had lasted eleven years came to an end. The Queen's in England were garrisoned at Hull and Carlisle but their overseas detachment at Annapolis Royal were having an unhappy time, suffering from a shortage of pay and a surfeit of attacks by Indians.

1763 Following the signing of a peace treaty at Fontainbleau, the British people rejoiced at the end of war but the usual moves to reduce the Army followed and an order of 20 April to the Queen's stated that, "the non-effective men that had hitherto been borne on the establishment in Ireland were to be discontinued. The 31st Regiment were in England for two years before proceeding again to foreign service.

1783 The 70th formed an additional company at Kingston-upon-Thames for recruiting purposes, enlisting men from all parts of the County of Surrey. Surrey recruits of the 70th, drafted for overseas service in America, were reported by a board of officers to be of good quality. A detachment of the Queen's, serving aboard the frigate Aurora in lieu of Marines, were styled as soldiers belonging to The Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot doing duty as Marines and borne as part of the complement".

1803 The Queen's, at Gibraltar, were inspected by HRH the Duke of Kent who found them to be generally in good order. There were, however, serious drinking problems within the Regiment, so much so that it was reported that "other corps refused to dine with them". Strict measures were taken to suppress these malpractices. The 70th, after precautionary anti-invasion duties in England, marched to Portsmouth to embark for service in the West Indies. En route some members were involved in an unfortunate affray with a party of artillerymen, resulting in arrests and trials by the civil powers of Surrey men on serious charges of which they were acquitted.

1833 The 31st were in India where they seem to have made a most favourable impression on Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the celebrated ruler of the Punjab, who visited the Regiment twice and drew the attention of his attendant officers to the details and evolutions of the Governor General's escort, of which the 31st were a part, when they went through a field day. The Queen's, also in India, were suffering from the effects of heat which, in Bombay, was causing them to lose two to five men daily.

1853 The Queen's were in Africa where the campaign in British Kaffaria had recently been brought to an end. Thirty-two members of the Regiment were about to be transferred as Volunteers to the Cape Mounted Rifles. The 70th, in India, lost 104 dead in a cholera epidemic while stationed at Cawnpore.

1883 The East Surrey Regiment (as it was now styled) came home to England from Gibraltar to be stationed at Aldershot for nine months. The Queen's embarked at Portland for service in Ireland, landing at Queenstown on 8th October.

1923 A special guard of The Queen's was mounted when Lord Reading visited Government House at Lucknow. At the end of the year the Regiment moved to Allahabad. The

Surreys arrived in Khartoum from Egypt, and distinguished themselves in various sporting activities before moving on to Hong Kong at the end of the year.



Surreys entering Centuripe 1943

1943 In Sicily the Surreys were engaged in a grim battle for (of all places) a cemetery at Centuripe. Centuripe was eventually taken by the British Forces in what Montgomery described as "a wonderful feat of arms". The Queen's were at Homs near Tripoli where they enjoyed pleasant camping conditions. The Glorious First of June was celebrated there, as well as the celebration of an inscribed plate being presented to Sgt Andrews DCM and his anti-tank gun team of the battle of Medenine.

1953 The Queen's were in Malaya carrying out anti-terrorist duties, while the Surreys were in the Middle East where they had been engaged on varying duties in Libya and Egypt. For both Regiments the decade was to be a momentous one.

R.F.

Museum open day 1993



1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment in India 1926-32

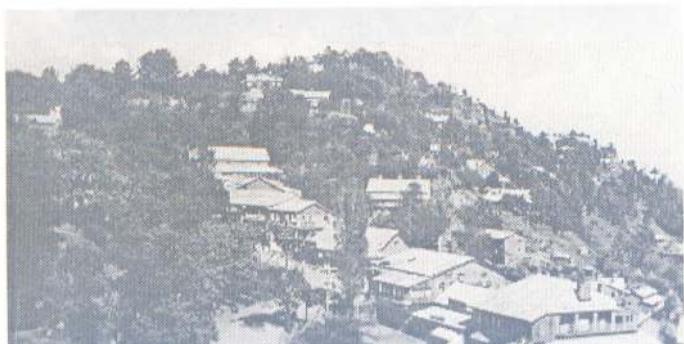
The 1st Bn arrived at Karachi by troopship from Hong Kong on the 11th November 1926.

It is no exaggeration to say that at that time everyone's life in the 1st Bn. was governed by that remarkable man, Lt. Col. F. Montague-Bates, the Commanding Officer. Physically he was an enormous man, standing about 6'2" and with a 50" chest, but he gave the impression of being nine feet tall and three feet wide. He was reputed to have been an Army heavy-weight champion but when and where we could never discover, and one didn't ask Monty-Bates questions. His huge chest was an appropriate size to carry his C.B., C.M.G., and D.S.O., both Boer War medals, all the campaign of the 1914-18 War and a few foreign decorations as well. He was not the type to let Armistice Day pass unnoticed. Somewhere from the depths of the troopship the Regimental Colour Party dug out their review order and at 11 a.m. on the quay the Colours were dipped and the appropriate bugle calls were blown. The various officers and local officials greeting the arrival of the battalion were not unimpressed.

Some time in the evening the troop-train departed for our eventual destination, Rawalpindi. The journey was typical of all troop-train journeys in India. This one took three days with halts in sidings to allow for the cooking of breakfasts, dinners and teas. The times of meals were therefore somewhat uncertain being dependent on the whereabouts of suitable sidings. All journeys in India were uncomfortable and dirty, this one, across the Sind Desert, more so than most. The unfortunate rank-and-file were crammed into carriages, furnished with slatted wooden seats and bunk-beds, oven-hot by day, and bitterly cold in winter (as this was) by night.

Pindi was reached eventually without any notable mishaps and we settled ourselves in West Ridge Barracks. The barracks were, obviously, on the western side of Pindi cantonment and consisted of single-storey brick huts with corrugated-iron roofs. They could be very cold in winter and were baking hot at the beginning of summer. Each hut held about two platoons. On the western side of the barracks were the parade grounds and playing fields, and beyond them again was the battalion range. All very, convenient.

The Pindi garrison was considerable, consisting of a Field Regiment (then called a Brigade) R.A., three British battalions, an Indian (horsed) Cavalry Regiment, two Indian Battalions, Royal and Indian Signals and various other ancillary units. Though stationed in Pindi, only one of the British battalions was brigaded with battalions in the same station. The other two were brigaded with Indian battalions in outlying stations. The other two British battalions were King's Own and Royal Sussex. We were brigaded with battalions of the 5th Royal and 6th Gurkha Rifles forming the 1st (Abbottabad) Brigade, though we never saw them except on Brigade Training and annual Manoeuvres.



Rawalpindi

The beginning of the cold weather, normally about October, saw the commencement of Individual Training when soldiers of anything up to seven years' service were taught as if they were recently enlisted recruits. Training continued throughout the cold weather with formations growing bigger and bigger from sections to brigades and, finally perhaps, divisions for the annual manoeuvres. Except in the later stages, programmes were hardly exciting. Guard duties always considerable, particularly when the battalion had to find the Arsenal Guard. The Arsenal was an old fort lying outside the eastern edge of the Cantonment and was about a couple of miles away from West Ridge. It contained all the reserves of arms and ammunition and the Ordnance workshops for the whole of Northern Command and much of the rest of the Army in India. Still working on the lessons of the Indian Mutiny, the Arsenal Guard had to be found from British battalions who took the duty in rotation. The guard, consisting of a sergeant, two corporals and thirty privates, paraded with the Quarter Guard for Guard Mounting and then, under the command of the Orderly Officer, marched through the middle of cantonments along the Mall to the Arsenal. Somewhere along the route the guard was bound to come face to face with the Colonel in his chauffeur-driven car proceeding from the hotel on the Mall where he lived up to West Ridge. The guard, which by then was marching with their rifles at the trail, had to be brought up to the slope arms and given "Eyes right", all in the space of the few seconds between the Colonel's car being sighted and his drawing level with the guard. Failure to achieve this meant that the Orderly Officer, when he returned to barracks with the old guard, was greeted by an orderly to tell him he was wanted at the Orderly Room. It was hardly surprising that a number of owners of the same make of car as the Colonel's were saluted in error before the unfortunate Orderly Officer had had time to recognise who they were. The Orderly Officer had not finished with the Arsenal even after returning the old guard to barracks. After turning out the Quarter Guard at night he had then to get on his bicycle and go down to the Arsenal where he turned out the guard and then walked all round the ramparts visiting the ten sentries. If he was kind-hearted he happened to suffer from a bad fit of coughing as he approached each sentry-post or else he carried on a loud conversation with his accompanying N.C.O. the penalty for being asleep on one's post when a sentry was something just short of death.



Murree

A very serious offence in that part of the world was to lose a rifle. This was not only a disgrace to the individual but brought appalling shame on the unit. "Have you heard? The Blankshires lost a rifle last Monday!" A rifle to the gentleman of the North-West Frontier was worth its weight in gold, and rifle thieves abounded all along the Frontier to a depth of two or more hundred miles into India. As a result all rifles had to be chained in racks in a barrack-room at night except for those of men on guards

and these were chained to the individual. The rifles in racks had to be counted each evening and certified correct by a Company Officer. Imagine therefore, the sensation when my company was firing its annual course on the range, as I led them on to the range a local inhabitant came prancing up waving a rifle above his head. He presented the rifle to me. It was one of ours! If Monty Bates had ever got wind of that we should all probably have been shot. So many people were involved in the mislaying of the rifle that not one word was said then or ever after by anyone. The rifle was returned to its owner with a few rude remarks. If memory serves, it was the Company-Sergeant Major who handled this marvellous cover-up. He was at this time that remarkable man, C.S.M. C. Estall M.C. who deserves a biography to himself.

The Military Garrison of Hong Kong at the time the battalion left for India consisted (apart from Gunners and ancillary units) of only two battalions, one British and one Indian. The result was that the battalion was somewhat lacking in practice in the normal sporting activities and performed none too brightly on arrival at Pindi. Monty Bates soon set about remedying this defect. The various sporting teams were turned into parties of gladiators who did no guards or similar duties and spent all of every day, playing football or hockey or training for boxing or athletics. Guards and duties therefore became very arduous for the non-sporting element and it was often difficult to find sufficient personnel to ensure that they got the minimum of one night on and two nights off duty. This was particularly so when the battalion was finding the Arsenal Guard. However, this soon had an astonishing effect and it was either in 1927 or 1928 that the battalion won almost every game and tournament, not only at District level, but Northern Command level as well. Bar one. The battalion was defeated in the District final of the hockey by the Royal Sussex. The captain of the hockey XI (Allfree) was summoned by the Colonel. "Do you know why your team lost?" It was no good saying anything about the better team won to Monty Bates who continued "It lost because all of your team's shirtsleeves were rolled up to different lengths. No discipline." I cannot now recall whether we won every subsequent hockey match when the whole team's shirtsleeves were rolled up to a neat, one and a half inch above the elbow.

About April or May the weather began to get uncomfortably hot and eventually the time came to move to a hill station for the period of the hot weather. Our hilltop was to be one called Kuldana in the Murree Hills quite close to Murree itself to which Northern Command and District HQs and nearly all the wives and families repaired for the hot weather. It was almost forty miles from Pindi and about 6,000 feet above sea level. The move there was a three days', or rather, nights' march of roughly thirteen miles each, the first march along the level of the Pindi plain, the next two uphill for every inch of the way. The first part of the route was along the western edge of Rawalpindi City, the original native city existing long before Cantonments were built. The nearest bit of the city to Ridge Barracks was the red light district which was, of course, out of bounds in the normal course of events. The road joined the main Pindi - Murree - Kashmir trunk road on the far side of the city. Marching through the red light district was a marvellous send-off as all the ladies turned out to greet the troops and to scream the most appalling obscenities particularly if they, (the ladies) happened to see a particularly young and pink-faced subaltern.

On this first occasion there appeared to be something rather odd about the playing of the Regimental Band. However, it was not until the second spasm of playing that the tune fell away into a low wail before ceasing

altogether. This was just as the battalion reached the trunk road. It transpired that the band had been over-stimulating themselves before the march started and that the majority of them were well and truly drunk. What happened then and how they completed the march has faded from memory but there is a vague picture in one's mind of the regimental transport (consisting of small open carts each drawn by two mules) which followed at the rear of the battalion, being piled with the band's instruments, while the personnel of the band staggered along behind giving a fair imitation of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow. Shortly after dawn we reached the first camping ground at a place called Barakaq lying at the foot of the Murree Hills. Hot, thirsty and dusty as we were, camp had to be pitched and, then, just before we could have breakfast and collapse into our tents, a bugler blew the Officers' Call. Transferred into words (which are probably still the same today it was "Officers come and be damned", and damned we were. And the order was quite simply "All tents down!" The Colonel had seen that the tent-pegs were not in line. Down came the tents and, for what seemed hours, tents and pegs were duly aligned to the Colonel's satisfaction.

The next march started as the previous one had - in darkness. It was a truly hellish march, all uphill for hour after hour, up a seemingly unending road. Shortly after dawn again we arrived at the next stopping place which, thankfully, consisted of wooden huts with a Rest House which became the Officers' Mess.

The third night's march was similar to the second one but it at least had the advantage of being the last one and cooler. We finally arrived on level ground which was Kuldana Corner, the neck of land joining Kuldana to Murree. And there, right across the distant horizon, was the marvellous sight of the snow-covered Karakoram Mountains lit up by the morning sun.

The Kuldana Officers' Mess and Quarters were on this neck of land on the left of the trunk road, and a quarter of a mile further on and up the Kuldana ridge were the barracks consisting of the usual red-brick huts with corrugated-iron roofs. They were scattered along the ridge for over half a mile and each, company had a piece of flat ground about the size of a tennis-court which was their parade-ground and recreation space.

From the time of the battalion's arrival in the Hills until mid-July, the weather was delightful chilly at night and in the early mornings; pleasantly warm and sunny by day with a cloudless sky. The countryside was nothing but steep and thickly wooded hillsides which appeared to prohibit any form of training. Had we known how similar it was to the mountainous jungles of Burma we might have put it to better uses. As it was we ignored it and confined ourselves to the roads and paths and our little parade grounds.



Northern Command The Mall

In mid-July the rains broke and it rained and rained and rained. When it stopped at all the sodden clouds descended and visibility was that of a thick fog. Then the clouds would rise and the rains would start again. Every article in one's possession became soured. One's boots grew a fungus in a night. Everything that could go mouldy went mouldy. There was no form of training that could be carried on outside. It was impossible to play any games. The rains went on and on until September. Then quite suddenly the skies cleared, the sun came out and it was a glorious autumn with everything washed clean, and fresh snow glistened on the distant mountains. Almost too soon the time came for the easy march, in the same three stages, down the hill to Pindi and back to West Ridge for the Winter Season.

At the end of the cold weather came the march up to the Hills again. This time our destination was Gharial which was a mile or so past Kuldana and like Kuldana on a spur from the main feature of Murree. It was less precipitous than Kuldana, had larger playing fields and was altogether more attractive. The march up from Barakao was just as horrific but this time the battalion was in better training and there were no disasters. I, personally, almost enjoyed it as, being a Company Commander, I was entitled to a charger which carried me comfortably most of the way.



Lockwood Hotel Feb 1930

One form of amusement started at Gharial was that of 'tat-riding'. A tat was a hill pony normally for hire like a taxi. For a modest sum it carried one along the paths where the only alternative was to walk unless one took to a dandy, a litter carried by four men usually employed only by women. Tat-riding entailed hiring a number of ponies for anyone who was keen to ride and willing to pay for the hire of a pony to go on an organised picnic on the weekly holiday of Thursday. It could, of course, only be done before the monsoon broke and it did become very popular. Each man carried a haversack ration and a water-bottle, and the party was organised into very irregular cavalry who eventually learned to trot and finally, to canter.

Beyond this activity, life relapsed into the boredom of any Hill Station. When the hot weather eased off and the battalion once more marched down to Pindi it became our turn to take over Victoria Barracks which were, in fact, Victorian barracks, situated in the centre of Cantonments just off the hill. They were close to the old Garrison Church, the Hospital, Officers' Club and cricket ground where they now play Test Matches. The barracks were large blocks holding half a company each. They were solidly constructed, if raised from the ground, with thick mud-brick walls and mud roofs all of which was intended to make them cooler in the hot weather which we were due to spend in the plains. It was a pleasant change from West Ridge as it was near the European type shops, the cinema, eating-houses and bazaar. We were very much in the centre of activity and saw far more life than was to be had in the

semi-desert of West Ridge. Being an old cantonment, Pindi was well planted with trees and lawns and gardens which were a blaze of colour for a short time before the hot weather scorched them to cinders. The officers were particularly lucky as their Mess was right on the Mall and within a stone's throw of the Officers' Club. There were several Officers' Messes similarly situated.

The cold weather activities were, of course, much the same as they had been at West Ridge but time seemed to pass quicker owing to the more pleasant surroundings. One unique event was that for half a day Pindi was under snow for the first and only time in living memory.



The Mall - Murree

When the hot weather started one Company and some of Headquarters went up to the Murree Hills by lorry and stayed there for about six weeks until relieved by another Company due for a breath of fresh air. The destination was the first of the little Hill Stations along the track to the Gullies which took off from the trunk road at Kuldana Corner. The barracks were similar to those at Kuldana and Gharial but life there was somewhat duller, the little Station being out of reach of Murree and totally lacking in any amenities that one didn't produce oneself. Six weeks there was quite enough in spite of the climate and scenery.

Meanwhile, the rest of the battalion sweated it out in Pindi in temperatures that could rise to 110F by day and seldom fell below 95F by night. Parades started at crack of dawn and lasted until the heat became insufferable at about 8.30 a.m. For a couple of hours after breakfast there were indoor activities such as schools and lectures, then make-and-mend until dinner at midday. One slept fitfully in the afternoon while the sweat streamed off one's body in spite of the fanning from a punkah - a strip of matting which flapped to and fro when pulled by an unfortunate coolie on the veranda. In the comparative cool of the evening the limp bodies staggered to their feet to seek some form of exercise or amusement until the evening meal and the awful night. In spite of the frightful heat, all the daily tasks had to be performed, guards still had to be mounted with their turnout impeccable though whatever they wore was soaked black with sweat within minutes, to add to the general discomfort it was a criminal offence to walk a yard outside during the day without donning a 'topi' and a spine pad, the latter a strip of padded cloth about nine inches wide and three feet long, worn down the back to prevent heat stroke. The 1939-45 War proved that a beret was an adequate substitute for both. Though parades were in shirtsleeves, officers had to put on a collar and tie and tunic for lunch in the Mess, and white Mess-kit with a starched collar and shirt for dinner at night.

At the end of the hot weather, somewhat to our disgust, the battalion had to move back to West Ridge. We handed Victoria Barracks over to the Border Regiment who had replaced one of the other battalions. Both of the original

two British Battalions had departed and the K.S.L.I. had replaced the second one.

The most important event during this cold weather was the departure of Monty Bates in 1927 much as he was disliked and feared, he had acquired a folk-heroic reputation based on the successes of the battalion in sporting events and its outstanding smartness on parade due, of course, to R.S.M. Gingell. The actual departure of the Colonel to command a Territorial Brigade in England was a truly amazing scene of cheers and tears,

Monty Bates's successor was Lt.Col. M.J.A. Jourdier, D.S.O. We could all breathe again and sleep at nights. It meant, however, that the gladiators became a thing of the past and they had to take their normal turn of guards and duties. The battalion was never quite so brilliant in the sporting world again.

Another incident of a different sort occurred towards the end of the cold weather on the termination of Brigade Training with the Gurkhas. We were marching down a side road on our way to a camping ground on the Grand Trunk Road between Pindi and Attock. A battalion of Gurkhas was following us. It was a warm and dusty morning and our thoughts were merely on the next half, as the men marched solidly and silently along. At one of the clock-hour halts, a British officer of the Gurkha Battalion rode up and asked if they might overtake us as they, with their rifle regiment step marched more quickly than we did. Permission was, of course, granted and the Gurkhas, somewhat cockily, hustled by us as we sat at the side of the road. Not very long after we had resumed the march it suddenly started to rain. It poured as a tropical storm does, and in a minute we were all soaked to the skin. And the men started to sing, and the more it rained, the more they sang. Very soon we caught up with the battalion of Gurkhas who were sitting miserably on the bank of the road. And we asked them for permission to overtake. We never saw them again. When we arrived at the proposed camping-ground, it had disappeared, and if we were to pitch tents it would be in a lake. After a halt during which the cooks, in some miraculous way, produced hot dinners, it was decided to march on back to Pindi. We arrived there in the evening, still in fairly heavy rain, after covering a total of nearly thirty miles. There is a lesson there somewhere.

At the end of the cold weather we set off once again for Kuldana, and it became a repetition of our first hot weather in 1927.

Towards the end of that hot weather, but when it was still burning hot in the plains, the battalion was ordered to move down to an uncomfortable spot called Chaklala, a military suburb on the south side of Pindi. This was a large area of stores of every kind except arms and ammunition which were kept in the Old Fort for the whole of Northern Command. It was a mass of huge storage godowns and workshops intersected by numerous roads and railway sidings.

Apparently there had been some trouble with the native labour who had been making threatening noises and were refusing to unload wagons. Our duties were to guard against any form of sabotage and to unload goods trains as they arrived. As accommodation we were given some empty godowns and offices which we had to furnish as best we could from our own resources.

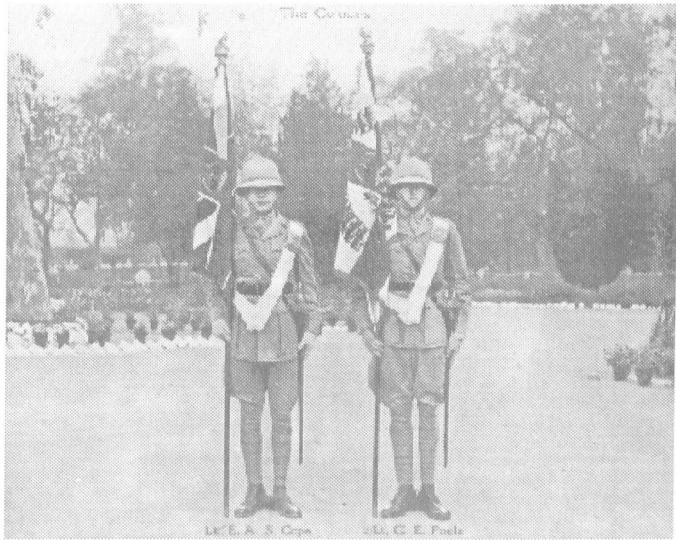
It was hard sweaty work undertaken in great discomfort. There were a few coolies, presumably "black-legs" to the strikers who occasionally helped the soldiers. One day unloading wagons, someone slammed the sliding door of a wagon and cut off a coolie's finger, one of the soldiers

picked up the severed finger and said to the coolie who, poor fellow, didn't understand a word anyhow, "Yer don't want this any more, do yer?" and threw it over a wall.

There was no trouble from the native labour and after two or three weeks we were able to leave and to return to the comparative luxury of West Ridge. The battalion was not to be there for very long however, because it was before Christmas that orders were received for a permanent move to Lahore, not very far away and still in the Punjab.

Lahore had a slightly different layout to Pindi. On the northern side was the city and mud fort, adjoining it was the Civil Cantonment with the Punjab Governor's House and all the civil offices and bungalows, a big railway installation, and a number of quite big European and Indian shops. There was also a cricket ground in a rather attractive setting which is now the Lords' of Pakistan. Almost a mile to the south were the Military Cantonments with barracks for one British and two Indian battalions, Brigade Headquarters, an Officers' club and a small R.A.F. detachment. The only military element in the Civil Cantonment was one company of British troops which occupied Birdwood a barrack-block, an Officers' Mess and quarters surrounded by a brick wall.

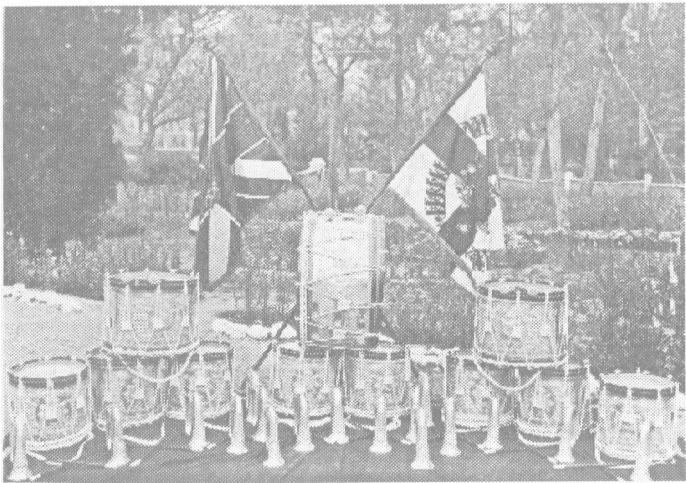
During the hot weather Battalion H.Q. and two companies of the battalion went up to a small hill station called Dagshai in the Simla Hills. Two companies remained in Lahore, one in Cantonments and the other in Birdwood Barracks in case of disturbances in the city. These companies were exchanged with the two at Dagshai to give them a change of air.



The Colours

Apart from the barracks, there was nothing else at Dagshai. Its only claim to fame was that the mutineers of the Connaught Rangers had been Court-martialled there in 1918 or 1919, and the ring-leaders had been shot against the buttress of a barrack-block. A few miles away was quite the large station of Kasauli, and Simla, which was reckoned to be out of reach, could be seen far away on its conspicuous hilltop. Dagshai was connected to the outside world by the main road to Simla and by the famous narrow-gauge Kalka-Simla railway.

I cannot now recall what I was supposed to do in the way of duties at Dagshai. All I can remember was eating doughnuts and playing shove-halfpenny in the Company office. I found this occupation too soul destroying to be borne and so very soon asked to rejoin my old company which was in Birdwood Barracks in Lahore even though this caused suspicion on my mental state. We were still in these barracks when the rest of the battalion came down from Dagshai.



The Colours, Silver Drums and Bugles.

Once or twice whilst we were in Birdwood Barracks we were called upon to send a couple of platoons to patrol the city in 15-cwt trucks. This, at some threat of trouble, was merely to show the flag by driving slowly along the streets and looking fierce. What usually put an end to any idea of civil disturbance were the 15-cwt sweeping away the shop awnings in the narrower streets. The local inhabitants soon got tired of collecting and re-erecting their primitive awnings.

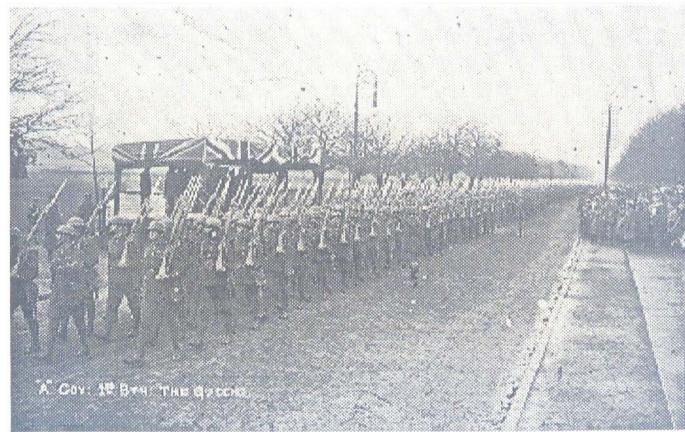
A further duty of the company in Birdwood Barracks to fire salutes whenever the Governor of the Punjab arrived in or left Lahore or if anyone even more senior or one of the Maharajas arrived on a visit. The salute was fired in these barracks by four guns which must have been the first breech-loaders ever invented. The blank cartridges, judging by their performance, must have been almost as ancient as the guns. Our gun-teams were duly trained but without, of course, actually firing the guns. When it came to firing a salute the officer responsible, with a stop-watch in his hand, got a signal by telephone when to start firing. It all seemed perfectly simple to shout "Fire One" - "Fire Two" and so on every fifteen or whatever, it was seconds. The snag came when any gun at any moment misfired. The officer then had to order the next gun to fire immediately, and that too might misfire. At this point the officer usually lost his head completely. He forgot how many rounds he had fired and the misfiring so complicated the timing that the stop-watch was useless. Somehow or other the salute was eventually completed whereupon telephone would ring and an infuriated Governor would want to know why we hadn't fired the correct number of rounds. Commanding the gun-teams was not a duty for which an officer volunteered.

One other memory of Lahore stays in the memory and that was that the battalion produced a polo-team. There were, I believe, polo-teams in the battalion in Victorian days, but this was the only one in my experience and was probably the last. Not very optimistically, the team was entered in the annual polo tournament in Lahore. The four members of it were Montanaro, Keane (NB. brother of Mrs. Himley author of the article), Poole and Jackson-Stewart have all gone to fields beyond a polo-ground and so they will not mind it being said that it was not a very good team. Moreover they were mounted, not on polo ponies, but on hacks and Officers' chargers. They were beaten in the first round by a civilian team. It was, however, a gallant effort.

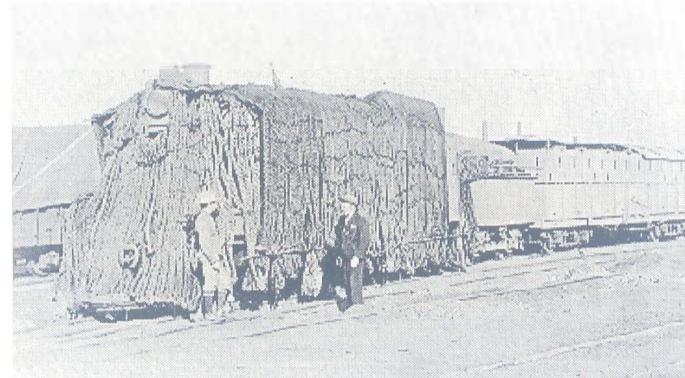
It was now well over seven years since I had last seen England. Early in the New Year I departed on long leave after which I was to join the 2nd Battalion. To my eternal regret I was never to see the 1st Battalion again. Nor was I ever to have the privilege of serving with such men again,

D.J. ff.C

From The Past



A Coy. 1st Bn The Queen's. Review by the Shah of Persia, Aldershot 1919.



'Hairy Mary' an armoured train crewed by the Volunteer Coy The East Surrey Regiment.



The East Surrey Volunteer Company January 1st 1901.



3rd Volunteer Battalion The East Surrey Regiment Winchester 1899

A Tale of Two Studs.

In 1938 for my twenty first birthday amongst other presents my father gave me antique gold front and back collar studs which had been in the family for generations. Before the days of washing machines we wore a khaki shirt for maybe a week but could put on a separate clean collar semi-stiff and usually made by a firm called Van Heusen every day.

My two gold studs served in the Sudan, and returned with me from Dunkirk. In Tunisia we had to wash in the open and I was always most careful to put them somewhere safe, on a stone or tree stump so that they could not be mislaid. After the hasty withdrawal from Tebourba the few survivors of 'B' Coy, 1 Surreys, gathered together in a French farm called Smidia, somewhere between Longstop Hill and Yedjez-el-Bab. It was all a bit chaotic, but each morning after stand-to and the usual routine checks and inspections, there was time to go off for a wash in the shade of an eucalyptus or olive tree. On one particular morning I went through my normal routine, remove jacket, collar, tie, vest and shirt, then search round for a safe place for the studs. On this occasion it was very simple as at my feet the roots of an olive tree sprawled out, and under one of these I carefully placed the studs.

Half way through my ablutions a despatch rider suddenly appeared to tell me that there was to be an "O Group" at battalion HQ and I must report there immediately. Hastily I dashed off putting on my shirt and battle dress jacket. On arrival we were told by the CO Lt. Col. Bill Wilberforce, that the battalion had been ordered to move at once to a new defensive position some miles away. We were to leave everything and drive off on a 'recce'.

After about 30 miles we reached what was later known as 'Hunt's Gap'. The reconnaissance completed I was allocated the area around Khar Mazour - although 'B' Coy was then only about 44 strong The CO concluded the "O Group" by telling us that we would not be going back to collect our companies but that the battalion to save time was already on its way to join us.

When my company eventually arrived and the necessary orders given out, my batman, Pte Penn, told me he had brought all my kit including my washing things, which he had gathered up from the olive tree. Of course he had not brought my gold studs as he would not have known where I had hidden them anyway. So I did not bother him with this detail but it bothered me throughout the rest of the campaign!

It was easy enough to use two spare bone studs, but as the months went by I did not forget, because after all mine were quite safe and I could eventually go to the exact spot under the exact root. Smidia was then always behind the German lines but the studs would never be found by anyone else.

When the war in North Africa ended our 1st Army plus the Americans had become extremely large, and in addition the whole of the 8th Army joined us having fought their way from Egypt. The congestion around Tunis was unbelievable, endless tented camps, vehicle parks, stores dumps - there were at least four Armoured Divisions - two whole British Armies and an American Corps. All on top of each other in a very cramped area.

One day when the Surreys were in camp a few miles outside Tunis Lt. Col. 'Buck' Buchanan (my former Company Commander) and now CO 5 Northamptons drove up in his staff car and suggested we should tour

round some of the old battlefields. This we did and on the road from Tebourba to Longstop I asked that we should turn off, and go to the farm at Smidia so that I could retrieve my valuable gold studs. I assured 'Buck' that I knew exactly where they were and there would be no difficulty in locating them. Alas, most of our journey had been in and out of tented camps, ammunition dumps, etc, and as we got nearer to Smidia the congestion was even worse. The whole area for miles round seemed to be just one vast workshop for tanks and other vehicles. Tank tracks everywhere crossing and re-crossing, tanks, lorries, trucks, plus endless tents, all jostling for the limited space. Not only had the farm vanished but all the olive trees mere stumps and somewhere in there I had to find some wretched studs!

Needless to say we did not even look. For nearly six months their exact location had been imprinted on my mind. Looking for a needle in a haystack would have been child's play. Smidia had ceased to exist, and more like the surface of the moon with Epsom Down on Derby Day superimposed on it.

Ah well, bone collar studs served just as well; after all they were only to keep my collar on!

RCT

Not Rubbish

Mr S.G. Cooke of Liskeard, Cornwall recently sent to Clandon Museum an autograph album which had been found on a rubbish tip in Hereford. Of First World War vintage, it is in the name of F. Mapp who was believed to have been a nurse in a military hospital which numbered several Queen's men among its patients.

Entries are typical of the times - some sentimental and some with the wry humour of men returned from battle.

Examples are:-

(i) Pte W.J. Mason, 2nd Queen's, wounded at Festubert, France, 16th May 1915.

*"O that Sunday morning I remember only too well,
As I got over the trench
I said now for heaven or hell".*

(and it was a near thing for one or other place).

(ii) Pte A. Humphry 1/5th R W S Gas poisoning.

*"Roses may fade
Lilies may die Some may forget you
But never will I".*

(iii) Pte N.J. Randall 1st Batt. The Queen's R.W.S. Regt.

*"My heart is like a cabbage, nearly broke in two.
The leaves I give to others, the heart I give to you".*

(iv) Pte. J. Howlett "The Queen's".
March 29th 1916

"I never shot at anybody. Somebody shot at me".

(v) And lastly, apparently as a tribute to Miss Mapp

*"Miss Mapp is her name
Single is her station
Happy is the man
That makes the alteration".*

Sgt. Curd

The True Colours I

I was most interested to read PGEH's article on battle honours or distinctions published in the May 1993 Newsletter. In it he repeats what everyone else has ever written and enumerates the ten Great War distinctions which the Queen's Royal Regiment elected to display upon their Sovereign's Colour these were, it was agreed, -

Retreat from Mons	Macedonia 1916-17
Ypres 1914, 1917, 1918	Gallipoli 1915
Somme 1916, 18	Palestine 1917-18
Messines 1917	Mesopotamia 1915-18
Vittoria Veneto	N.W. Frontier India 1916-17

The reality however was somewhat different. My interest was heightened when with Captain 'Dizzy' Kirby I had the honour of returning the 1847 colours of the 1st Battalion from Singapore to Guildford in *HMS Glory* in 1947. The 'Journal of the Queen's Royal Regiment' for November 1947 published photographs of both the 1847 and the 1947 colours of 1 Queen's. Examination of these reveals -

- (a) On the 1847 Sovereign's colour can be found no trace of 'Macedonia 1916-17' but in its place 'Hindenburg Line'.
- (b) On the 1947 Sovereign's colour can be found 'Macedonia 1916-17' but no mention of 'Hindenburg Line'.

It occurred to me that this could have been an old photograph of the 1847 colours showing an error, since corrected. As these 1847 colours are currently displayed in the Officers' Mess at Bassingbourn, a check was made which revealed that the 1947 photograph showed the Sovereign's colour as it was and as it remains, showing the 'Hindenburg Line' distinction.

There is an excellent coloured reproduction of the 1947 colours at the beginning of Volume IX of the regimental history. On this the World War II distinctions have been added. In this illustration it is 'Macedonia 1916-17' and not 'Hindenburg Line'. On the front cover of the May 1993 Newsletter is a glimpse of the 1859 colours of the second battalion now kept at Clandon. Thanks to the courtesy of the curator, Richard Ford, I was able to confirm that upon the Sovereign's colour of 2 Queen's is displayed the distinction 'Hindenburg Line' but not 'Macedonia 1916-17'.

Recently I have had the good fortune to be able to read from cover to cover volume VII of the Queen's regimental history which covers the period 1905-1923. In this I can find no record of any battalion of the Queen's serving in Macedonia at all! The 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th battalions were each awarded the distinction 'Hindenburg Line'! Thus on the evidence that I have been able to unearth it would appear that 'Hindenburg Line' was more suitable than 'Macedonia 1916-17' to be displayed as a distinction upon the Sovereign's Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Others in authority just after the Great War appear to have agreed with this point of view. So why the change in 1947?

In conclusion, to turn to page 66 of Gregory Blaxland's 'A guide to the Queen's Regiment' I see that 'Macedonia 1916-17' is not borne upon the colours of the Queen's Regiment but that 'Macedonia 1915-18' is, this being a distinction awarded to the Buffs, the East Surreys and the Middlesex Regiments who, oddly enough, are not recorded as having previously displayed the distinction upon their colours.

Confusing isn't it? I wonder what really happened.

AJP

The True Colours II

AJP's interesting letter 'The True Colours' has unearthed an anomaly on the distinctions borne on the Colours of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. The inquiry concerns the Great War battle honours 'Macedonia 1916-17' and 'Hindenburg Line'. The 1847 Colours of the 1st Queen's bear the battle honour 'Hindenburg Line' but not 'Macedonia 1916-17'. The 1947 Colours of the 1st

Queen's bear the battle honour 'Macedonia 1916-17' but not 'Hindenburg Line'. So, why has 'Macedonia 1916-17' been slipped in at the expense of 'Hindenburg Line'?

The authority for the battle honours of the Queen's is Army Order 150 of 1939, which shows 'Macedonia 1916-17' to be borne on the Colours, but 'Hindenburg Line' to remain as a battle honour, though not to be borne on the Colours. We shall probably never know why 'Hindenburg Line' was demoted and 'Macedonia 1916-17' promoted to be the battle honour to be borne on the Colours. The presentation of new Colours in 1947 gave the opportunity of regularizing the situation by adding 'Macedonia 1916-17' to the battle honours on the Sovereign's Colour. The 1847 and 1947 Colours are illustrated in the November 1947 issue of the Regimental Journal.

AJP comments that there is no record of any battalion of the Queen's serving in Macedonia at all. Army Order 150 of 1939 states that 'His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the battle honours and distinctions granted to the 6th (Bermondsey) and 7th (Southwark) Battalions, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), Territorial Army, being amalgamated with those of the Regular and other Territorial Army battalions of the Regiment! These two battalions fought in the Great War under the titles of 22nd (County of London) Bn The London Regiment (The Queen's) and the 24th (County of London) Bn The London Regiment (The Queen's), assuming their Bermondsey and Southwark titles in 1937. The second line battalions of the 22nd and 24th London served in Macedonia in 1916 and 1917 and were awarded the battle honours 'Doiran' and 'Macedonia 1916-17' it is this service that entitles 'Macedonia 1916-17' to be borne on the Sovereign's Colour of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

AJP refers to Gregory Blaxland's excellent 'Guide to The Queen's Regiment' and comments that 'Macedonia 1916-17' is not borne upon the Colours of The Queen's Regiment but 'Macedonia 1915-18' is.

However, 'Macedonia 1916-17' is shown as a battle honour on page 66. The black type denotes it was borne on the Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment, although it is not borne on the Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

AJP concludes his letter, 'Confusing, isn't it?'. He can say that again!

PGEH

Bullen Book

When former Queen's man Roy Bullen retired in April from the post of Clerk to the Windlesham Parish Council in Surrey, past and present councillors presented him with a keyboard - his choice of gift and a glass tankard bearing his regimental crest and a personal inscription.

A journalist and author of some distinction, as well as Parish Clerk, Roy wrote and published many "products of the pen" ranging over a wide field from articles and stories in comics and boys' papers, such as Wizard, Rover and Hotspur, to his aptly described "piece de resistance and labour of love" the History of the 2/7th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1939-46.

Roy, who joined as a Territorial, served with the Battalion on its travels and in its battles from 1939 onwards, including service in France in the early days of the war and later in the Desert Campaign and in Italy where it played important and crucial parts at Salerno and Anzio.

Committing his experiences to paper, the book, first published in 1958, sold more than 5,000 copies and was reprinted in 1988. It is to be found on sale in the Regimental shop at Clandon Museum - Price £5. Taking everyone's good wishes into retirement, Roy has several ideas in mind for a new novel. We look forward to seeing it.

Golf Society

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held at Sudbrook Park on Thursday 6th May 1993. Once again we were blessed with fine weather for the meeting. As a new venture we invited members who were unable to play, to join us for lunch - we were delighted to see Gen Rowley Mans, Gen Mike Reynolds, Brig Mike Doyle, Lt Col John Sherrard and Maj Paul Gray.

The AGM of the Society was held at the end of play. The President Maj WJF Sutton presided, and 17 members attended. Peter Mason was elected as President for the next three years. Members of Peter's family have been playing with the Society since 1922, and we were delighted that Peter has accepted the Presidency, thus continuing the long family association. The outgoing President, John Sutton presented an inscribed shield to Vic Sheppard in recognition of his stewardship of the Society as Secretary and Treasurer over the past eight years.

The prizes were presented by the Captain, Lt Col PGFM Roupell. The results of the meeting were as follows:

Challenge Cup	HP Mason Esq	78 gross
Dodgson Cup	Maj RA Green	67 nett
Heales Memorial Trophy	Maj WJF Sutton	38 pts
Veterans Halo	Maj WJF Sutton	46 pts
Harry Adecock Trophy (putting)	MJ Power Esq	33 putts
Pm Greensomes	Maj BA Crutchfield and CC Surtees Esq	

The winners of the Society Sweep, run on the morning Round were: 1st Maj FV Sheppard; 2nd and 3rd prizes were won by HP Mason Esq

The Autumn Meeting will be held at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 6th October 1993

The Spring Meeting at Sudbrook Park, Richmond on Thursday 5th May 1994, Royal Marines Match on Wednesday 25th May 1994

The Society Match against the Royal Marines Golf Society was contested at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Wednesday 26th May 1993. In spite of a dull overcast day, the match was keenly contested, and enjoyed by all who took part. At the end of the morning Foursomes, the Society went into lunch leading 3-2. After an excellent lunch and liquid fortification we were able to win the afternoon Foursomes by 3 1/2 to 1 1/2.

The match result was therefore Queens Royal Surrey Regt:6 1/2 Royal Marines:3 1/2

Capt Alan Gordon, the Captain of RMGS graciously presented the cup to Lt Col PGFM Roupell, the Captain of QRSRGS, our first win since 1990.

Queens Surreys	A.M.	Royal Marines
Maj Gen GA White	1	Maj Gen PR Kay
Lt Col PGFM Roupell		Capt HJ Phillips
MJ Power Esq	1	Col AS Harris
Brig STW Anderson		Col SD Smith
Col JGW Davidson	1	Lt EC Ennis
Col JW Sewell		Capt DGR Hunt
Maj RA Green	0	A Smith Esq
Maj FV Sheppard		JD Francis Esq
Brig MJA Clarke	0	Capt AB Gordon
Lt Col FB Herd		A Cook Esq
	P.M.	
Lt Col PGFM Roupell	1	Maj Gen PR Kay
M Power Esq		Capt DGR Hunt
Maj Gen GA White	1/2	Col AS Harris
Brig MJA Clarke		Capt HJ Phillips
Brig STW Anderson	1	Col SD Smith
Col JW Sewell		A Smith Esq

Col JGW Davidson	1	Lt EC Ennis	0
Maj FV Sheppard		A Cook Esq	
Lt Col FB Herd	0	Capt AB Gordon	1
Maj RA Green		JD Francis Esq	3
	6 1/2		



Golf Society - Spring Meeting

Peter Mason, President Golf Society, Mike Doyle, President Regimental Association, Peter Roupell, Captain Golf Society and Foster Herd, The Golf Society Secretary.

If there are any former officers of The Queens Royal Regiment, East Surrey Regiment, 23rd London Regiment, Queens Royal Surrey Regiment or serving officers of the Surrey Companies of PWRR or The London Regiment who would enjoy playing with the Society, please contact me. We need you to keep the Society viable, and I am sure you would enjoy meeting old friends. So why not pick up the phone today, or write to me, giving details - Secretary: FB Herd Oak Tree Cottage, North Gorley, Fordingbridge, Hants. 0425 652084

FBH

From the past



Wos and Sgts Depot The East Surreys, Kingston 1953

Maj B.A. Hannaford, RSM D Boorer and B/M W Snowden



D Coy, 1 Queen's 1958 Peter Barrows platoon on a visit to

Hermanns Denkmal during Sennelager training.

Where are they all now?

"J Y". A Camino Memory

"Michael's (Kealy's) conduct was so outstanding that I would have recommended him for a Victoria Cross had it been politically admissible".*

*General Sir Peter de la Billiere in his book on the Gulf War; "Desert Storm".

He was referring to a SAS operation in the Oman in the 70's. Captain Mike Kealy DSO was of course the son of the late Colonel J B Kealy, known and admired by so many of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

I am quoting this because in this year of "Salerno Remembered", it brought to mind another far off time in Italy: The Battle of Monte Camino, which was part of an Army Corps attack to turn the flank of the daunting CASSINO position. This Queen's Brigade operation was preceded by an uniquely formidable fire plan: 300 guns concentrate simultaneously on individual peaks and possible German positions on the mountains top, on a 300 yard front only! This should have demolished, or at least demoralised even the 15th Panzer Division which had been in Stalingrad before Salerno.

In the end, as always, it was the individual courage of Queen's soldiers which was needed. Now, 50 years on this December, I want briefly to recall some of the story of the capture of the mountain. It is a tale not much told. The fighting took place in icy cold, wet and piercingly windy conditions amongst rocks and caves nearly 2,000 ft up. Apart from weapons, a cardigan, gas cape and haversack were all that were carried. Unlike the Germans we never fought in greatcoats.

Three phases come to mind:

First. The night attack up the steep rock faced ridges until the leading platoon on a one man front was halted by spandaus and grenades.

It was then that Lt Col J Y Whitfield came forward to lead, until at first light the Germans on the position surrendered. That morning although the Monastery was the objective of a follow-up Queen's battalion, J Y Whitfield decided the Monastery also was to be taken.



In appalling weather, with several hundred yards of crags and ridges to cross, fire planning and reconnaissance filled most of the second day. Afterwards, he was modestly to describe what a poor marksman he was when he had to dodge in and out of caves and sangars shooting with his pistol at the Germans above. Finally on the third day not many others returned with him; sadly amongst the fallen was the young poet, Drummond Allison, about whom there is a letter elsewhere. However with those remaining, he

had reached the monastery but with only the dead of both sides there to greet him. The Germans were withdrawing, and he had been ordered to halt.

Some months later, when our Free French Allies, the legendary Goums, visited the scene they built a memorial there while, after them representatives of the Russian High Command equally impressed obtained the very high "Order of the Red Star" for Major General Whitfield, as within some twenty or so weeks he had become. As I look back, just as General de la Billiere wrote of Mike Kealy half a century later, 'J.Y.' should probably also have been similarly recommended. However, I think I know what he himself would have said - "Just in the day's work".

FAHL

Reading the Riot Act

It is part of the history of British troops that from time to time, up to and including the present day, they are called upon to assist in maintaining law and order and to act "in aid to the civil power".

The Queen's, with the Surrey Militia, were so employed at the time of the Gordon Riots in London in 1780. The East Surrey's predecessors were present, though not activated, at the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester in 1819 and soldiers were called upon to support the Guildford Police at the time of the notorious Guys Riots in 1863.

In connection with such activities one occasionally hears that it was necessary to "read the Riot Act". The expression is a common one but few people know what it actually means. The Riot Act of 1714 provided that where twelve or more persons were "riotously and unlawfully assembled to the disturbance of the public peace", they could be required to disperse by a proclamation read by a mayor, magistrate, sheriff or sub-sheriff. The proclamation was worded thus:-

"Our Sovereign Lord the King (or Lady the Queen) chargeth and commandeth all persons being assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the first year of King George for preventing tumultuous and riotous assemblies. God save the King (or Queen)".

Failure to disperse was a criminal act. The Riot Act gradually fell into disuse and was eventually repealed but many people nowadays, in the present climate of things, feel that the time is ripe for its re-enactment.

A further measure of riot legislation was the Riot (Damages) Act, 1886 (later amended by the Police Act, 1964) which provided that a person whose house or property was stolen, damaged or destroyed by rioters could claim compensation from the Police Authority. The Act was successfully invoked by a citizen of Surrey in 1921 when Canadian soldiers at Witley Camp rioted and, among other things, damaged some civilian shops in the camp. A shop owner named Pitchers sued the Surrey Police Authority and obtained compensation. The Chief Constable of Surrey vainly tried to plead that restoration of order in a military camp in time of riot was a matter for the military authorities but the Court was obviously not impressed.

RF

Saratoga 1777

In 1765 the regiment went to West Florida, lately ceded to Britain by Spain. It was seriously reduced by yellow fever but seven years later sailed for island of St. Vincent to quell fighting between tribes of Carib Indians. In 1774, it returned home but after two years went to Canada where the battalion companies remained during the War of Independence returning to the UK in 1787 with the title "Huntingdonshire".

However, the flank companies had been detached to join Lt. Gen. Sir John Burgoyne to invade south from Canada, by way of Albany, New York State. The 31st were posted to the 1st, "Advanced" Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. Fraser, bracketed with the 24th plus all the Light Infantry and Grenadiers of the British battalions in N. America, together with Fraser's Canadian Rangers and Provincials and Indians. The column moved south via Ticonderoga and Fort Edward through appalling country losing men in swamps, creeks and marsh and from attacks by swarms of riflemen from concealed positions. They crossed the Hudson and arrived at a small settlement near the Fishkill River called Saratoga. By that time Burgoyne was only able to field some six thousand men out of the three Divisions with which he had set out in June 1777. The Americans, lead by Major Gen. Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold included regiments from Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire and Connecticut besides a strong force of riflemen commanded by Daniel Morgan.

During the ensuing unequal conflict the Grenadiers, the left wing of Burgoyne's army, having stood their ground with severe losses, were finally over-run and driven back. The Light Infantry, including the 31st, were quickly sent about and despatched from right to the left wing but consequently left Fraser's sector much exposed. Burgoyne hastily sent the 24th from his centre to cover Fraser's withdrawal but too late, Fraser fell mortally wounded. In the confusion that followed the Americans launched a further strong attack, pushing back the Hessian contingent leaving the Light Infantry exposed to attacks from Massachusetts infantry. They held on but suffered heavily. Burgoyne had now suffered about one thousand casualties, his complete baggage had been lost together with access to his sick and wounded.

The remnants of his army managed to re-cross the nearby river and to reform on the northern bank where they awaited the enemy. Burgoyne deployed his troops for the last time, the 9th, 21st, 24th and the Grenadiers and Light Infantry on a hill by the bank of the river with the Hessians, 20th and 62nd acting as a Reserve.

After some skirmishing the Americans launched a force of about 20,000 men to confront the 3,000 or so left to Burgoyne and he and his Staff had to accept there was no chance of victory or escape. On the 14th October 1777, General Burgoyne sought terms from Gates and on the 17th the remains of the British expedition marched out of their positions with full honours of war and laid down their arms. Contrary to the terms of the surrender the captives were kept until 1781. The survivors of the 31st then returned to the UK.

Martinique 1794

After the Peace of 1763 the regiment was sent to Ireland and thence to the West Indies where it remained until 1774. It was then despatched to Nova Scotia where it remained during the War of Independence. In 1782, it received the title "The Surrey Regiment"

In 1794, the regiment formed part of the large expedition, led, by Gen. Sir Charles Grey which was despatched to take the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. In the rainy seasons the islands suffered cyclonic winds of extreme violence which flung mountainous seas on the beaches making landings all but impossible. The southern most island of the Leeward group, Martinique, had a special meaning to France as it was the birthplace of Josephine, later to be Empress. The native people were cannibal Caribs, Negro freedmen, mulattoes, Copres, Chabins and Matés, all hostile to Britain and well armed. The French had a large military presence commanded by General Rochambeau.

Grey formed his force in five Brigades. The 70th were part of the Third commanded by Brigadier Whyte the other regiments being the 6th and 58th. All the Grenadier companies were detached and formed in battalions of a Brigade, the Fourth, originally commanded by Brigadier Campbell and later by HRH the Duke of Kent. The Fifth Brigade commanded by Col. Myers was composed of the Light Companies. Profiting from experience of earlier campaigns in the islands, flat bottomed gunboats had been sent from England in sections and were assembled for the assault and crewed by negroes. The expedition sailed from Barbados and disembarked in three Divisions. The Third, and Grenadier Brigades with the 70th landed at Trois Rivieres in the south; Dundas with the Light Infantry including the 70th landed on the east coast and the First Brigade landed at Case de Navire in the north. After a comparatively short but savage campaign in the wilderness rain forests and mountains the British captured Fort de France, St. Pierre (the commercial capital) and the fortified Fort Royal and Fort Louis and Rochambeau capitulated.

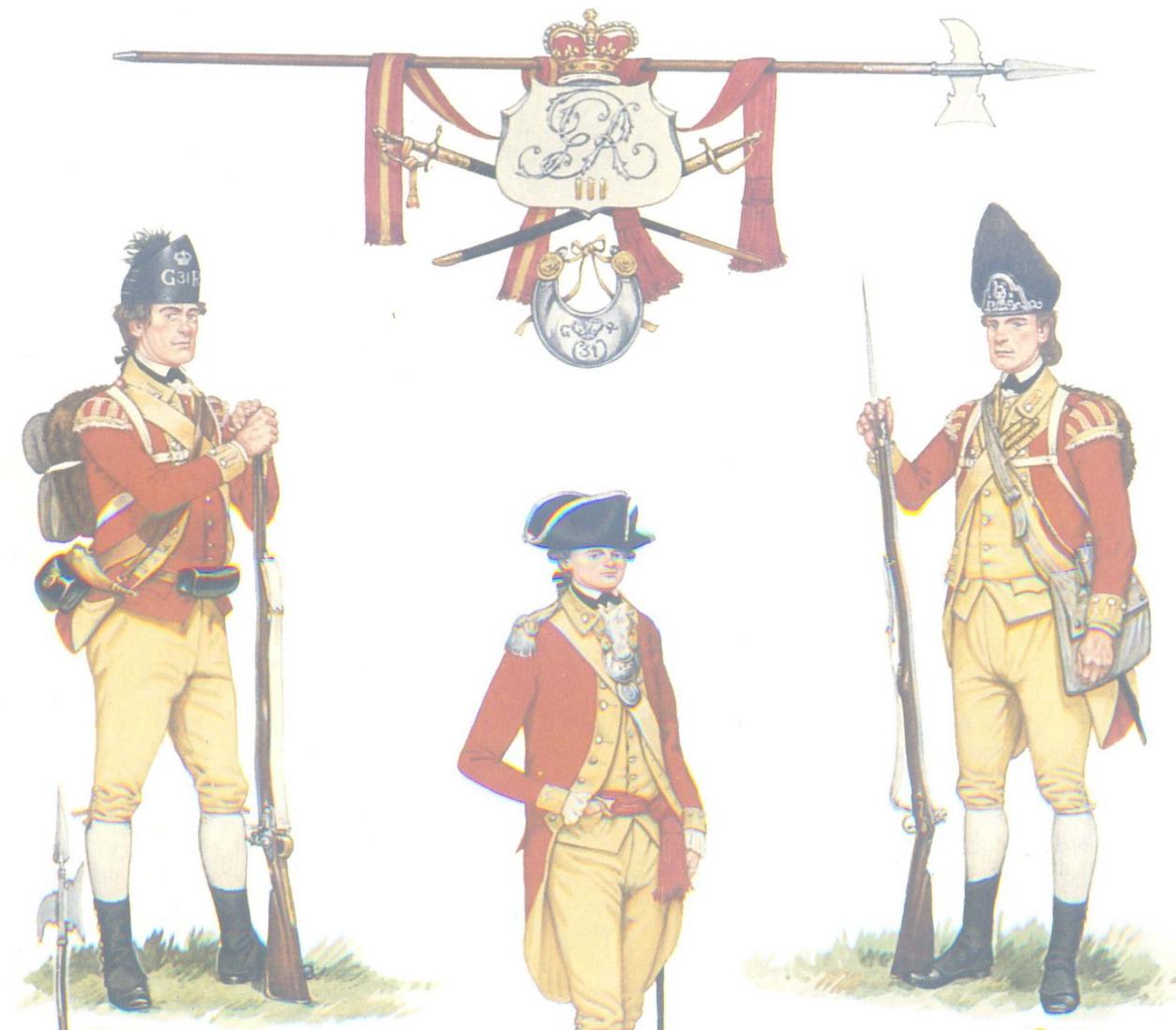
Leaving six of his battalions in garrison, embarked with four battalions and the Grenadier and Light Infantry Brigades for St. Lucia, captured it and proceeded to Guadeloupe which fell after some sharp engagements. The casualties were relatively light in all three invasions but Grey's force suffered severely from malaria and yellow fever, no fewer than 122 Officers of the force dying of disease before the end of one year. The 70th returned to the UK in 1796 but after a short rest and an intensive recruiting drive went to Gibraltar, where it remained until 1800.

Saratoga 1777

The uniform of British infantry had been modified by the major Royal Warrant of 1768, which laid down in detail the various regimental distinctions. The Battalions were formed of centre or "battalion" companies and two flank companies. The right flank company were the Grenadiers, by tradition the strongest and tallest men. They were distinguished by their tall fur caps, which replaced the old pattern cloth mitre caps, their shoulder "wings" and the brass slow-match, which was carried in a brass case on the pouchbelt.

The left flank company were the Light Infantry, first introduced during the French and Indian Wars. The distinctive features of their uniform were the caps, often of distinctive regimental design, their "wings", the shortened coats, red waistcoats, waist pouches, powder horns and half gaiters, later adopted by the entire army. All companies now carried the knapsacks on two shoulder straps and were provided with canvas or linen haversacks and wooden or metal water canteens in the field.

The special winter clothing comprised fur caps, white overcoats made of melton or blanket cloth, mittens and long overalls which were tucked in high gaiters.





Officers were principally distinguished by their crimson silk sashes, gorgets, gold or silver buttons and shoulder belt plates and in many, but not all regiments, by the gold or silver lace on their coats. Field Officers wore two, Captains and Subalterns one, gold or silver epaulet. Their half pikes or spontoons were quickly abandoned in favour of light fusils with necessary pouchbelts to avoid being picked off by enemy riflemen.

Sergeants were distinguished by their plain white lace, crimson worsted sashes with central stripes of the facing colour and their swords and halberds, which were usually abandoned in favour of fusils in the field.

Saratoga Colour Plate

Top centre. A sergeant's halberd. Sergeant's and officer's sashes. An officer's gorget. An officer's sword and a grenadier's hanger which was laid aside during the American War of Independence. **Top left.** A private of the Light Infantry Company. His cap is of leather bound with three rings of iron chain. **Top right.** A private of the Grenadier Company. **Bottom left.** A sergeant of the Battalion Company. **Bottom right.** A private of Battalion Company in winter clothing on sentry duty. **Centre.** A Battalion Company officer. (Some very junior officers were barely 15 years of age at this time). **Bottom centre.** The attractive plate or white metal and black enamel worn on the front of the grenadier cap.

Martinique 1794

In 1794 the Infantry were, in general, still wearing the pattern clothing prescribed by the Royal Warrant of 1768. However, thought had been given to the difficult conditions encountered by troops operating in the West and East Indies and instructions and regulations began to be issued which allowed modification to the general form of uniform clothing worn in temperate climates. The figure top left illustrates the uniform which would be worn in the UK. By 1790 it had been laid down that troops in the West Indies would have short jackets instead of long skirted coats and they should be provided with trousers instead of breeches.

Later the Board of General Officers approved troops being provided with two flannel waistcoats and a pair of flannel drawers for night duty. Each man was provided with two pairs of worsted socks and a flannel cap and two pairs of loose trousers made of cotton cloth or Russia duck. In some cases more fitted trousers with buttons to the knees were issued as a useful defence against insects. Half gaiters of cloth were also found useful.

The black felt cocked hats worn in Europe were discarded in favour of black or white hats, made round to shade the face from the sun and high in the crown to defend the head from the heat. The coats were made like jackets, short skirted and sufficiently large to button across the body. Each Regiment was amply provided with waistcoats. Stocks were not worn and the necks were wrapped in black or white cloths being better adapted to the hot climate. The Grenadier bottom right, wears the loose cotton trousers, the Light Infantry private, top right, has the Russia duck "mosquito" trousers while the Sergeant bottom left wears the flannel waistcoat, without his jacket and white hat. The Light Infantry Officer in the centre also wears the white hat with a muslin pagri which provides him with neck protection together with the Russia duck close fitting trousers.

Light weight canvas knapsacks were issued and worn on two shoulder straps with a connecting chest strap.

Martinique Colour Plate

Top centre. A sergeant's cross bar pike which replaced the halberd in 1792. An officer's sword and an officer's spadroon (right). This was a lightweight sword much favoured by junior officers when off duty. Sergeants' and officers' sashes and an officers' laced hat which would have been worn at home. **Top left.** A private of the Battalion Company in the uniform worn at home. **Top right.** A private of the Light Infantry Company with short jacket, flannel waistcoat and round hat. He wears 'mosquito' trousers. **Bottom left.** A sergeant wearing flannel waistcoat and mosquito trousers. As a rank distinction he has adopted white worsted epaulets sewn to his waistcoat. **Bottom right.** A private of the Grenadier Company with full marching equipment. Although obsolete, grenadier companies persisted with the brass match case worn on their cross belt. He is also wearing his coat instead of the jacket and has loose linen trousers instead of the mosquito type. **Centre.** A junior officer of the Light Infantry Company with the distinction of fringed epaulets worn over wings and a scarlet waistcoat. This dashing character also has the light curved sabre of Light Company officers. **Bottom centre.** The gilt, officer's cross belt plate.

Officers' Club Luncheon

1993 is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Salerno and it was a pleasure to see at the luncheon this year a number of members who had fought with The Queen's Royal Regiment in that engagement. Also present were some of the Surreys who fought at Cassino, and the anniversary of that battle falls next year.

Once more the luncheon was held in the splendid setting of the marble hall at Clandon Park; we are indebted to the Administrator, Mr Dixon Asquith, for helping to make this possible, and were delighted that he and Mrs Asquith were able to join us.

The President of the Officers' Club, Brigadier Mike Doyle and Mrs Anne Doyle welcomed the guests in the Salon at noon. Amongst the guests were Major General and Mrs D S Gordon and the Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Lt Col and Mrs Bob Russell.

After lunch and the loyal toast the President gave a short address before proposing the toast to the Regiment and the Association. Brigadier Doyle welcomed all those present and, in particular, the guests and those attending for the first time. He made reference to the anniversary of the battles in Italy and how good it was to see those present at the luncheon who had fought with the Queen's at Salerno and the Surreys at Cassino. He went on to say that everyone would be sorry to learn that Gen Francis Piggott was currently unwell, and all would wish for his swift recovery.

On Regimental matters the President stressed the continuing support of the Association to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and reported that the recent presentation of drum majors' sashes to the 1st, 2nd and 5th Battalions had been greatly appreciated. The sashes had been worn with pride on parade at Canterbury for the Review on 9th June.

Turning to the subject of the museum at Clandon he said that this was recognised as being one of the best in the country. This was due to the untiring and highly efficient work by the Chairmen of the Museum Trustees and their staff; firstly Brig Michael Clarke and now Col Peter Durrant.

Finally Brig Doyle said he knew he was speaking for all when he warmly thanked the Association Secretary, Lt Col Les Wilson for all he had done and was continuing to do in so many fields of the Association's activity. All recognised the immense value of the work done by Les. There was a resounding round of applause to greet these remarks.

There is no fall in the numbers attending the annual lunch. This year there was a total of 98. It is always a pleasure to see old friends attending for the first time; These included Major T A Thompson, who fought with 1st/6th Surreys during the war. He was rapidly spotted by Lt Col Anson Squire who was with him in the same battalion. Other members present included Maj Gen Michael Forrester, Maj Gen Fergus Ling, Brigadier and Mrs Anthony Ling, Brigadier George Goode, Brigadier and Mrs Geoffrey Curtis, Brigadier and Mrs Michael Clarke and Brigadier and Mrs Robert Acworth. Maj Gen and Mrs Mike Reynolds were unable to be present on this occasion as they were away in Belgium.

It was a most enjoyable function, and we look forward to a record turnout next year - the two hundredth anniversary of the Glorious First of June. In order to mark this anniversary the luncheon in 1994 will be held on Friday June 3rd.

JBR



Colonel John Davidson writes:-

Thanks for sending the Newsletter - an excellent production as usual. No doubt the original will turn up when the Post Office finds it.

I enjoyed Tony Ward's article on Hamala revisited. He failed however to refer to the famous donkey polo match against the Royal Navy. Perhaps because of his loss of dignity as Adjutant when his mount - an, obviously very sexy, lady donkey - proved to be much more exciting than the game of polo to the randy male mount of a junior subaltern. The sight of the latter on top of the former with an embarrassed Adjutant squashed in between was, to say the least, hilarious. Regrettably I did not have my camera at the ready.

I was so sorry to hear of my first CSM, Frank Bohm's, bad news. I'm glad he is mobile again. I was hoping to get in touch with old Malayan 10 Platoon and MMG members now that I am a gentleman of leisure. I've supped a few enjoyable ales with ex L/Cpl Lefevre, who has some wonderful old photos of those days, as well, of course, with Sid Lea. Did I hear that Sgt John Fertig is no longer with us. He used to live in Knaphill, I recall. Any news of ex 10 Pl members: Battrick, Mann, Chinn, Bacon, Vowles, Pitchers, Garlick, McGinty, Pettifer, Mount, Morrison, Bignell, Hanney, Pembroke, and many others. From MMG: Reynolds, Walker, Rourke, Dayman (no longer with us?), Anderson, Goodbody, Peters, the Wyatt brothers, Woodman, Herbert and many more.

M.E. Legros writes from Mouscron, Belgium

I write to thank you very much, indeed, for mentioning the important part played by the late Denis Goodman in the coming true of our East Surrey Memorial project, in the May 1993 issue of your Newsletter.

Denis had become a personal friend of mine and I made a special point to honouring his memory at the Risquons-Tout Parade of 23rd May.

It might be of some interest for you to know that our Risquons-Tout Day is getting more and more popular amongst British veterans who come in larger numbers every year. It seems that they appreciate the particular sincerity of the welcome.

I take advantage of this letter to remind you that you and any person connected with the Regiment are welcome to Mouscron at your best convenience. It will be an honour for us to show you round the "battlefield", the cemeteries or any other place you might wish to visit.

Dan James writes:-

I have just returned from a tour of The Somme Battlefields and took this snap of Captain Nevill's grave in Carnoy Cemetery. The other photos are of East Surreys but I'm sorry that the names have not come out clearly.

It is sad that Nevill is shown as East Yorks when he never served with that Regiment and anyway his heart was always with The Surreys. I wonder if The CWGC would consider changing the stone?



The grave of Captain W P Nevill, East Yorkshire Regiment, Killed on the 1st July 1916 leading B Company of 8 Surreys. Captain Nevill led the attack by kicking off one of four footballs he had purchased. One football is at Clandon the other at Dover Castle.

Neville Jackson writes:-

My wife Eileen and I decided we would celebrate the Glorious First of June this year in a special manner. We invited Tony Hewitt and his wife Liz to spend the night at our farm. Tony commanded C Company in Iserlohn way back in 1951/52. From Iserlohn he returned to the Middlesex which is his own regiment. Anyway we decided to make it a formal dinner and wear our Mess Dress and we had the table set out on the veranda. Unfortunately on the day Tony and Liz found they couldn't come but another friend of ours who was a Lt.-Col in the Australian Army came instead. The First of June was also his CORPS DAY so it was also relevant to him and his wife. Anyway it all went off well and we enjoyed it immensely. I daresay we will celebrate Salerno Day in a similar manner.

I am taking my Long Service Leave at the end of this year after which I intend to retire and move completely to our farm. We are both looking forward to this. We have 80 acres so our time will be fully used up keeping the place in order.

A. F. Chambers writes:-

Since I last wrote to you I have had my second cataract removed, this time from my left eye. The first was in February 1992, and this last one in March of this year.

We read and hear of miracles in the Bible and I think that this is a miracle to get one's sight back. I am still getting about with my Polymyangea Rheumatica although I can't walk too far, and as for having the eye troubles I haven't driven a car for three years, but I have been told now that I may drive again, so I shall have to revise the old Highway code again, or get my wife to walk in front with a red flag!

I will close now and once again thank you Sir.

Fred Josling writes from Australia:-

I am at present recuperating at home after being in hospital for a complete knee replacement, this is the third operation on my knee. It seems as if all my Doctor's visits have come in the last ten years since I retired, but am feeling real good at present.

I would like to say this Sir, thank you for making the Newsletter so interesting to read, I really enjoy it, thank you. Trusting all at home are well.

H Bowbrick writes:-

I thought members might be interested in my finding my Coy. Commander with whom I went into the Normandy landings.

Last year some Canadian friends were visiting my wife and I, we were talking about reunions and I wondered what happened to Capt Ron McLean of the Canadian Army who joined us with other officers at Hunstanton and commanded HQ Coy 1/5th Queens. My friend said I belong to the Canadian Legion and if you give me all the particulars I will put a notice in our Lost Trails section and hope we will be lucky with a response. It wasn't long before I received a phone call from an officer who knew Capt McLean and left his address.

I wrote to him before Christmas. I received a letter back early this year inviting us to visit him and his wife Marguerite when we were visiting in Canada. My wife Margaret and I visited my sisters in Canada this year, and we went on to visit Ron and Marguerite in July and spent a very pleasant three days with them and some of their family. They live on Howe Islands not far from Kingston Ontario. Ron is well and is still attending their reunions, when we left he said to say hello to all the folks that knew him. His address is Howe Island, RR# Gananoguc, Ontario. K7G2V6

I do hope this will be of some interest to you.

R Chitty writes:-

Some 18 months ago you were kind enough to give me the address of one, Jock Rutherford, of Manchester who I felt I must know as we were both called up in January 1940, reporting to Horsham drill hall of all places.

In his reply to me in which he expressed great pleasure at receiving my letter, he said he had come to Haslemere in the summer of 1940 with a friend of his in the Signal platoon, Wilf Lisp, during a short week-end leave. As Wilf had left the 2/7th soon after, Jock wondered in his letter as to what had happened to Wilf, and others. I was able to tell him that Wilf still lived in the same house, having inherited it from his parents and that Wilf's son lived in my road here!

Jock could not come to the 1992 reunion, but came this year, having of course, been in touch with Wilf, meanwhile I brought him to Haslemere and he stayed with Wilf for over a week, Wilf having been recently widowed. Another old 2/7th stalwart, known to many, Reg Tarrant, joined with us one day and we had a "right good natter", as you can imagine.

S Gray writes:-

I look forward to the Newsletter as it keeps us all in touch, I keep hoping that one day someone will remember me and the good times we had in Broadstairs and Dover. I was in C Company 1/6th Queens and I was married whilst at Broadstairs. I could write a book on Kent in the early 40s,

the Grand Hotel and our positions along the front, I can see it as I write even now. The officers mess was in the Grand Hotel and I was a mess waiter. One day when my ship comes in I will visit Broadstairs again, it can't have changed very much.

Mrs Pat Gardner writes:-

I write to tell you of my feelings having been fortunate enough to attend the Regimental Review held on the 9th June 1993. My pride in the Regiment knows no bounds. My late husband C/Sgt Ray Gardner was an East Surrey and then a Queensman. When those colours were paraded on the 9th June I was so proud to have been part of their history. As much as I tried to compose myself I found it extremely emotive. The pleasures did not end there, I went on to meet people I had not seen for over twenty-five years. I was particularly pleased to see Maureen Morris, in fact it all became a guessing game do I know him/her? I was made very welcome as always in the company of Bill Warren, Jack Chaffer, John Ellcombe, Ron Proud, Alec Bromidge and their respective wives. Those of whom I thought I knew were introduced to me by my brother-in-law Derck Gardner who with his wife Kay saw that I was transported to Canterbury. Lieutenant Colonel Wilson although very busy on the day found time to welcome us all and chat.

Yes all in all, it was one of the best days of my life.



Del Gardner, wife and Mrs Pat Gardner

J. Dally writes:-

Might it be possible to get a message in the Newsletter as I have been out of touch for fifty years. I joined the 2/5th Queens after training in the Dorsets. We sailed on a Dutch ship. We arrived at Cape Town via Freetown. We then sailed to India (Bombay and Deolali), from there we went to the then Persian Gulf, then to Iraq (Kirkuk), then went up to the Western Desert by truck.

After the end of the desert campaign I developed a quinsy and was taken to a hospital near Cairo. Whilst in hospital I contracted malaria and then rheumatic fever. In the meantime the battalion went to Italy. When I recovered I joined the 71st Beach Group and had training for Normandy. We landed on Val Ser Mer on "D" plus 1, then when it was all over we finally left from Lubeck, Germany. If anybody remembers J Dally, please write to him at 25 Old Church Road, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2BE (0934-733120).

Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis writes:-

I thought that readers might be interested to know that in addition to those who made a private pilgrimage to Salerno on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the landings, I received an invitation from Dr Angelo Pesce to attend the

ceremonies being arranged by the Italians in the Salerno area to mark their liberation by the British forces in September 1943. I regard it as a singular personal honour as "an invader" to be asked to return as a guest by those who had been our enemies until the night before the landing when the Italian Government surrendered.

Over the past couple of years General Michael Forrester and I have assisted Dr Pesce with the compilation of a magnificent book which he has produced about the Salerno operation, and my first engagement was to attend a press conference for the launch of his book. It was held in a house up in the hills of Vietri overlooking the Bay of Salerno in which the Italians had set up the first "free" government following the liberation of the area. I was asked by the President of the Bank of Salerno, who was sponsoring the event to speak to the large gathering of the media who were keenly interested in the landings, and I was given a most warm welcome both as someone who had actually taken part in the liberation of their people and as author of "Salerno Remembered", from which Angelo generously said he had drawn much of the material for his own book.

During the afternoon he drove me on an extensive tour of the Bridgehead. We went straight to Paestum where there is a memorial to the 3rd United States Division who suffered heavily during their battle to gain a foothold there. Then we came back over the Sele River, which was the inter-corps boundary, to visit so many of the places which will for ever be engraved on our hearts. Up Route 18 to Battipaglia, and the Tobacco Factory which we eventually found, scenes of a week of bitter fighting. The River Tusciano which 2/5th Queen's had waded up on the right of the landing and now a dry river bed. Montecorvino Airfield captured by 2/6th Queen's on D Day and still in use, and down our axis road to the beach where 169 Queen's Brigade landed, now a peaceful scene with topless girls sunning themselves on the sand. Over the River Asa where 2/7th Queen's and the Hampshires had heavy fighting on D Day, and back into Salerno where I was staying and now choked with traffic and a busy container port.

The following day, 9th September, I attended the moving ceremony in the British Military Cemetery which is described elsewhere by Sid Pratten. We drove back along the Autostrade which follows the route of 169 Brigade's axis for the breakout from the Bridgehead. Seeing it again it seems almost unbelievable that we could have forced our way through such a formidable line of hills with the well remembered Monte Stella towering in the background and dominating the entire region.

In the afternoon the Italians staged various events on the sea front of Salerno culminating in Beating Retreat by the Band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards - successors to the Scots Greys who gave us such valuable support in the first critical days. That evening I was invited to a splendid Reception given by the Municipality of Salerno where the Guest of Honour was Earl Alexander of Tunis, the son of our wartime Commander-in-Chief.

I was enormously impressed by the enthusiasm of the Italians to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Salerno Landings and by the very warm reception given to me as the representative of the British Forces who had liberated them 50 years ago. Indeed I was surprised and proud to find how many among them knew of The Queen's Royal Regiment and of the major part we had played in the operation.

I am so grateful to Dr Angelo Pesce for the wonderful opportunity he gave me to take part in such a memorable occasion, and I am delighted to say that he has accepted

an invitation to become an Honorary Member of our Regimental Association.

On 28th September General Michael Forrester will be his guest at Scafati where Angelo was a school boy the day the town was liberated by 1/6th Queen's.

Brigadier Michael Clarke writes:-

It was gratifying to find such prominence given to the regimental museum in the May issue of your excellent Newsletter. The major reorganisation of the museum which took place last winter was the culmination of much detailed planning and the product of generous funding by the Managing Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Trust and Militia Funds and the Trustees of the Queen's Surreys (Territorials) Charitable Funds. It was also a splendid team effort by the dedicated volunteers and staff who keep the museum going. It is to them and their predecessors that I would like to pay tribute, and in doing so to place on record the development of the museum since 1959.

The museum of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment came into being in 1963 in a converted garage adjacent to the regimental headquarters at the Portsmouth Road TA Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames. Previously, following the amalgamation of the three regiments in 1959, the Queen's museum artefacts had remained at Stoughton in packing cases and the Surreys museum had continued at Kingston barracks. Those of us who visited the new museum will remember in particular Mr C Henery, the museum orderly, whose signwriting skills are still evident on the boards which show the names of the Colonels of Regiment from 1661, opposite the entrance to the present museum. Detailed planning for the move of the museum to its present location began in 1977. Two of the Trustees present at the first planning meeting in July of that year were Colonels J.W. Sewell, who chaired it, and W. E. McConnell. They are still closely involved with the museum, one as a Trustee and the other as Honorary Legal Adviser. Also in attendance at that meeting were Major F. J. Reed, who was in charge of the Kingston museum and supervised its move, and Mr B.H.B. Milner of the Army Museum Ogilvy Trust who undertook to lay out the new museum at Clandon Park.

The museum was re-opened at Clandon Park in 1979. Mrs Jean Ann Stock, who had been one of the National Trust guides at the house volunteered to become the Museum Keeper, but the Regiment was unable to employ a curator until 1983, and from those early days much has depended on dedicated volunteers to help keep the museum going. Still actively connected with the museum from those days are Major and Mrs P.G.E. Hill and Captain Alan and Mrs Peggy White. There was still much to be done and D.I.Y. was the order of the day. Lt.Col. H.R.D. Hill, who became Chairman, was one expert. Daphne Hill worked with Major Charles Cole to photograph and record what has become a magnificent photographic collection. Lt.Col. Tony Hannaford tackled the display and card-indexing of several thousand medals.

Bob Hill, who did so much for the museum, sadly died suddenly in October 1986, and I was invited to take over as chairman. I was very glad to accept but I have to confess that the office was by no means the sinecure I had imagined it to be! Those splendid volunteers made it quite clear that Wednesdays throughout the year were their museum working days, and I was expected to set an example. The two main activities, both directed towards meeting the running costs of the museum, were the presentation of temporary displays to stimulate interest and donations and the preparation of booklets for sale in the museum shop. Peter Hill and Lt.Col. Anson Squire did much of the writing and editing of the campaign series -

Cassino, Burma, Malaya, Italy - and Daphne Hill was the trouble-shooter who badgered people into providing their reminiscences. My first task was to put the TA book together, which involved compiling an opening chapter about the history of the TA and later, for the second edition, the epilogue. We also started to improve the appearance of the office/archives room and to sort out the jumble of the attic storerooms and were much helped by the carpentry and joinery skills of Tommy Atkins and Major Sidney Hill, RA rtd. He had become involved with the museum through NADFAS - one of the benefits of Jean-Ann being President of the West Surrey NADFAS. Captain Graham Wenn joined us as Treasurer in 1987, and John Woodruff became our Honorary Archivist after he retired from being Curator. As such he has dealt admirably with the growing number of enquiries from the general public about friends and relations in our former regiments.

We paused to take stock in 1991. The museum looked good, but it had its limitations. It was an attractive display of artefacts arranged in approximately chronological order, but there were many gaps in the regimental story which could not be filled by temporary displays. We had made a start in 1990 by installing additional show cases in Room 2 and gaining space to give greater prominence to WWI and the early 1900s, but there was much more to be done. We had to dispense with clutter i.e. items which were on display just because they looked nice. We needed more display cabinets, but we also had to create an impression of space. We needed a better lighting system. Once we started, the whole exercise would have to be completed in one winter closed season because changes in one room affected the next, and the next. Every one would need to work very hard, and we particularly needed someone skilled in D.I.Y. Fortunately we had recently acquired such a person. He was Colonel P.A.W.G. Durrant. He had answered an appeal for younger helpers, 'younger' being a relative term, and was already hard at work reorganising our attic store and archives rooms.

It is doubtful whether we would have completed the re-organisation during the winter of 1992/93 without Peter Durrant's enthusiasm, skill and hard work except at considerable additional expense, much worry and less finesse. He, and Jean Ann with her flair for display arrangement, were invaluable. He also persuaded the National Trust to approve the new high-tech lighting system which they initially resisted and now want to install in the rest of the house. But tribute is also due to all the other volunteers, and to Richard Ford and Penny James, our Curator and Assistant Curator, for helping with the reorganisation and at the same time getting on with the routine maintenance chores which we required each winter to prepare for the next season. Penny in particular quietly and persistently kept track of the many hundreds of articles which changed location between the attic and downstairs, and between showcases. A vital task.

So my grateful thanks to a splendid team, and finally - provided the Editor has allowed me enough space - I would like to emphasise how much we owe to Lt. Col. Les Wilson. During my six and a half years as Chairman he was a fount of wise advice, the organiser of outside assistance whenever needed, and an expert on display arrangement.

Yours gratefully, Michael Clarke

Peter Andras writes:-

My home is a farmhouse near Bolsena, a small lakeside town about 65 miles north of Rome in the direction of Florence, and not far from Orvieto. After the German evacuation of Rome in June 1944 the allied armies moved into the area quite swiftly, and most of it was I think liberated on 13th and 14th June 1944. I do not know whether any formal events are planned to mark the 50th

anniversary of this part of the Italian campaign, but I would welcome as guests some of those who took part in the campaign and wish to visit the area, and/or members of their families. I can provide up to three double rooms, and provided there is sufficient notice and the visit is not in July or August can probably also obtain additional rooms in some nearby holiday accommodation.

I believe both the 1st and 1/6th Battalions of The East Surrey Regiment took part in the campaign and the graves of more than 20 East Surreys are in the Orvieto War Cemetery. I would particularly welcome former East Surreys or their families as my father, J.B. Andras, served with the 6th (Territorial) Battalion in India and Aden during the 1914/18 war and commanded the Battalion in the mid 1930s.

This is a most generous offer of accommodation by Mr Andras, any member who wishes to visit Italy please forward their letter through the Editor.

Sid Pratten sent this photo of Salerno War Graves Cemetery, he writes:-

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Cemetery for keeping it in such immaculate condition, also to Dr Angelo Pesce for his efforts on our behalf.



All Saints Church, Kingston.



The President and Brigadier Bob Acworth study The East Surrey Book of Remembrance in The East Surrey Regimental Chapel.

CAN YOU HELP?

Eric Bullen of 34 Cambridge Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2JL 081 979 3203 Army No 6105720 - No 9 Platoon 'A' Coy Queen's Royal Regiment joined January 1942, served in Iraq and North Africa wounded at Enfidaville and discharged in 1943 wonders if any reader can help trace his comrades of those days, if so please write direct to Mr Bullen.

A Member is anxious to purchase a Paschal Lamb ladies brooch, either with diamonds or diamonds and enamel. Any reader who may know of someone who wishes to dispose of such a brooch is asked to contact the Editor who will pass on details.

Z. Mittelman of 262 Highbury New Park, London N5 is trying to locate Lt. Pincombe who served in D Company 2/6th Queen's Royal Regiment during the war. Any reader who may be able to assist please contact Z Mittelman at the address above.

Colonel A.F.F. Young OBE TD. I am currently working on compiling a history of the Redland Group. Our chairman and founder was Colonel Alexander Frederick Farquhar Young OBE of the 2nd/5th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment who was on active service in the years 1940-1945. We would greatly appreciate to copy any photographs people may have of Alex Young concerning any period of his lifetime. Any readers able to assist please forward direct to M Davidson Esq., Publications Editor, Redland PLC, Redlands House, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0SJ.

P. Delaforce writes:- I am writing to ask for your help with stories, memories, anecdotes from ex-members of Queen's in the North West Europe campaign. I soldiered with 11th Armoured Division from Normandy to the Baltic as a troop leader with 13th RHA subsequently with 3 RHA in 7th Armoured for 18 months. My 21st book about the 11th Armd Div. entitled the "Black Bull" is being published this autumn by Alan Sutton. They want a companion volume from me about 7th Armd Div. I was most impressed with the Queen's Surrey's Regimental Museum when I visited it recently. Any member who can assist please write to P. Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 5DL

The Headmaster, Bishop Stortford College writes:- Through your pages, could I ask for any memories of Lt. J D ALLISON, 2/5th Queen's who was killed on Razor Back on the night of 3/4 December 1943, during the advance on Monte Camino? I know from his mother's letter that his batman was a Pte. Marsh. Allison only arrived in Italy as a replacement Officer from The East Surreys three or four weeks before his death.

Drummond Allison was a pupil at my school, Bishop's Stortford College, in Hertfordshire. He went on to Oxford University until April 1942, when he joined the Army. It was at Oxford that his promise as a poet was recognised. Two of his contemporaries, Sydney Keyes and Keith Douglas, are considered, together with Alun Lewis, the great poets of the Second World War. Allison has been bracketed with these by a number of eminent authorities who knew him, including John Heath-Stubbs and Robert Conquest. Keyes, Douglas and Allison all contributed poems to an anthology entitled "8 Oxford Poets", published in 1942 and Allison's own single volume of published poetry, "The Yellow Night" appeared early in 1944 after his death. All three young men met their deaths in action.

Having been granted access to family letters and a number of manuscript books of English unpublished poems, I am intending to produce a "complete works" to coincide as nearly as possible, with the 50th Anniversary of

Drummond Allison's death. I have plenty of contacts from School and Oxford days, but very little from his Army career and nothing directly related to his last days, except two "mentions" in the Regimental History and excerpts from a letter to his parents written by his C.O. Lt Col J.Y. Whitfield.

Can any of your readers help me? It is asking a lot at such a distance in time, but any memory however brief, will be of interest and value. If any member can assist please write direct to the Headmaster at:- Bishop Stortford College, 10 Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2QZ.

A.C. Bartle - writes from Redruth Cornwall

I would like to contact any of my old mates from 1/6th Queen's particularly members of the anti-tank platoon.

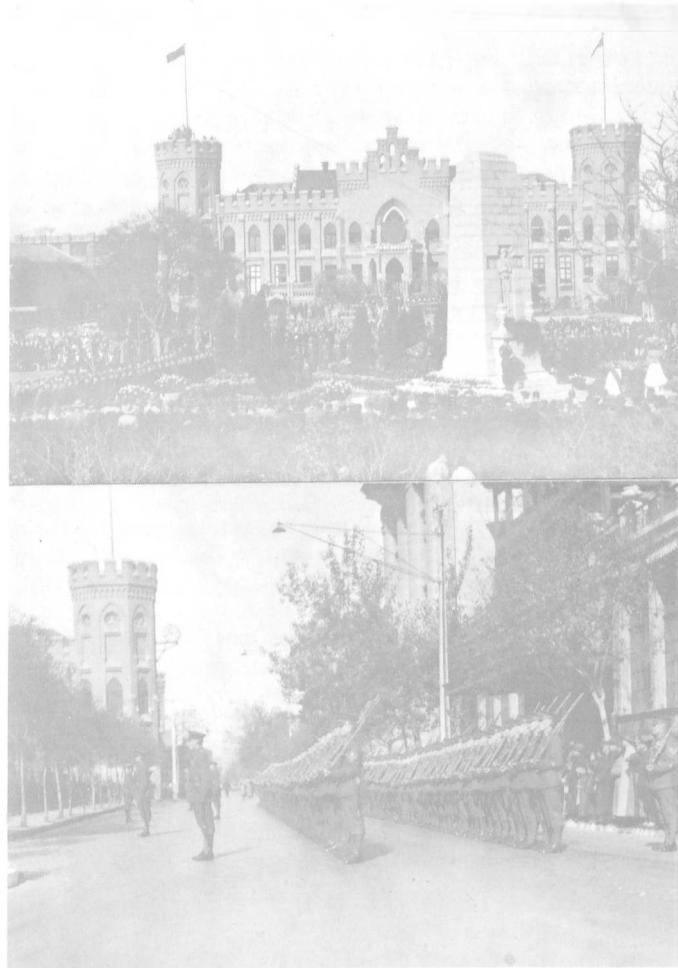
I was posted to the battalion from a training battalion of The Hampshire Regiment in March or April of 1944 and stationed at Kings Lynn, Norfolk. My Army number was 14411982. I fought with the regiment throughout the Normandy campaign up to Gwent, outside of Antwerp. I was wounded and flown back to England, I was hospitalised and convalescent in Wales. On return to Belgium the battalion was returned to England and I was then posted to the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

A. C. Bartle lives at Flat 15, Chyventon, Chapel Street, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AU.

Picture Puzzle?

Can you identify either of these photos?

These photos were recently sent to the Editor by the Secretary of another Association. It is believed they were once owned by a Lt Col Evans. They depict The Queen's - but which battalion and where? One reader says it is Aldershot, whilst another is certain they were taken in China?



Salerno - The Fiftieth Anniversary

On 9th September 1943, I was a platoon commander in 2/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment at the Salerno landings in Italy. Little did I think then that Salerno would become a Battle Honour for the Regiment and a day which we would still be celebrating 50 years later. What is so special about Salerno Day? Uniquely in the Second World War, The Queen's Royal Regiment had six battalions of the Territorial Army there engaged in the same operation. Moreover it was the first major assault landing on the mainland of Europe.

The plan was for 5th Army to land in the Gulf of Salerno and advance to capture the city and port of Naples together with the important airfield in the vicinity, X British Corps was to have two assault divisions, 46 Division was to capture the port of Salerno and in 56 London Division 169 Queen's Brigade was to seize Montecorvino Airfield and 167 Brigade to take Battipaglia, 7th Armoured Division which included 131 Queen's Brigade were to land later to break-out of the bridgehead and capture Naples. On the right VI US Corps had one assault division.

On 8th September the invasion fleet assembled off the west coast of Italy. It was a most complex operation with 56 Division sailing from Tripoli, 46 Division from Bizerte and the Americans from Oran, all shepherded by warships from the Royal Navy, the United States, Holland and Poland. The size and shape of the assault forces was dictated by the availability of shipping which had to return to North Africa to pick up the follow up divisions. By late afternoon we were off Capri in broad daylight when the unreality of the situation was compounded by an announcement from General Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander, that Italy had surrendered. The news spread through the ships like wildfire with troops cheering as they envisaged an unopposed landing. How wrong they were!

The two assault battalions of our brigade, 2/5th and 2/7th Queen's, were transported in converted passenger ships (LSIs), and in the small hours of 9th September long lines of troops were shuffling up from the lower decks into the inky darkness, clambering over the ship's rail and into the assault craft (LCAs) hanging from the davits. Then down the ship's side and the moment the boat hit the water it roared forward into the unknown. I was standing on the open deck of our landing craft (LCI), in which 2/6th Queen's had endured four cramped days since leaving Tripoli, peering into the darkness when suddenly the world about us erupted as the naval bombardment began. The noise was deafening and apprehension gave way to exhilaration (for a while anyway) as I watched the gun flashes and salvos from the rocket landing craft. It was 0315. H hour was at 0330.

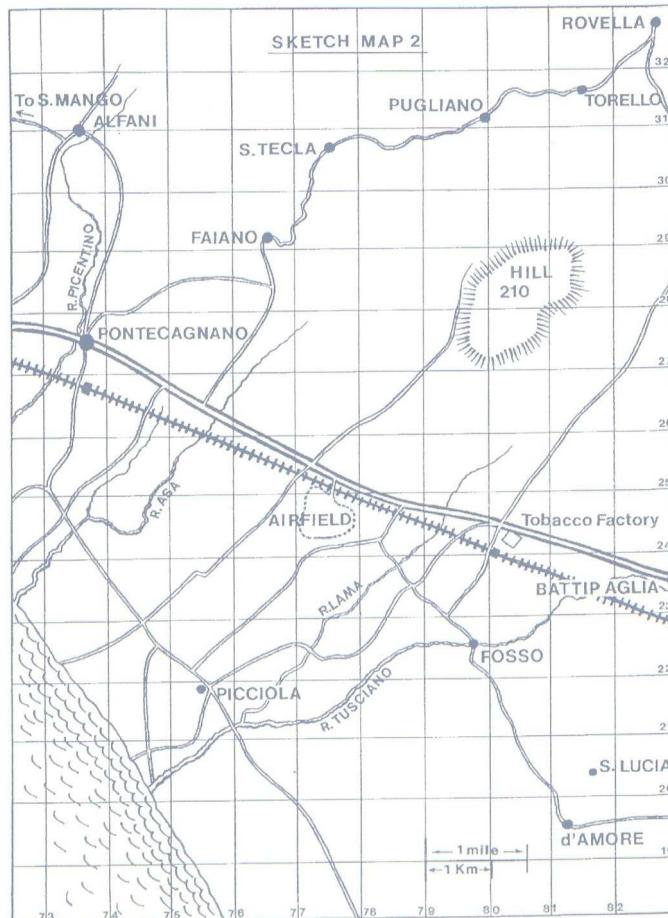
2/5th Queen's had some difficulty forming up in their LCAs in the dense smoke screen laid by the Navy and they were shelled by shore batteries as they approached the beach some 40 minutes late. They encountered little opposition but as they moved inland they were immediately waist deep in water as the Germans had opened the sluice gates of the irrigation system. Indeed the right hand company eventually realised they were walking up the bed of the River Tusciano in the darkness. But Lieutenant Colonel Whitfield soon got a grip of the situation and by mid morning the battalion was well established some 4000 yards from the beach just south of the southern perimeter of Montecorvino Airfield.

2/7th Queen's did not fare so well. At first light it became apparent that they had been landed about a mile to the right and partly in 2/5th area. Moreover the right hand battalion of the Hampshire Brigade in 46 Division had been

decanted on 2/7th Queen's beach the wrong side of the River Asa. Soon confusion was rife as follow-up troops and vehicles were being landed before the assault companies were clear. As they struck out across country through a maze of irrigation ditches and tall crops, the 2/7th had a number of sharp section and platoon actions before they eventually drove an infantry/tank guard from the bridge over the River Asa.

In 2/6th Queen's we landed direct on to the beach from our five LCIs at about H + 60. Our objective, Montecorvino Airfield, was 5th Army's primary D Day objective, as until it was usable we would be almost entirely dependant on carrier borne aircraft for close support. As we moved up the access road through high vineyards, tomatoes and tobacco plants, dawn revealed that we were in a bowl completely over-looked by the hills beyond. For some inexplicable reason we seemed to have caught the Germans off-guard as they ran to their aircraft and tried to take off amid a hail of bullets from our rifles and Bren guns. By midday we had reached the Airfield now supported by a troop of Shermans of the Scots Greys. But then the enemy began to react sharply to any movement with Spandau fire from the other side of the runway, one of the tanks was knocked out by an 88mm anti-tank gun and there was considerable shelling. Nevertheless despite mounting casualties Lieutenant Colonel John Kealy was determined to press on to cut the Salerno - Battipaglia road and by dusk we were in a strong defensive position dug-in on our objective, but our flanks were wide open.

2/7th Queen's had been forced to hold back on the line of the River Asa to guard against the possibility of penetration of the Brigade rear areas as the Germans mounted strong counter-attacks against the Hampshire Brigade. The enemy also launched a major attack with tanks and infantry in $1\frac{1}{2}$ tracks against 2/5th Queen's which overran the forward companies. By last light survivors had



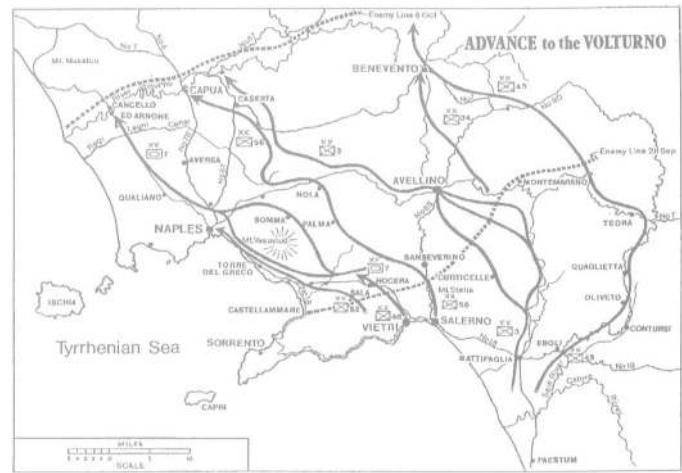
filtered back to within a mile of the beach in the Picciola area and the CO was forced to reorganise on a two company basis with three company commanders lost and 173 other casualties.

The next day it became clear that the Germans were determined to hold the Tobacco Factory/Battipaglia area at all costs as they launched repeated counter-attacks in which 2/5th Queen's and 201 Guards Brigade and 167 Brigade suffered severely. But Lieutenant Colonel Black decided to probe forward into the foothills and by nightfall 2/7th Queen's were 4 miles north of the Airfield in San Tecla. But they were precariously isolated and the following day 2/6th Queen's supported by two troops of 40 RTR were ordered to seize the important hill feature Point 210 which would afford some protection to 2/7th right flank, and at the same time provide vital observation over the enemy north-south axis to Battipaglia. Soon Point 210 was bristling with OPs from the gunners and the Royal Navy who directed devastating observed fire on everything that moved in the valley below. At the same time 2/7th Queen's constantly harassed the enemy rear from their hill positions about Pugliano.

We held on to the high ground in our salient despite a determined attempt to dislodge us from Point 210 on D+3. Both sides were exhausted and had committed their reserves, and for several days the outcome of the bridgehead battle was in the balance. Two fresh divisions enabled the Germans to continue their efforts to breakthrough to the sea, but dogged resistance around Battipaglia coupled with the crippling effect of our gunfire just tipped the scales. By 17th September 7th Armoured Division was arriving in the bridgehead and 1/5th and 1/6th Queen's of 131 Brigade were immediately despatched to the Battipaglia area to strengthen that hard pressed sector. The previous day (D+7) 8th Army advancing up from the toe of Italy made contact with the American Corps. The link-up together with the arrival of reinforcements in both the British and American sectors proved decisive. On the night of D+8/D+9 the Germans began to break contact and withdraw. On 19th September after eleven days continuously in action 169 Queen's Brigade was relieved by 131 Queen's Brigade. I remember the day well. There was great excitement and it was splendid to see the tension slipping away from the chaps of my exhausted platoon as they greeted old mates of 1/6th Queen's from around the corner in Bermondsey. It was an historic occasion for the Regiment.

That night we slept like logs in a rest area near Faiano. The next day the padres held short services of thanksgiving and remembrance. There was much to ponder, courage and fear, good friends gone. In less than a fortnight we had become battle hardened troops. But time for reflection was short. After just one day of peace and calm the time had come to break-out from the bridgehead. The X Corps plan was for 46 Division on the left and 56 Division on the right to secure the mountain passes north of Salerno. Then 7th Armoured Division was to pass through 46 Division into the plain to capture Naples and in conjunction with 56 Division on their right close up to the River Volturno.

56 Division's axis was dominated by the 3000ft Monte Stella and we were soon to learn that there are no short cuts in mountain warfare. It started with an order to Sergeant Jackson of 2/5th Queen's rather on the lines of "just nip up that mountain with your platoon and occupy the crest!" 48 hours later it was in our hands with all three battalions committed, support from field, medium and heavy artillery, the Royal Navy, mules, Basuto porters, and at the cost of considerable casualties. At last on 27th September the two infantry divisions had secured the



passes and we were poised for the advance into the Plain of Naples with the two Queen's Brigades in the lead.

1/7th Queen's quickly occupied Nocera and the high ground beyond dominating Route 18 the divisional axis. The plan then was for 23 Armoured Brigade advancing from the hills to the left and 131 Queen's Brigade to converge on Scafati. Thereafter 23 Armoured Brigade would advance up the coastal road while the remainder of 7th Armoured Division passed round the north of Vesuvius. As soon as 1/7th were firmly established 1/6th Queen's Group, which included a squadron of 5 RTR, a battery of 3 RHA and a battery of 17 Pdr anti-tank guns, passed through and in the words of Captain Johnson, the leading Company Commander, were told by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Forrester "to go like hell and stop for nothing." And that is exactly what they did, capturing the vital bridge over the River Sarro intact. Simultaneously 1/5th Queen's struck north from Nocera and secured a canal bridge intact.

131 Brigade Group's task now was to advance on a broad front with all three battalions and 5 RTA to secure the gap between Vesuvius and the mountains to the east of Palma. It was hard going. The plain was criss-crossed with waterways making it difficult and dangerous country for tanks and providing endless opportunities for demolitions and rearguard actions. But by hustling the enemy relentlessly, seeking diversions around demolitions and by outflanking infantry engagements at platoon and company level, 131 Brigade broke effective resistance and secured the vital corridor by 1st October. The next day 22 Armoured Brigade passed through to lead the advance of 7th Armoured Division and meanwhile 23 Armoured Brigade advancing up the coast road entered Naples.

Mission accomplished! Shortly afterwards Brigadier 'Bolo' Whistler wrote in his diary of 131 Brigade, "of course the Brigade looks on itself as the elite of the whole Army. Their morale is fantastic." Without doubt there was a special quality about both these Queen's Brigades. Even now, fifty years later, there is a great spirit among those of us still around, but we never forget the mates we left behind. Yes, we are proud of the Battle Honour

'SALERNO'.

GBC

50th Anniversary of the Salerno Landings

Laurie Uren of the 1/7th Queens O.A.C. joined the Royal British Legion Pilgrimage to Salerno to commemorate the 50th year anniversary. The party consisted of 150 veterans from the Hampshires, Guards Brigade, Royal Marines and widows accompanied by two doctors and nurses provided by the services and staff from the R.B.L.

The Queens had six battalions in the campaign the 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th of the 131 Brigade Armoured Division and 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th of the 169 Brigade, 56th Division.

The first two nights were spent at the Forum Palace hotel, Cassino. Tours to the Minturno and Cassino Cemeteries for the Service of Remembrance and the battle areas. A visit to the Mt. Cassino Monastery which has been rebuilt by America and Germany, who covered the costs.

The third day of our journey was to the Maiori Regina hotel for the duration of our visit stopping at Casserta and Naples cemeteries for remembrance ceremonies. During the evening at Maiori the veterans of the American Rangers did a mock landing from the sixth fleet followed by a tremendous fireworks display.

The fourth day was a trip to Capri with a guide and visits to places of interest amongst throngs of tourists.

The fifth day being the 9th of September - the anniversary of the landings - a memorable and moving service was held at the Salerno Cemetery, the address was given by the Right Reverend Michael Mann R.C.V.O. who was a serving officer during the landings, his words were spoken with such feeling of the comradeship, and the dependency on one another as a family. This was attended by Earl Alexander's son, Ambassador of the Royal British Legion War Graves Commission Royal Marines and Royal Navy from *HMS Boxer*, American Ranger veterans accompanied by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards band. The service included a lament, the Last Post and two minutes silence with Reveille which brought ever lasting memories of our former friends and comrades.

Prior to the service I was standing amongst a number of Queens graves my thoughts of 50 years on - here was I alive amongst so many dead comrades - I then noticed this lone widow overcome with emotion, I stepped over to give her support and held her for a few moments encouraging her to let the tears flow and later she was unable to control her hands to take a photograph of her late husband's grave which I did for her - she turned and said to me 'I am so pleased you are a Queensman, one never forgets but I know my husband is there amongst friends'. Her husband was an officer in the 1/7th Queens, Lt Cockcroft, who was the anti-tank platoon commander.

After the service whilst awaiting to form up with the veterans for the march past Geoffrey Curtis introduced himself to me as another Queensman - after the march past other Queensmen joined us, one of which purchased the book "Salerno Remembered" in Italy and had asked for his autograph I then realised it was the Brigadier the author of the book which Major K Jessup had kindly sent to me a week prior to my departure to update my memory which made me feel elated as I was able to tell the Brigadier how good the book was. That evening Dorothy Cockcroft accepted my invitation to sit at our table for dinner. She was a delight to know and after the meal Dorothy said "This has completed a day to be remembered always"!

For me it was a memorable day, stressful, emotional and elation not to be forgotten.

Sixth day was spent at Ravello in the mountains with superb views and gardens, the afternoon at Amalfi until we

were overtaken by a vicious lightning and thunderstorm and the small streets were awash - we hurriedly beat retreat to the hotel by taxi.

Seventh day, tours to the beaches at Salerno which had been changed and built upon for the tourist industry. Battipaglia, the tobacco factory and Montecorvino airfield where the Queens suffered such heavy casualties and a visit to Pompei. The whole trip was well planned a huge success and the coach journeys were made interesting by talks by the veteran officers. Many thanks to the Royal British Legion.

LU



56 London Brigade (The Black Cat Brigade)

In January 1992, having handed over the post as Adjutant of 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Minden, I was fortunate enough to be posted to a Staff job in London. Body-swinging a sentence in the MOD, I assumed the post of S03 G2/G3 (Ops/Trg/Coord & TA) in HQ 56 London Brigade. The HQ was squatting in Chelsea Barracks whilst its former home, Horseguards, was being re-built.

56 London Brigade was the largest brigade in the British Army numbering in its ranks, when I arrived, the following; 1 GREN GDS, 2 GREN GDS, 2 COLD M GDS, 2 SG and 1 WG as well as the following Territorial units; 8 QF, 10 PARA, 4 RGJ, 151 Tpt Regt RCT, 217 Gen Hosp RAMC, 221 Fd Amb RAMC and last but not least 253 Pro Coy RMP(V), and was later joined by the Royal Yeomanry.

56 London Brigade was the successor to 1st (LONDON) Division which was raised in 1908 on the formation of the Territorial Army. In February 1916 this formation was re-titled 56 (LONDON) Infantry Division and formed from London TA units already in France.

The Division survived the demobilisation plan at the end of the First World War and became 56 (1st LONDON) Division TA, which remained unchanged in configuration until 1935 when it became 56 (LONDON) Infantry Division. Carrying this title, this unique formation went to war in 1939. In its ranks there was to be found 169 Infantry Brigade consisting of 2/5, 2/6 and 2/7 Queens who fought so hard at Salerno, on 9 September 1943, amongst many other actions.

Further changes occurred in 1947 when the Division became 56 Armoured Division and counted amongst its number 42 Royal Tank Regiment. As many readers will know, 42 RTR started life as the 4th Volunteer Battalion, East Surrey Regiment who in turn became the 23rd Battalion, The London Regiment. After 140 years as infantrymen they converted to armour in 1938. In August 1956 they rejoined The East Surrey Regiment having resumed their title 23rd London Regiment, and their true role as infantrymen, and were based at 27 St John's Hill, SW11, the current home of the new London Regiment and also the original site of 4th East Surrey.

Less than a year later, (at the end of 1947), 56 (LONDON) Infantry Division TA was reborn. In 1956 as part of the Division, 168 County of London Infantry Brigade included 23 London Regiment and interestingly 1 London Scottish and 1 London Irish Rifles, which, all bar the Royal Fusiliers (whose 8th Bn was in the sister 167 City of London Brigade), are the constituent parts of the new London Regiment!

In 1961 the Division was disbanded and reformed as 56 LONDON Brigade under command of 54 East Anglian Division until 1967 when it was finally disbanded having completed 59 years of unbroken Service. Twenty years later in January 1987 the Brigade was re-formed and this time lasted only six happy years, as the Brigade disbanded in December 1992 and will doubtless lay dormant until someone else 'reinvents the wheel'!

To embody the close links that the brigade and our units had with either the City or County of London, the symbol of Dick Whittington's black cat coupled with the bayonet sword, which was first featured in the 56 (LONDON) Infantry Divisional symbol of 1956, is the badge of the Black Cat Brigade.

In this period of great uncertainty within the Army I felt not a little surprised at, having left a Battalion (1st) which was disbanding, from a Regiment (QUEENS) which was amalgamating, from a Brigade (11 Armed 'Battle Axe') which was closing down, from a Garrison (Minden) which was drawing down, arriving in a Brigade Headquarters that too was for the 'Options' a/c. Is someone trying to tell me something, I thought?..... clearly they were, because two months after the Brigade was laid to rest I was informed that I was to be made redundant as part of Phase II of Options for Change! Its a funny old world.

ARB

56th (London) Division, 1939-46

On 5th May, a distinguished group of officers met for the Annual Reunion Lunch, which we are currently privileged to hold in the headquarters mess of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Tower of London. The impressive surroundings lend an unforgettable aura to the occasion, blending our wartime memories with the regimental memorabilia of our hosts, so gloriously displayed around us, the polished silver on the long dining table, the oil paintings, portraits and the many cabinets of rows of medals won over the years.

Many of the "Black Cat" regiments and supporting arms were present as always, and the Queen's of 169 Brigade were well represented, with Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam as Chairman.

The photograph appended shows the past president of the Association, Toby Sewell in genial converse with Peter Taylor and Eric Schnabel.



AGS

Nigel Oswald: The Ninth of September 1943 - A Memory

The Ninth of September 1993; and now there is only the peace and silence of the sheep flecked fields of Kent where we first met. But there still is a fifty year old memory of another different world of disorder and dust and death. We had just landed in Italy, on the beaches of Salerno and were establishing ourselves at a farm a few hundred yards inland, which was to be our main Battalion Headquarters. I was second-in-command and Nigel Oswald commanded the Headquarter's Company.

Nigel had been a Territorial Volunteer Officer in The Queen's Royal Regiment (his father's old regiment) before the war of 1939 to 1945, and in France. He had already greatly distinguished himself and had won the Military Cross for his leadership in his battalions last action in North Africa before the Axis surrender there. He had great vitality and youthful enthusiasm and was highly regarded and popular. So there we were, on that late summer afternoon, together, on a noisy, dusty track, over-looked from the hills beyond and from a nearby tobacco factory from which the German guns were observing us.

It was the first shell on the farm that killed Nigel.

When we reached him he was lying against the wall unmarked. He said before he died very quietly just this: "I'm sorry Fergus, I'm afraid you'll have to get the food up now". He was on duty. After the first (Nigel's father's) world war Siegfried Sassoon wrote of "Scarlet Major's at the base speeding young heroes up the line to death". Fifty years later the last two lines of this poem are still moving: "And when the war is done and youth stoned dead, I'll totter quietly home and die, in bed". But somehow as we look out at our still free, still beautiful country in a troubled world there can be no bitterness, only admiration and gratitude for the memory.

FAHL

Memories

From time to time names come to light at the Regimental Museum at Clandon of former members of the Queen's and East Surrey Regiments who paid a heavy price in war but whose deaths, often many years later, are not recorded on any war memorials.

One such was Pte William Church of The East Surrey Regiment, a regular soldier who was taken prisoner at Singapore and spent the remainder of the war in Japanese hands. Enduring many privations, he later suffered severe medical problems, some of which were the subject of medical appeals which were unfortunately rejected by appropriate Pensions Tribunals.

His death, some years later does not accord him a place on any war memorial and his case, like many others, understandably can give rise among relatives and other interested parties to a sense of injustice. On reflection, however, they may well console themselves with the thoughts that brave deeds and sacrifices do not necessarily need to be engraved on stone. They are engraved in peoples' memories in a much deeper and sensitive form.

RF

Formation Signs

Formation signs were first worn during the 1914 - 1918 War. Their introduction was brought about by the necessity for some form of distinguishing mark or sign to aid recognition of Corps and Divisional vehicles and personnel.

Prior to their appearance, the troops tended to think only of their own particular regiment or Corps and were not always aware of the part it was playing against the vast background of the operations on the Western and other fronts. When signs were adopted, around the middle of 1916, the men began to take a certain pride in belonging to the formation to which their regiment were a part. Signs were thought to be a new kind of heraldry. The "battle patch", as they became known, taken into use for practical military reasons, had, by the later stages of the war, engendered a strong *Esprit de Corps*. The signs took the form of "Heraldic", "Symbolic", "Animal", or "Geometric." The design was left to each formation and many reflected the choice of the Corps or Divisional Commander. During the Great War, the signs were worn, either on the sleeve, just below the shoulder strap, or on the back of the tunic, immediately below the collar. Home based units did not wear formation signs.

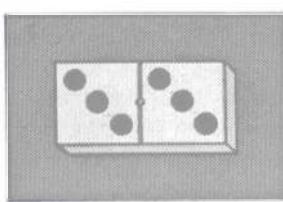
The following examples were worn by The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment:-

1st Bn. Queen's - 5th Bde - 2nd (Regular) Division



The sign. Three eight-pointed stars, the centre red and the ones on either side of it, white, on a black background.

The Division moved to France between 11th and 16th August, 1914, where it served throughout the war. The battalion left the division on 15th December, 1915 and joined 100 Brigade, 33rd New Army Division.

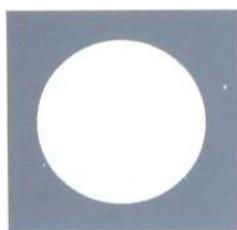


The sign. The double-three Domino (hence its 33rd title).

The division landed in France in November, 1915 and fought on the Western Front until the end of the war.

2nd Bn. Queen's. 22nd Bde. 7th (Regular Division).

The division was formed just after the outbreak of the war. It landed at Zeebrugge on 6th October, 1914.



The sign. A white disc on a black background.

The division left the Western Front on 17th November, 1917, moving to the Italian Front, where it served for the remainder of the war.

6th (Service) Bn. Queen's. 37th Bde. 12th (Eastern) Division (New Army).

The sign. The Ace of Spades.

The division arrived in France in late May, 1915 and served on the Western Front throughout the war.



7th (Service) Bn. Queen's. 55 Bde. 18th (Eastern) Division (New Army).



The sign. The letters A.T.N., in black, within a black circle, the A., and N., canted towards the centre T. The letters "A.T.N.", when pronounced quickly, sound very like "Eighteen".

The division embarked for France at the end of July, 1915, where it remained for the rest of the war. It was considered to be one of the very best of the (New Army) Divisions.

10th (Service) Bn. Queen's. 124 Bde. 41st Division (New Army).

11th (Service) Bn. Queen's. 124 Bde. 41st Division (New Army).



The sign. Squares of various colours, with a diagonal white band running from top left to the bottom right corner.

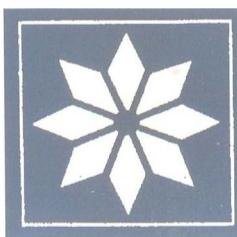
The division landed in France early in May, 1916 and served on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.

1st/22nd (County of London) Bn. The London Regiment (The Queen's).

142 Bde. 47th (2nd London) Division.

1st/24th (County of London) Bn. The London Regiment (The Queen's).

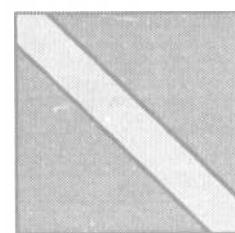
142 Bde. 47th (2nd London) Division.



The sign. An eight-pointed star in a circle within a square.

A Territorial Force Division, it mobilised on the outbreak of war and by March, 1915, began to move to France. It served throughout the war on the Western Front.

1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. 95th Bde. 5th (Regular) Division.



The sign. A blue square with a diagonal yellow band across it.

The main body of the division arrived at Le Havre on 17th August, 1914. It served on the Western Front until November, 1917, when it moved to the Italian Front. It returned to the Western Front in April, 1918 and remained there for the remainder of the war.

2nd Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. 85th Bde. 28th (Regular) Division.

The sign. No sign was worn by the Salonika Division except by those joining the theatre after 1916. The divisions dispatched there in 1915 wore coloured strips on their shoulder straps. The 28th wore a red strip.

The division, after fighting on the Western Front from January, 1915



until October, 1915, was then sent to Egypt and subsequently to Salonika in January, 1916, where it remained until the end of the war.

7th (Service) Bn. The East Surrey Regiment 37th Bde. 12th (Eastern) Division (New Army)



The sign. The Ace of Spades.

The division arrived in France in late May, 1915 and served on the Western Front side by side with the 6th (Service) Bn., The Queen's, who were in the same brigade.

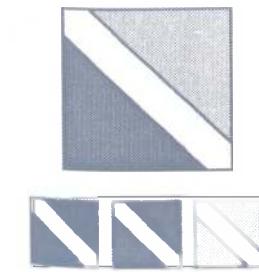
8th (Service) Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. 55 Bde. 18th (Eastern) Division (New Army).



The sign. The letters A.T.N., in black, in a black circle.

The division arrived in France at the end of July, 1916 and fought on the Western Front for the rest of the war. The battalion was brigaded with the 7th (Service) Bn., The Queen's. The division fought with great success on the Somme.

12th (Service) Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. 122 Bde. 41st Division (New Army).



The sign. Squares of various colours with a diagonal white band running from top left to the bottom right corner.

This was the last of the New Army formations. They arrived on the Western Front in May, 1916 and remained there for the rest of the war. The Surrey's fighting alongside the 10th and 11th Bns, Queen's, although in different brigades.

13th (Service) Bn. The East Surrey Regiment. 120 Bde. 40th Division (New Army).



The sign. A bantam cock, bearing a diamond, on which is an acorn and two leaves, pointing downwards.

The division arrived in France in June, 1916 and served on the Western Front for the remainder of the war.

The acorn and leaves were added to the patch after it fought with great distinction in the capture of Bourlon Wood in November, 1917.

Both battalions of the Territorial Force that were affiliated to The East Surrey Regiment, 1st/21st (County of London) Bn., The London Regiment (First Surrey-Rifles) and the 1st/23rd (County of London) Bn., The London Regiment, served with 142 Bde., 47th (2nd London) Division. The division served on the Western Front from March, 1915 to the end of hostilities. The division particularly distinguished itself in the final capture of High Wood, on the Somme in 1916. The 2nd Battalions of both The Queen's and The Surrey's served, firstly, from June, 1916, on the Western Front, until January, 1917, with the 60th (London) Division. The division was then sent to Salonika and in June, 1917, to join the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The 2nd/21st and 2nd/22nd Bn's remained in the

Middle East until the end of the war, whilst the 2nd/23rd and 2nd/24th Bn's returned to the Western Front for the final stages of the conflict.



The sign. A bee. The sign is said to represent the initials of the G.O.C., Major-General Sir Edwin Bulfin.

JW

In the name of The Queen's

After the last amalgamation many readers have written and been very outspoken on the subject of amalgamation. History shows that this is not a new subject and has resulted in many letters of protest to the Government of the day, politicians and senior officers at Whitehall, as the copy of a letter dated 1877 held in an album at Clandon shows.

*Calcutta.
March 30th 1877.*

Dear Sir Garnet.

May I be allowed to put in a plea for my old regiment in the recent revised titles? I see that it is proposed to call the old "Queen's" the "2nd Queen's Own Surrey Reg't". Now the "Queen's" has been made the designation of the regiment for centuries. If you turn over the pages of the Wellington despatches you will see that it is not spoken of by number, as our other regiments, but as "The Queen's" Reg't, being, I think, the only regiment not habitually called by its number in official papers. The "Royals" was I believe a later and rather unnecessary addition to its titles. I believe for some time it used to be habitually selected to be quartered at Windsor, to furnish Guards for the Queen when opportunity offered. Unfortunately after our return from India in 1846, we had, (with the exception of one very smart but not pushing Colonel Addison) a succession of duffer Colonels who, instead of trying to keep up the old position of the Regt. were only anxious to keep themselves in the background, and while other regiments like the 89th etc, were bringing themselves forward we were slipping back. Still even when I joined I never heard the regiment called anything but "The Queen's", and the "2nd Queen's" was an innovation which came in after the Crimean War. If now we go into the "2nd Queen's Surrey Reg't" we shall have no more claim to the distinctive title of "The Queen's" than any of the half dozen regiments to whom the title "The Queen's" has been given. I observe in the lists that I have seen that the County title is not always considered

necessary for regiments, and I venture to think that by seniority, extent of services, or old custom and practice we have a better title to the distinction of being "The Queen's" Regiment than the 7th for instance, have to be "The Royal Fusiliers".

I know that you are not one of those in favour of doing away with all regimental distinctions, and so hope that you will consider whether this honour could be granted, without in any way interfering with your general arrangements or with any claims of other regiments. Though I am not entitled to represent the regiment I may mention that I am the second oldest officer as well as the second senior by Army rank now serving in it.

(Sgd) G. Pomeroy Colley.

Sir George Pomeroy Colley, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.M.G. served as Chief of Staff to Sir Garnet Wolseley to whom this letter was presumably addressed.

RF

Freedom of Guildford and Kingston-upon-Thames

Readers will be pleased to know, that the Freedom of Guildford and The Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, conferred on The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment at the end of the Second World War has been transferred to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires). Readers will recall, that on the amalgamation of the Queen's and Surreys, the Freedom was transferred to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and on the formation of The Queens Regiment in 1966 the Freedom was again conferred on the new regiment.

Brigadier Bob Acworth as a Deputy Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment represented the Colonel of the Regiment at both ceremonies. He was accompanied by the President and Secretary of The Association.

Freedom of Guildford



Brigadier Bob Acworth presenting an embroidered badge of The PWRR to the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Tony Place.

Freedom of Kingston



Lt Col Les Wilson, Councillor David Edward, (Mayor 1992) Tim Hornsby, Chief Executive, Councillor Jane Smith (Mayor), Lt Col David McDonald Milner, Brig Bob Acworth, Brig Mike Doyle.



Brigadier Bob Acworth and the Mayor of Kingston display the Freedom scroll of The Royal Borough.

Presidents Reception, Clandon



Drum Major Geoff Fairfax with the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames.

The Roadnight Cup

When RSM Bill Roadnight left his unit on commissioning during the war he was presented with a handsome two handled silver cup. Recently Mrs Celeste Franklin who keeps an eye on 88 year old Bill suggested that the cup could be put to a better use than it was. Bill decided to hand it over to the Queen's Surreys Association to see if it could be put to a more practical use.



Bill Roadnight, Bert Collinson and Jack Homersham at the Surrey Army Cadet Force HQ, Godalming

After some discussion with Major Stephen Thorpe, the Regimental Careers officer at Canterbury, it was decided to offer it to The Surrey Army Cadet Force to be competed for annually by the cadets at Surrey.

Major Richard Oldfield the Cadet Executive Officer at Surrey Army Cadet Force HQ accepted the cup from Bill on behalf of the County Commandant. In thanking Bill, Major Oldfield said that the actual competition had not yet been decided, but details would be worked out shortly and Bill would be asked back to make the first presentation.

The cup has been completely cleaned and repolished, it is engraved with the Paschal Lamb, Bill Roadnight's old regimental cap badge and the new badge of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, engraved between the regimental badges is the words THE ROADNIGHT CUP.



Captain Bill Roadnight hands over the 'Roadnight Cup' to Major Richard Oldfield, also in the picture are four cadets representing The Cadets of Surrey and Mrs Celeste Franklin.

Donations

The Trustees wish to record their very sincere thanks and appreciation to the following for sending donations to our funds:-

The executors of the will of the late Colonel Lance East who bequested a sum of money to the Regiment to his

memory. W J Bishop in memory of his Father. W Longley and all the members who, when sending their subscription give a little extra for "a mate who needs the Newsletter, or towards a reunion ticket".

Presentation of a mallet to The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1911.

1st Cruiser Squadron

HMS Defence
Jan. 4th 1911

Dear Sir,

Will you allow me, on behalf of myself and the Officers of this ship, to ask you to accept the enclosed mallet as a present to the Officers Mess of your Regiment.

The inscription on the mallet explains itself but I might perhaps add that this present Defence is the 5th of her name. The mallet was turned and carved by the Carpenter of this ship. It is somewhat of a coincidence that while he was carving the arms of the House of Braganza that family was being turned out of Portugal.

You are probably aware of the number and names of the Officers and men of The Queen's Regiment who were killed or wounded on board the Defence on the 1st of June 1794. If however you are not, they are as follows:-

Killed - Officers - Nil. Men - Privates Collier, North, Roberts, Hamilton

Wounded Ensign Boycott Private - Name unknown

Believe me Yours very truly
C.F. Dampier Captain

Note:- The mallet is now in the Regimental Museum at Clandon.

The inscription reads:-

"Presented by the Captain and Officers of HMS Defence of 1910 to the Officers' Mess of the Queen's Regiment in memory of the Officers and Men of that Regiment who were killed or wounded on board HMS Defence on the Glorious 1st of June. This Hammer is made of wood from HMS Defence of 1851 to 1904. fourth of her name".

R.F.

Earlier Refugees

Pictures on television of Yugoslav refugees have brought back memories to former Queen's man Bill Goff of similar scenes at the time of the Second World War when he and other members of the Regiment were detailed to escort about 2000 Yugoslav refugees from Taranto by ship to Egypt.

Among other things the soldiers were told to be "uncles" to the children and the aged.

Bill was involved in the care of about 30 people who were eventually put on board ship and into the mess decks. Meal times were something of a riot at first as food was taken from the galley trays of the servers and eaten before it could be properly dished up. However, things soon settled down and the voyage of 4 - 5 days was accomplished in a friendly atmosphere.

At Port Said, refugees and escorts parted, some of them tearfully, and Bill often wonders where they finished up. For himself and others it was a return to units and eventually the Gothic Line. He asks if any other readers were on the same trip.

Regimental Deaths

Banfill - On 26th April 1993, Sergeant George Banfill MM, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Baugh - On 14th September 1993, Captain Michael Hampson Baugh, LVO, MBE, QPM, aged 68 years, The East Surrey Regiment and Colonial Police Service.

Chatterton - In September, Captain Peter Chatterton, The East Surrey Regiment and The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Culverhouse - On 8th August 1993, Lieutenant Colonel A G H Culverhouse MBE, TD, aged 85 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Dodd - On 3rd June 1993, In-Pensioner John Wallace (Wally) Dodd, aged 79 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Wally Dodd was for a number of years an In-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, where he died.

East - On 23rd June 1993, Colonel Lancelot Crofts (Lance) East DSO, OBE, aged 92 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Fernside-Speed - On 20th July 1993, Major Alec Fernside-Speed, aged 66 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Fisher - On 16th September, Private Harry Fisher, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

George - On 20th July 1993, Major John Adrian George, aged 64 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Godfree - On 29th December, Company Sergeant Major Charles John Godfree, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. CSM Godfree served with 2/7th Queen's and was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry at Anzio.

Golding - Recently at home, Private W Golding, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Griffiths - On 23rd April 1993, Lieutenant Colonel William Dilsmore (Bill) Griffiths DSO and Bar, MC and Bar, aged 78 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Groves - In December 1992, Regimental Sergeant Major John Groves, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Halse - On 6th October 1993, Brigadier R.C. (Herbert) Halse, 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) and Army Legal Services.

Harris - Recently Corporal Alan George Harris, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Jenkins - On 4th April 1993, Major Ronald Owen Jenkins TD, aged 84 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Jessup - On 17th October, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant Leslie Raymond Jessup, aged 65 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). As a sergeant, he was one of the draft sent in 1950 to reinforce 1st Middlesex in Korea. The draft became C Company and was first commanded by Major B K Farell, The East Surrey Regiment and later by Major N Shipster DSO, The Middlesex Regiment. He was wounded in Korea and after returning to The Queen's he was posted to the Depot at Stoughton as a training sergeant. He later served with 1 Queens in Iserlohn, He became RQMS of 1 Queen's Surreys in Munster. He finished his service as a SPSI with 5 Queen's at Broadstairs. In civilian life he was employed by Brewers the builders merchants.

Luff - On 4th June 1993, Private Wilfred Luff DCM, aged 95 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Martin - On 11th March 1993, Major Alan Martin MBE, aged 62 years, The Buffs, The Queen's Regiment and Royal Army Pay Corps.

Meen - On 23rd August 1993, Corporal Derek Ivor Meen, aged 66 years, 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Corporal Meen was an outstanding athlete and footballer and represented his battalion on many occasions.

Roberts - On 24th March 1993, Private Henry George Roberts, aged 76 years, 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Rotherham - Recently, Private Harry Rotherham, The 22nd (London) Regiment and 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sage - On 15th August 1993, Private Joseph Sage, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sandys - On 26th June 1993, Major Edward Guy Sandys, aged 79 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Scrivenor - Recently at his home in Wales, Private E Scrivenor, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Small - On 25th June 1993, Private Jim Small, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Small was taken prisoner at Dunkirk and remained a P.O.W. throughout the war. He emigrated to Canada and died at his home in Ontario.

Snowdon - On June 21st 1993, Major Frank J Snowdon TD, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Spriggs - On 25th June 1993, Corporal George (Blondie) Spriggs, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Sunderland - On 12th October 1993, Major R D Sunderland MC, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Treagast - Recently Private Ronald Treagast, 2nd Bn and 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Turner - On 5th July 1993, Company Quarter Master Sergeant Francis Amos John Turner, aged 78 years, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Tweedie - On 25th August 1993, Major Vere Justin Tweedie MC, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Ward - On 9th September 1993, Company Sergeant Major Edward (Artie) Ward, aged 85 years, The East Surrey Regiment. He was a resident in The Royal Star and Garter Home. Of a cheerful disposition, 'Arty' Ward, as he was known, was a popular member of the Regiment. He served as a sergeant instructor at the Regimental Depot, but most of his service, in peace and in war, was in the 1st Battalion.

Regimental Families

Buchanan - On 9th July 1993, Mrs Kay Buchanan, beloved wife of Colonel T A Buchanan DSO, OBE, MC, ERD, TD.

Campbell - On 20th June 1993, Mrs Penelope Campbell, beloved wife of Lt Col D J ff Campbell MBE.

Mayo - In May 1993, Mrs Jacqueline Mayo MBE, daughter of the late Brigadier C D Armstrong CBE DSO MC, The East Surrey Regiment and Mrs S H E Armstrong. Jackie, as she was known, adopted the nom-de-plume of Anne Armstrong in her work for the welfare of Army families. She was the families advice correspondent in the Army magazine SOLDIER for 17 years, after her own service in the Womens Royal Army Corps from 1954 to 1961.

She married Captain John Mayo, Royal Artillery, and had personal experience of the problems encountered by soldiers' families in quarters, particularly in BAOR. She was appointed MBE in 1985. As Anne Armstrong she was well known to listeners to the British Forces Broadcasting Service. Jackie and Colonel Mayo regularly attended The East Surrey Regiment Annual Reunions.

PGEH

Obituaries

Lt Col W D Griffiths DSO MC

Lt Col W D 'Bill' Griffiths was cremated at Brighton on 30 April 1993 and is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters. He was born March 21 1915.

He joined the TA at 15 years of age and later became a Regular Soldier in The East Surrey Regiment. Early 1940 saw him at OCTU and he was commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1940. He was posted to 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in July and thus began a spectacular career for he served with great distinction throughout the War in the battalion and eventually became its Commanding Officer.

During this period he saw active service in the Western Desert, Italy and NW Europe. He was awarded the MC and a bar for the action in the Western Desert and a bar in Italy. He received two DSO's as CO of the battalion.

After the War he held a number of appointments including instructor at the Staff College, 2 i/c 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment and Commander 7th Regiment The Arab Legion. He retired from the army in 1957 and worked for Unilever for 19 years.

Bill was a member of various sports organisations and they were well represented at the funeral.

He was for many years President of Queen's (Southwark) Old Comrades Association and a Guard of Honour of members of 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment, together with the Standard and President of 8th Army Veterans Association and a number of senior officers of the Regiment provided the military background to a sad and solemn occasion.

SP

Major E G Sandys

It is with much sadness and deep regret that I write about my old friend Guy Sandys who died on 26th June. We were companions on the pilgrimage to El Alamein last year for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle, and many will recollect his detailed description of the occasion which appeared in the last issue of the Newsletter, together with a photograph of both of us when visiting the Pyramids at Ghiza.

In the same issue Major General Mike Reynolds wrote a full account of the Battle of Medenine describing the action of 1/7th Queen's versus 'the elite of Hitler's Panzerwaffe' when 27 enemy tanks were knocked out on the front of this Bn. As Field Marshall Montgomery wrote later 'very great care had been taken in positioning our A/Tank guns which were sited to kill tanks at point blank range and not to defend the infantry'. Major Sandys was the A/Tk Platoon Commander at the time. Typically and unselfishly he recommended two of his Sergeants for the Distinguished Conduct Medal for this action. He was subsequently responsible for having the 'Medenine' gun as it was called, returned to the depot.

I have known 'Sandy' as he was affectionately called since he joined 1/7th Queen's in August 1941, and we were cabin sharing subalterns for the six weeks voyage from Greenock to Port Tewfik in the "S.S. Strathallen". We had both been posted to H.Q.Coy., he to the newly formed A/Tk platoon and I to command the Carrier Platoon. It will be realised that not only had we become good friends but closely collaborated with each other also, in the military and tactical requirements of our respective platoons in

many of the subsequent actions to follow in the Western Desert. He continued to serve with 1/7th Queen's throughout the war, acting as 2 i/c on more than one occasion.

'Sandy' was an excellent cricketer, playing many times for the Gentlemen of Hertfordshire, and had to play in only one more first class match to be eligible to become a playing member of the M.C.C., but the war intervened. After the war he rose to a senior position in the Export Credit division of the Civil Service and was expert in City and financial matters. We attended each others weddings after the war, and regularly met in various city hosteries as well as the annual occasions of Remembrance Day and our own Old Comrades dinner at the Union Jack Club.

He was a very loyal and conscientious member of The Queen's and was well liked and respected by all ranks of his battalion. His unexpected death following a short illness has created a gap in my life which cannot be filled and I shall miss our close friendship. His quiet sense of humour often sustained us during moments of stress and strain in the past.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his daughter Elaine and son Roland.

KAJ

Wilfred Luff DCM

Wilfred Luff who was the Regiment's senior surviving holder of the DCM died on 4th June at the age of 95.

He won his medal as a 19 year old private serving with 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment near Polygon Wood during the 3rd battle of Ypres. The citation records:- "During an attack he advanced alone some distance to the front and penetrated an enemy strong point taking twenty four prisoners. He showed magnificent courage and initiative". In later life he made little of this saying he was "Just a lad". In all Will Luff served for just two years with 1st Queen's, for a short time on the Somme, but mainly forward of Ypres before being wounded in September 1918 during the final advances leading to the Armistice. He was discharged at the end of 1918, but wore the Paschal Lamb again for four years during the Second World War when he was a CSM with 2nd Surrey Home Guard, and who he represented in the National Victory Parade in London in 1945.

Will Luff's memories of the Great War were recorded in 1990 by John Woodroff and give a fascinating insight into

many of the realities of life as a soldier during the War.



As with most from that War his recollections contain much humour and no bitterness, with the horrors kept to himself and accepted. Two of the stories he told were used at the time in Lyn Mac Donald's "1914-1918, Voices and Images of the Great War". One of these recollected

the great RSM "Choky" Sullivan, and the other was of a company from the battalion taking part in the Bastille Day Parade in Paris in 1918. The British Army contingent consisted of a company of Guards, a company of Royal Scots as the 1st Foot, The Queen's as 2nd Foot and a company from the Dominion Forces.

Prior to the Parade the contingent was drilled under an RSM of the Irish Guards, but Will Luff recalled that beforehand it had been made quite clear by the RSM of the 1st battalion "You're Queen's - Remember that". Except for the 2 1/2 years of the Great War Will Luff lived all his life in the Haslemere area. He was an independent and self reliant man with a nice sense of humour, and he retained much pride in the Regiment, having served in it.

A transcript of the recordings made by John Woodroffe running to 31 pages is held at the Museum at Clandon

JWS

H J Rotherham

Harry Rotherham joined the 22nd London Regiment (Queen's) on June 25th 1925 at The Drill Hall Bermondsey and served with the 1/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in France and Belgium 1940 and Egypt 1942. He went with the Regiment to Egypt in 1942 where he was involved in a road traffic accident. On leaving hospital he was posted to 313 Mobile P.O.W. unit attached to the 8th Army. On application to rejoin 6th Queen's was told that he had been down graded unfit for further active service. In December 1944 he was transferred to The Royal Pioneer Corps, and was demobbed in December 1945.

From 1926 until mobilisation in 1939 Harry was a member of the Battalion boxing team as Feather Weight then as Light Weight and later at Welter Weight. RSM Shepperd (later Capt. Q.M.) who was i/c of the boxing team asked him to volunteer to fill the gap as a Heavy Weight, as the Battalion did not have anyone representing them. At the time Harry weighed in at 9.9. he was reluctant to fight at this weight but in the end the RSM persuaded him. Harry entered the ring to fight at Heavy weight but does not give the name of his opponent or his Regiment, the fight ended in a draw. To Harry's amazement the Judges decided that an extra one minute round would be boxed to find a winner and Harry was declared the winner after this extra round. This took place in 1929 and the Battalion went on to win the Divisional Championship Cup and the Brigade Team Cup, a feat of which Harry was very proud.

The condolences of the 6th (Bermondsey) O.C.A. go out to the family on their sad loss of a very gallant gentleman.

JTB

Colonel L.C. East DSO OBE

Colonel Lance East died on 23rd June 1993 just a month after his 92nd Birthday. He was perhaps the last of a particular line of Queens Officers who by their example and meticulous attention to the details of military life set and expected impeccable standards within the Regiment. These standards had been exemplified when the 1st battalion under Lieutenant Colonel F.J. Pink carried all before them in winning Lord Kitchener's Infantry Efficiency Prize in India in 1905. At that time the later Brigadier General E.B. Mathew-Lannowe was Adjutant.

When he commanded 2nd Queen's in 1921 Colonel J.B. Coates was his Adjutant, and this coincided with Lance East joining the battalion and becoming Assistant Adjutant to "JB" in due course. He was then later Adjutant



of the Depot, of the 2nd battalion under the to be General Sir George Giffard, and finally of 5th Queen's TA in the years immediately before the Second World War. On the outbreak of war Lance East became 2nd i/c of 1/5th Queen's and from August 1941 until March 1943 its Commanding Officer, and subsequently he commanded the 2nd battalion from Feb. 1947 handing it over as the 1st battalion in Berlin in October 1948. Throughout his Regimental career he thus filled a whole series of positions of special importance and influence through which the standards of the Regiment were developed and maintained in the changing Army.

Colonel Lance was by origin a Sussex man, his family living at Sompting Abbots. He was educated at Bedford school and passed into the RMC Sandhurst in September 1919, becoming a junior Under Officer. He was commissioned into the Queen's in July 1921, his mother's cousin being Colonel L.M. Crofts DSO, and immediately went out to join the 2nd battalion who were then on the North West Frontier in Waziristan. He remained in India with the battalion until the end of 1924, and served at the Depot until 1929 when he again was posted to the 2nd battalion at Dover. In 1935 after a short period as Intelligence Officer of 1st Guards Brigade he returned to India to join the 1st battalion, being with them at the time of the Quetta Earthquake. Then it was back to Guildford and the Adjutancy of 5th Queen's in 1936. 5th Queen's at that time was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G.V. (Reggie) Palmer, the England Rugger international, and under him with Lance East in support 5th Queen's and subsequently 1/5th Queen's were trained to a very high level as evidenced by its conduct during the return from Dunkirk in May 1940, the C-in-C Note writing "the beating, good order and discipline of The Queen's Royal Regiment was an example and inspiration to us in the Royal Navy". For his part in the actions of the battalion in Belgium and Northern France Colonel Lance was "Mentioned in Despatches".

With Colonel Lance in command 1/5th Queen's went overseas with 44th Division in 1942 to play a distinguished part in the Battle of El Alamein where he was wounded, and in the advance as now part of 7th Armoured Division to Medenine and the Mareth Line - for his leadership during this time he was awarded the DSO. But in March 1943 Colonel Lance's increasing lameness, due originally to an athletic injury necessitated his replacement in command. On return to Cairo he became Deputy President and then President of the Middle East Officers Selection Board before in early 1944 being appointed Provost Marshal, Middle East. He remained in this appointment, for which he was awarded the OBE until July 1946 when he transferred to being PM Rhine Army (BAOR). This posting was short as 2nd Queen's were due back from India, and Colonel Lance took command first at Crowborough, then at Dortmund and finally in Berlin, where in spite of the Russian Blockade he supervised and

commanded the magnificent parade in the Olympic Stadium to change the 2nd battalion into the 1st. Soon after this Colonel Lance relinquished command and was appointed again to be Provost Marshal Rhine Army, but increasing disability was overtaking him and in 1951, in spite of being offered another appointment he chose to be invalided from the Army. So ended his active career, but in retirement he accepted an RO appointment with No2 HEC (the Resettlement Centre) in Aldershot and this lasted for 14 years. This allowed him for the first time to live properly at his delightful home at Worplesdon with his dear wife, Joan. Their wedding in 1938 had been upset by the Munich crisis, only allowing them less than 24 hours initial honeymoon, and then while there were brief times together he was away in North Africa and Egypt from 1942 to 1946, and with children growing up there was little chance of being together for long in BAOR later.

Until he was injured in the mid 1930s Lance East was a sportsman of great prowess, the highlight representing Great Britain in the 1928 Olympic Games at Amsterdam as a member of the Pentathlon team, a distinction which was recognised again in 1992 when he was presented with a gold tie pin by the British Olympic Association 64 years after he had competed. Between 1925 and 1929 he played wing three-quarters for Richmond RFC and also for Sussex, as well as being selected for the Army on occasions. He fenced for the Army, and was runner up at Light Heavyweight in the Army Boxing Championships in 1926. At battalion level he played most games, and in India played polo.

Lance East was throughout his life an upright, straight and honest man with all the best qualities that attach to the, perhaps, old fashioned description "an officer and a gentleman". He could be formidable on first meeting (what vintage Queen's officer wasn't), but within he had a well trained and enquiring mind, a good sense of humour, and above all he was imbued with a strong sense of the need for absolute loyalty to ideals and principles, and to all those with whom he worked and lived. These qualities sustained him through the last years of his life when he was completely crippled, but his liveliness of mind and interest in affairs made visiting him an always stimulating experience.

The "One Great Scorer" will have written very highly against the name of L.C. East, and he will be long remembered.

JWS

Major Alan Martin MBE

Alan Martin enlisted in The Buffs in 1948 and served with them in Hong Kong, Khartoum, the Canal Zone, and Kenya during the Mau Mau emergency, qualifying for the battalion Shooting Team in 1950. From 1956 to 1960 he was seconded to The King's African Rifles in Rhodesia and Uganda, returning to The Queen's Own Buffs as ORQMS in 1961 and 1962 in Kenya and later in UK. He subsequently held WO1 Superintending Clerk appointments at the Home Counties Brigade Depot, the School of Infantry Warminster, and the Unison 67 Planning Staff in the Ministry of Defence, for which he was awarded the MBE for outstanding work.

He was commissioned into The Queen's Regiment in 1968 as a SSC Regimental officer with the 1st Battalion in Bahrain and UK before converting to SRC in the Royal Army Pay Corps. However he continued with 1 QUEENS, as its Unit Paymaster from 1970 to 1977, serving in UK, for four tours in Northern Ireland, in Berlin and in BAOR and was editor of the battalion

magazine 'Braganza' in 1976. After 1978 he held RAPC Major's appointments in HQ Rheindahlen Garrison, as Command Cashier BAOR and as Paymaster in the Junior Leaders Regiment RE. He retired from the Army in 1981.

The following year he became Finance Secretary in Regimental Headquarters, an appointment which he filled superbly well until his death. In this position he was involved in almost every aspect of Regimental life, ranging from Trustees and the Investments Sub-Committee to welfare, benevolence and the Flying Dragons. He loved the Regiment, kept its accounts immaculately and watched with great pride its steadily improving financial state as a direct consequence of his wise and careful attention. He frequently contributed perceptive and amusing articles to the Regimental Journal and the Association Newsletter. He also assisted in maintaining the association and the Queen's Surrey's territorial accounts. He enjoyed his service with 1/Queen's and took particular pleasure in attending the annual reunion and the Presidents reception at Clandon.

Having suffered a severe heart attack in 1989 from which he made a remarkable recovery, sadly he heard late in 1991 that he was suffering from cancer.

Alan will be remembered by his many friends as, above all, a kind and happy person with a sharp wit and a great sense of humour. He was keenly interested in every individual and cause, a wise councillor who always showed common sense and compassion. He was, of course, highly intelligent and used his quick brain to great effect, including the completion of the Telegraph crossword each day in record time.

His funeral was attended by some 250 relations and friends, a fitting farewell tribute to a much loved and respected officer. He is sorely missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Dawn and her family.

JJW LMBW

Lt Colonel A.G.H. Culverhouse, MBE

Graham Culverhouse was born in December 1907 and educated in Jersey. He was commissioned in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1939. In 1940 he served with the 1/6th Battalion in France and was wounded at Dunkirk. He was later seconded to the Canadian Forces as a Brigade Major. He was wounded again, this time at Southampton dealing with an incendiary bomb. After attending the Staff College in 1944, Culverhouse was posted as Brigade Major of 11th Infantry Brigade in Italy. He then served on the staff of HQ Eighth Army and later was appointed second-in-command of 1st Bn The Buffs. He commanded the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1945. After service in West Africa from 1946 to 1948, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Military Security in 1 Corps BAOR and was made a MBE in 1955. He retired from the Army in 1954.

Major J A George

John George was commissioned from Sandhurst into The East Surrey Regiment in December 1948. Joining the 1st Battalion in Salonika, he served in the Battalion continuously in Greece, Italian Somaliland, Barnard Castle and Libya. After serving at the depot in Kingston (1953 to 1955), he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Shorncliffe. He then volunteered for the Nigerian Army and served in Lagos and Kaduna, very often as the only British officer on station. On his return he was appointed as Staff Captain A, Headquarters British Forces, Aden, where he was joined by the 1st Battalion the Queen's Surreys, which was part of the garrison. In 1965, he

volunteered for the West Indies and did two tours, one in Jamaica and the other in Guyana. It was there he met and married his wife, Nesta. John and Nesta came back to England, complete with twins (Christopher and Gillian) where he served as a Youth Liaison officer at Headquarters, Northern Command. This post was not to his liking and he subsequently was posted to Aldershot as Permanent President of Courts Martial. He quickly established a reputation of impartiality and efficiency. He acquired an excellent knowledge of law - and woe betide any legal advocate who did not know his stuff.

John retired nine years ago, having qualified as an ACIS through part time and correspondence courses. He did not practice however but devoted his time to his family and the family home. He became ill ten years ago with facial cancer, and endured with considerable fortitude and courage a very long and painful decline. After an unsuccessful further operation, he died peacefully on 20th July 1993. John was a good friend, a good husband and father and a good soldier. He set and worked to high standards of conduct. In all his doings, he kept the interests of his family in the forefront of his mind. He is sadly missed by them and his friends.

DA

Brigadier R. C. Halse CBE.

After qualifying as a solicitor in 1925, "Herbert" Halse was commissioned into the T.A. unit of his father's old regiment, the K.O.Y.L.I. Finding Bermondsey more convenient for the City he soon transferred into the 22nd London Regiment, The Queen's. "Herbert" was a striking figure, built on the lines of our then Adjutant, Captain R. E. Pickering and shared his enthusiasm for discipline and military tradition. He soon made his mark as a popular and efficient officer, rising to Captain in 1930 and taking command of the "D" Vickers Machine Gun Company, coming top in the Brigade M. G. competition of that year. Promotion to Major followed in 1933 with command of H.Q. Wing.

"Herbert" was always to the fore in both work and play, at the Drill Hall and during the Annual Camp. Thanks to his passion for all things military, he was instrumental in 1933 in assembling a party of 13 Warrant Officers and N.C.O.'s to take part in the Pageant on Tower Hill which necessitated dressing up in Cromwellian period uniform and learning the appropriate drill movements of the Pikemen, Musketeers, Ensign and Drummer. Their performance took place nightly for three weeks. In 1936, shortly after taking over as second in command of the Battalion, the call to pursue a military career, led him to resign, dropping in rank to Captain to join the military department of the Judge Advocate General's Office.

By the time war broke out, "Herbert" was a Lieutenant Colonel and served in France, West Africa and from 1944 in Europe, where he was one of those in charge of War Crimes and was prosecutor of Field Marshal Kesselring and of Generals Mackensen and Maeltzer. In 1945 he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the O.B.E. and later became Deputy Advocate General, British Army of the Rhine. In 1948 he was appointed the first Deputy Director of the newly formed Army Legal Services with the rank of Colonel and in 1955, Director General with the rank of Brigadier and the award of the C.B.E. He retired from the Army in 1962 to join the legal department of the Post Office. When the Army Legal Services became a Corps in 1978, he was honoured by being appointed the first Colonel Commandant. After a protracted and painful illness, he died aged 88 in the Royal Star and Garter Homes, leaving his wife Sylvia and daughter Caroline.

GB

The Price of War

Among the files at Clandon museum, originally forwarded under cover of a letter from the widow of the man concerned, is an account of the war-time experiences of 6138816 Cpl John Baldwin of the 1st Bn, East Surrey Regiment.

Nicknamed "Rajah", because of his swarthy complexion, Cpl Baldwin enlisted in the Regiment in 1930 and spent about eight years in India and the Sudan. Described as "being as fit as only an infantry soldier of the British Army could be", he went to France in September 1939 and was stationed near the 'Maginot Line' throughout the winter of 1939-40. After fighting a rearguard action with his company at Dunkirk, he was taken prisoner and suffered many hardships and privations in a long journey across Europe to prison camp Stalag 8B in Poland. Three years of heavy manual work on road building and in lime kilns followed, accompanied by brutality from German guards and aggravated by shortage of food..

In 1944 the prisoners were moved to Austria and Czechoslovakia, often in chains and handcuffs. Some were shot by their guards and, ironically, others were killed by American planes machine gun fire.

But it was the Americans who finally freed the prisoners in April 1945 and Cpl Baldwin arrived back in England at Lydd Airport in the following month. He was discharged from the Army as medically unfit, bearing the physical and mental scars of his years of captivity, and after much suffering of a long term nature, he died in February, 1987

Annual Church Service

On a typical sunny June day about 450 members of the Association gathered at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, 6th June for the Annual Church Service. Medals glinted in the morning's light as old comrades renewed acquaintances and memories.

In a moving service of prayer and hymns, the lesson was read by Brigadier M.J. Doyle M.B.E. and the address was preached by Lieutenant Colonel The Revd. D.M.T. Walters BA, Dip Theol., CF. Senior Chaplain to Woolwich Garrison, and formerly Chaplain to 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment 1975-78, who spoke of the values of tradition, comradeship and morale in the Army's regimental system.

Many members gathered in the Refectory afterwards and some continued to Clandon Park, Guildford where luncheons were held in the restaurant and visits made to the Regimental Museum.



Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral

The new look massed band as seen by H. Roberts



No further details are available or confirmed on the formation of the two divisional bands for The Queen's Division. Hopefully, details will be published in the May edition Newsletter.

We are grateful to Mr David Leach of Potter's of Aldershot and to the cartoonist for allowing us to publish this cartoon. It is to be hoped that it will not give any more cost cutting ideas to our politicians and treasury officials!

Editor.

The Victory Services Club

Our attention has been drawn to the improved facilities offered by the above mentioned Club which is situated at 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF (Tel. 071 723 4474) and is similar in principle to The Union Jack Club. Annual Membership Fee is £10.00 per member inclusive of V.A.T. and Life. Membership is £200 per member inclusive of V.A.T. Application forms can be obtained from the Club.

St David's Home

St David's Home for disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen, Castlebar Hill, Ealing, London W5 1TE is an excellent Nursing Home, set in delightful surroundings in West London. It has 54 beds. The Home is supported financially by the Army Benevolent Fund. They currently have a very short waiting list - 3 - and they are looking for others to add to their list. Any one wishing to register with the Home should either write to the Nursing Manager/Administrator, Mr Tom Connell, at the above address or telephone him on 081 997 5121.

From Bassingbourn to Surrey

Some of the members who visit Bassingbourn on Regimental occasions may have little knowledge of its previous history or occupants, but certainly one of its former residents had an adventurous occasion which gave him an abrupt and unpremeditated association with Surrey if not with its Regiments.

In December 1943 Bassingbourn was the base of the 324th Bombardment Squadron of the United States Air Force. Operating Boeing Flying Fortresses they were engaged in daylight attacks over Europe. On December 31st 2nd Lt. Wayne D. Hedglin, U.S.A.F., was returning from such a mission. With navigational aids damaged, in bad weather and in failing daylight, he was hopelessly lost and circling wildly over the Staines area trying to find a landing place. Eventually he crash landed in fields near Egham and although the plane was damaged all members of the crew were unhurt. At first they thought they had landed in enemy occupied France but their joy knew no bounds when they found they were in England. They were quickly returned to base to rejoin Squadron colleagues who, incidentally, were known as the "Ragged Irregulars", a term which I am sure could in no way be applied to Bassingbourn's present tenants.

RF

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson

In January 1816 the 2nd Queen's was ordered to Barbados in the West Indies but before embarking the regiment proceeded to the Isle of Wight in order to be augmented 'from the best description of deserters in prison there in order to complete the quota of the regiment before forwarding it to the Windward Isles'.

The regiment embarked on the 24th of April 1816 complete with 300 enlisted men from the Isle of Wight Depot for Deserters. 246 of these men were being sent abroad in commutation of punishment and two were to serve abroad for life. Each deserter was given a 'bounty' of three guineas and having received this by June of 1816, 18 had managed to desert once again.

The regiment was inspected at St. Anne's, Barbados on the 30th of October 1816 and at this Colonel Codd, the inspecting officer and a man of some perception, reported very badly on the 300 men received from the Isle of Wight. 94 Court Martials had been held resulting in 90 convictions and 18,500 lashes being awarded as punishment with but 2,350 of these being remitted. This fine body of men was later transferred to the York Chasseurs and as John Davis comments 'no doubt the officers of the Queen's were much pleased to get rid of them'. So too was the poor N.C.O. who had to inflict all those lashes!

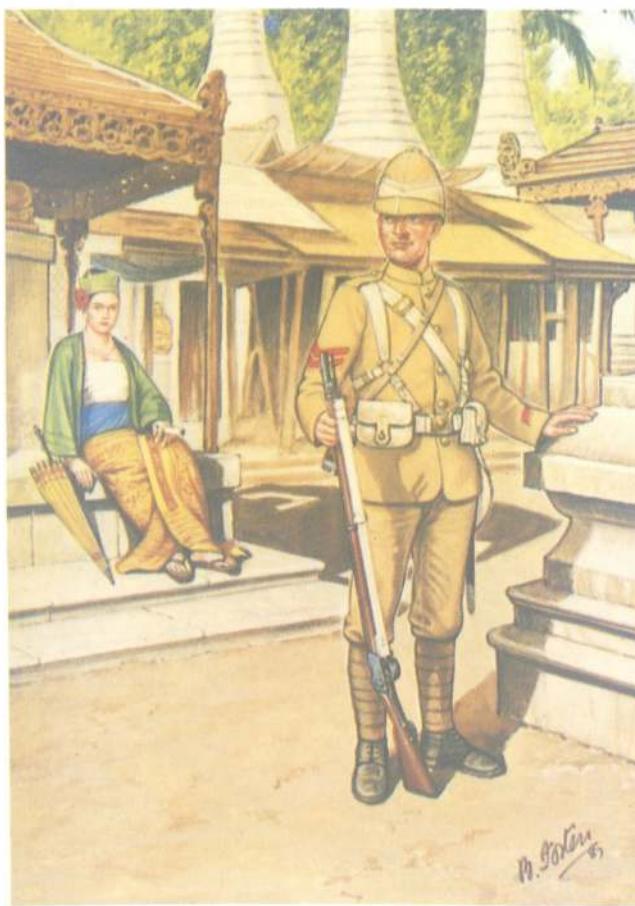
Barrack Room Ballads by Rudyard Kipling

MANDALAY

By the old Moulmein Pagoda, lookin' eastward to the sea.
 There's a Burma girl a-settin', and I know she thinks o' me;
 For the wind is in the palm-trees,
 and the temple-bells they say:
 'Come you back, you British soldier;
 come you back to Mandalay!'
 Come you back to Mandalay,
 Where the old Flotilla lay:
 Can't you 'ear their paddles chunkin'
 from Rangoon to Mandalay?
 On the road to Mandalay,
 Where the flyin'-fishes play,
 An' the dawn comes up like thunder
 outer China 'crost the Bay!

"Er petticoat was yaller an' 'er little
 cap was green,
 An' 'er name was Supi-yaw-lat -
 jes' the same as Theebaw's Queen.
 An' I seed her first a-smokin' of a
 whackin' white cheroot,
 An' a-wastin' Christian Kisses on an
 'eathen idol's foot:
 Bloomin' idol made o' mud -
 Wot they called the Great Gawd
 Budd -
 Plucky lot she cared for idols when I
 kissed 'er where she stud!
 On the road to Mandalay...

When the mist was on the rice-fields
 an' the sun was droppin' slow,
 She'd git 'er little banjo
 an' she'd sing 'Kulla-lo-lo!'
 With 'er arm upon my shoulder
 an' 'er cheek agin my cheek
 We useter watch the steamers
 an' the hathis pilin' teak
 Elephints a-pilin' teak
 In the sludgy, squidgy creek,
 Where the silence 'ung that 'eavy you was
 'arf afraid to speak!
 On the road to Mandalay...



Corporal, The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment
 Burma c 1887

But that's all shove be'ind me - long ago an' fur away.
 An' there ain't no 'usses runnin' from the Bank to Mandalay;

An' I'm learnin' 'ere in London what

the ten-year soldier tells:

'If you've 'eard the East-a-callin',
 you won't never 'eed naught else.'

No! you wont 'eed nothin' else

But them spicy garlic smells,
 An' the sunshine an' the palm-trees
 an' the tinkly temple-bells;
 On the road to Mandalay ...

I am sick o' wastin' leather on these
 gritty pavin'-stones,
 An' the blasted Henglish drizzle
 wakes the fever in my bones;
 Tho' I walks with fifty 'ousemaids
 outer Chelsea to the Strand,
 An' they talks a lot o' lovin', but
 wot do they understand?
 Beefy face an' grubby 'and -
 Law! wot do they understand?
 I've a neater, sweeter maiden in a
 cleaner, greener land!
 On the road to Mandalay ...

Ship me somewhere east of Suez,
 where the best is like the worst,
 Where there aren't no Ten
 Commandments an' a
 man can raise a thirst;
 For the temple-bells are callin', an'
 it's there that I would be -
 By the old Moulmein Pagoda,
 looking lazy at the sea;
 On the road to Mandalay,
 Where the old Flotilla lay,
 With our sick beneath the awnings
 when we went to Mandalay!

O the road to Mandalay,
 Where the flyin'-fishes play,
 An' the dawn comes up like thunder outer
 China 'crost the Bay!

The Association is most grateful to The Pompadour Gallery and the artist Bryan Fosten for allowing us to reproduce this ballad and picture. It is taken from a book recently published by The Pompadour Gallery, entitled KIPLING'S SOLDIERS written by George and Christopher Newark and illustrated by B. Fosten.

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson

