

MAY 1994



# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER



*Drummer, The 70th Regiment of Foot c1758*



## REGIMENTAL AND ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1994



16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811)
26th May	Golf Society, Royal Marines match, North Hants Golf Club
27th May	Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors Clandon
1st June	The BATTLE of the GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE 1794, 200th Anniversary
3rd June	Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon, Clandon
5th June	Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral
9th June	Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea.
26th June	PWRR & Queen's Regiment - Grand Reunion - Canterbury
1st August	MINDEN DAY (1759)
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943)
5th October	Golf Society Autumn meeting, Woking Golf Club
15th October	Queen's Surreys Museum Open Day - Clandon
22nd October	1/6th Queen's OCA Annual Dinner Dance - Union Jack Club
26th October	PWRR Exercise The Freedom of Marching through Brighton
27th October	PWRR Exercise The Freedom of Marching through Winchester
28th October	PWRR Exercise The Freedom of Marching through Guildford
29th October	PWRR Exercise The Freedom of Marching through Canterbury
4th November	Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion, Union Jack Club
10th November	Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey - London 11am
13th November	Remembrance Day
25th November	PWRR Officers' Club Cocktail Party, Haberdashers Hall - London
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

1995

10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846)
February	Museum Trustees meeting, Clandon (TBC)
4th March	The Queen's Regiment Association Reunion, Victory Services Club, London
5th March	The Queens Regiment Association Reunion - Victory Services Club
March	Territorial Trustees meeting, Clandon (TBC)
25th March	Association Trustees and Committee meeting, Clandon
March	2/7th Queens Annual Reunion (TBC)

### Editorial

In some ways this has been one of the most difficult Newsletters to collate, thanks to members forwarding articles, all of which are longer than normal. This year also is the 50th Anniversary of so many battles and actions which were fought by men of our Regiments across the world. I have attempted to do justice to all, but it is impossible to cover all the events of our two Regiments of fifty years ago. In particular the actions at Cassino and Italy of The East Surrey Regiment. These will be covered in the next issue.

Since the last issue, sadly we have lost more of our old comrades. We remember them all with great pride and affection. On a happier note it was a great privilege to be present at the Re-Commissioning of HMS Excellent on March 18th at Portsmouth. In true naval fashion all the guests were made so welcome and it was so nice to renew acquaintance with sailors who had been with 1 Queens in Malaya. 1994 also marks the 50th Anniversary of the granting of The Freedoms of Guildford and Kingston-upon-Thames to our old Regiments. It is fitting therefore, that this great civic honour has been passed on through successive amalgamations to The

Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and that parades will take place this year in both towns.

The President in his notes has referred to the revised role of our Association. Above all is the care of our old soldiers and their dependants, so if you do know of anybody who requires help let your branch secretary know or write to me direct.

June 5th is the date this year for our annual Cathedral Service at Guildford and we are hoping for an increased turnout to mark The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of the Glorious First of June, and to remember all the momentous actions of fifty years ago. We hope to have for the first time for many years a band to accompany us. This time it is the Kohima Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and it is hoped they will play in the Cathedral and following a short march past, play on the grass in front of the Refectory, so do try and come along. Remember too, that this date sees a lot of traffic on the A3 to Portsmouth so allow yourselves plenty of time.

Best wishes to you all.

Lcs Wilson

*Frontispiece: Drummer The 70th Regiment of Foot 1758.*

*The 70th was originally the 2nd Battalion of the 31st Regiment of Foot and they were raised in the Glasgow area, the order authorising the new battalion was dated August 25th 1756 but on the 9th May 1758 the battalion became a separate regiment and ranked The 70th of the Line, the facing colour was grey and the Regiment became known as the "Glasgow Greys" and the rank and file consisted mainly of Scots. The Regiment in the following year came south to Canterbury, Kent and then to Dover. (PRO WO/7-26)*

*In the background is Hags Castle Glasgow, Scotland. Hags Castle was built in 1585, it is now a childrens museum.*

## President's Notes

There have been many changes to our Association since we were formed on the amalgamation of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment in 1959. As readers will know these changes have been due to further amalgamations which in turn have reduced the number of both regular and territorial army battalions. Inevitably these have altered some of the objectives of our Association, and therefore your Regimental Council met recently to redefine the role of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association to make it more applicable to the situation today.

You will see below what the Council now considers to be the primary roles of the Association to which you belong and it is noted that the main element is to care for past members of our regiments who might be in need of assistance. Most of our funds derive from former members of our old regiments and thus it is felt that those who served in these regiments should receive priority in the use of these funds. Administrative arrangements are being made to ensure this continues under Lieutenant Colonel

Les Wilson's guidance and on your behalf I thank him for his work in this field.

Of course this Newsletter and our splendid Museum are also essential parts of the Association. In addition they help to enhance our important links in the county of Surrey which, on behalf of our successors in The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, we hope to maintain. Your Association will do all it can to ensure that the present excellent standards of both are continued and I personally am grateful to all those who give so much time to help achieve this. I was delighted to be present with my wife at the recent re-commissioning of HMS *Excellent* and to renew old naval acquaintances. We all hope that this time HMS *Excellent* will continue to "Sail on" for many years to come and the traditions forged over the years by our Regiment, will continue into the future with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

With best wishes to you all.

Mike Doyle

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## The Association

The Regimental Council recently discussed the future role of The Association in the years ahead, particularly in view of the recent Options for Change which has resulted in more amalgamations. It was agreed by the Council and The Main Committee of the Association that these decisions would be published in this Newsletter.

### Role of The Association.

- a. To ensure that benevolence is available to all members and their dependents of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and its predecessors for as long as there are any who may need it.
- b. To arrange events so the present comradeship and remembrance of past comrades and sacrifice can continue.
- c. To ensure that the histories, deeds and traditions of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and its predecessors

are kept alive, particularly within the County of Surrey and are available for future generations.

- d. To maintain the Regimental Museum within the County of Surrey.
- e. To support The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

### Finance

The President reported to the Regimental Committee that our investments were in a very healthy state. The President paid tribute to previous Trustees over the years who had made this possible by their wise investments.

### Benevolence

During 1993 a total of 234 cases were investigated and 205 grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for holidays, travel to hospital, debts, particularly gas, electricity and rent arrears. The Association provided a further 4 wheelchairs, 3 nebulizers and a number of members have been provided with clothing during the year.

We continue to administer 36 Army Benevolent Fund Supplementary Allowances and these are now all paid at £5 per case, per week. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 14 Nursing Home fees to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. This side of our benevolence and care is very much on the increase.

The Queen's Surrey Charity paid out £39,263 as Grants-in-Aid. Of the 29 cases not receiving a grant, 17 were assisted by local council/charities or member charities after we had contacted them.

We should again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund who are always so helpful with prompt action and advice. SSAFA, Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and to their case workers we continue to be particularly grateful for all their assistance. During this last year we have continued to assist more St Dunstaners and members who are being cared for by the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.





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

The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General A A Denison-Smith MBE, was appointed GOC Southern District and promoted to Lieutenant General on 28 February. This was an important event for the Regiment. Three new Deputy Colonels have also been appointed. In the case of Surrey, Brigadier R W Acworth CBE handed over on 2 April to Colonel A C Miéville OBE who was the last Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

Both our Regular battalions have been serving in Northern Ireland since the last Queen's Surreys Newsletter was published.

The 1st Battalion is on a 'residential tour' in Omagh. In December Lt Col T M Reeve-Tucker, who was subsequently made an OBE in the New Year's Honours List, handed over command to Lt Col J D K Russell MBE. The battalion has welcomed several visits from the press resulting in many articles about it in Surrey and elsewhere in the South East, many of them with pictures of our soldiers with a splendid Tiger borrowed for a photo-call from a local zoo. However the highlight for the battalion was the visit of The Princess of Wales, our Colonel-in-Chief, on Remembrance Sunday. HRH was briefed on the battalion's role and then spent 45 minutes talking to soldiers and their families.

The 2nd Battalion moved to Fermanagh, 'the wettest county in Europe', in early November. Several individuals have achieved outstanding sporting successes, including three members of the Army Boxing Team who all won their bouts in the Inter Services Championships against the Royal Navy. The team coach was the battalion Provost Sergeant. This was a magnificent result for the individuals concerned, the battalion and the Regiment. The battalion returns to Canterbury in June and have a programme of cadres, running the Royal Tournament and training in Canada etc which will keep them well occupied for the remainder of the year.

Among our TA units, the 6th/7th Battalion has been hitting the headlines. They represented the Regiment at the transfer of the Freedom of Chichester in November, and in December their Orienteering team won the TA Championships and the UKLF Night Competition, a most creditable performance. The same month Lt Col P A D Storie-Pugh MBE TD handed over command to Lt Col T S Finklaire MBE.

The 1st Battalion Band Tour through the United States last autumn was the final major commitment for either of our Regular Regimental Bands. As readers will know, from September 1994 there will be no Regimental Bands as such and the Queen's Division, consisting of three large regiments, will only have two Regular bands. Fortunately our TA Kohima Band is not, so far, being affected by cuts.

Looking ahead, there are several important Regimental events this year, in addition to the well-established Association reunions. The first is the Regimental Grand Reunion to be held in Howe Barracks, Canterbury, on Sunday 26 June. The others include Freedom Parades through Brighton on 26 October, Winchester on 27 October, Guildford on 28 October and Canterbury on 29 October by a contingent from the 2nd Battalion, through Arundel by a 6th/7th Battalion contingent on 8 October, and through Maidstone on either 15 or 22 October by a 5th Battalion contingent. Further details will be sent out in due course to those affected but we hope very much to see

the usual excellent support at these occasions by our affiliated Regimental Associations.

## Time Marches On

Sergeant Neville Jackson and I marched alongside each other at the rear of B company 1 Queen's on the Salerno Day parade in Berlin in 1949. My last recollection of seeing him was at Vogelsöng in Germany in September 1950 when he, accompanied by two other Sergeants, arrived in my brand new Ford Prefect car (all £308's worth) driven by one Sergeant Wilson (yes, the very same) who had kindly collected it for me from Hamburg. The all up weight has never been disclosed.

Neville subsequently served in East Africa and then transferred to the Australian Army where he was commissioned. Some years later he took Holy orders and joined the Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department. Two years ago, through the medium of the Newsletter, I had read that Neville, having left the army some years before, was the Rector of St Mark's Church in Buderim Queensland.

As Dene and I had decided to spend Christmas and New Year in Noosa Heads, a resort to the North of Buderim the opportunity to meet up with Neville again was just too good to miss. We also knew by this time that Tony Hewitt (Middlesex) who had served with 1 Queen's in Islerlohn and his wife Liz were also in Buderim. It gave us particular pleasure to be given Communion by Neville, assisted by his wife Eileen in his church on Christmas Day last year. Afterwards we all joined up at the Hewitt's house for drinks and lunch. The intervening forty plus years melted away and we had a thoroughly amusing and enjoyable reunion.

Later on during the following week we spent the day with Neville and Eileen on their farm near Gympie, some eighty miles further North. Neville will retire from the Church fairly soon and they intend to settle on their farm, set in a most attractive valley.



*Buderim, Queensland, Australia  
Christmas Day 1993*

*L to R Liz Hewitt, Neville Jackson, Dene Durrant,  
Tony Hewitt, Eileen Jackson*

PAWGD



## The 70th Regiment

During a visit to New Zealand in the latter part of 1991 I had found the discharge certificate of a John Wynn, 70th Regiment, who had taken a voluntary discharge on 6th July 1865, in the museum of the small town of Russell in the beautiful Bay of Islands, North Island. Other than learning that he had married a local girl and moved to Auckland, the trail then ran cold.

I had even less joy in Dunedin to which area the 70th had been sent from India in 1861 to deal with the riots in the Otago gold fields in South Island. On our most recent visit to New Zealand my wife and I thought we would try again and pick up the threads of the 70th's three year sojourn in New Zealand. The regimental history told us that they had embarked for New Plymouth on the West Coast of North Island in March 1863.

New Plymouth, now a wealthy oil rich town and the centre of the Taranaki district was much more rewarding. We made a bee line for the parish church of St Mary's on Vivian Street, built in 1845, and decided to search the adjoining cemetery first. We found no trace of any graves of men of the 70th although we knew they had been stationed there from 1863 to 1865. There were other graves belonging to soldiers of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, other British regiments and Royal Naval personnel.

When we went inside the church our attention was immediately drawn to the hatchments hanging on the walls of the aisles, one for each of the thirteen British regiments that served in the area at one time or another and for a number of Royal Naval ships.

We were delighted to see one for the 70th hanging in the North aisle. They were all painstakingly painted by the Reverend Walsh, the vicar of St Mary's in the early 1870s. They may not be heraldically correct but a splendid effort by one who had no military background and they are in excellent condition and an adornment to the church of which the parishioners are justifiably proud. We managed to make contact with Mrs Marjorie McConachie, the church's archivist, who was extremely kind and helpful. Mrs McConachie explained how the cemetery records of the period in which we were interested were woefully inadequate and they hoped to make a start soon on searching The Courthouse records in order to bring their own cemetery's records up to date. However Mrs McConachie was able to give us the following names of men of the 70th Regiment who had been buried in their churchyard.



*Hatchment for The 70th Regiment hanging in St Mary's Church New Plymouth, New Zealand*

Name	Date Of Burial	Age
Lane Vortez	August 1864	23
Edward Rich	14 November 1864	33
David Smith	18 March 1865	30
Joanne Cotton	20 May 1865	Infant daughter of Sergeant Cotton
Sgt Robert Harwood	5 July 1865	44
Lieut. Henry Bally	7 August 1865	24
John Brown	7 August 1865	22
Charles Rolph	7 August 1865	27
George Smith	7 August 1865	27

Pte James Henderson died of consumption on 26 September, year not given,

Behind the church is a hill, levelled off by soldiers who subsequently built a camp on top of it and this was the base for the 70th. Today a fine memorial to the soldiers of the Imperial Forces who served in New Zealand stands upon the former camp site. Regrettably it has been somewhat damaged by a Maori group who two years ago fastened a rope around the statue of a soldier and pulled it from its plinth. The Town Council are trying to put the pieces back together.



*Memorial to Regiments of The Imperial Forces who served in New Zealand during the Maori Wars*

On 9th August 1865 the 70th went to a camp at Otahuhu. This is now in the suburbs of Auckland and we found a large brewery standing four square upon it so there was nothing of regimental interest to be found there. Since we returned to this country we have learnt that there is a fine church and cemetery at Pukekohe some 25 miles South of Auckland. A detachment of the 70th fought a gallant action against the Maoris in this area so we shall just have to return to New Zealand and see what we can find out.

PAWGD

## The London Regiment Re-Born

*This article is written by the present Commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Swanson.*

The London Regiment was only officially formed on 20 April 1993 so it is perhaps not surprising that I still receive a few polite requests for elaboration when I mention The Regiment's name. The aim of this article is to provide some background on the formation and origins of The Regiment and what we are today.

### Formation Of The Regiment

Keen military historians and many an old soldier will know all about the original London Regiment for the name and concept are not new. However, the resurrection of the name has only come about as result of the recent TA 'Options' process.

If TA Options One were seeking to reduce and rationalise but preserve identity, London's TA infantry units were ideal candidates. Previously, The London Scottish formed a rifle company and recce platoon of 1/51 HIGHLAND based in Perth, and the London Irish a rifle company and the Intelligence Section of 4 R Irish based in Portadown. Whilst the traditional and cultural aspects of these arrangements were appropriate, command and control, training and administration were less than ideal. Also in the London TA Infantry were 4 RGJ, 10 PARA and 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers, a mixed QUEENS/RRF unit technically belonging to The Queen's Regiment but perhaps not totally at ease with its identity. From all the above, 'Options' required that three battalion sized units should emerge in London. This article does not seek to delve into a minefield of regimental politics but, mindful of the Rifle Volunteer origins of London's TA units, there was more than one possible outcome! What emerged, in my opinion, was the 'dream ticket' which resurrected a famous old title and preserved the identity of the component parts of The London Regiment thus formed from 8 OF, The London Scottish and London Irish.

### Historical Background

As former members of the original London Regiment the credentials of all the above component parts are impeccable. Each company can trace its origins to the Rifle Volunteer Corps raised in 1859 as result of the increasingly strained relations with France at that time, although elements of the Regiment go back even further. Space precludes a detailed description of each company's individual history. First use of the title London Regiment dates from the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill introduced by the Secretary of State for War, R B Haldane, in 1907. This Bill replaced the old volunteer units with the Territorial Force, which was to be capable of rapid embodiment in time of war. In London, the County of London had superseded parts of Surrey, Kent and Middlesex. As there was no regular regiment within this area Territorial units were given the title London Regiment, although each battalion retained the identity of its Volunteer predecessor. Thus they became 'County of London' Battalions of The London Regiment. Those with origins in the City became 'City of London' Battalions.

During the First World War the Regiment was embodied and raised 2nd and 3rd line units expanding to a total of 82 battalions in May 1915. By 1916 the battalions had been posted to Regular regiments. Of the 26 original London Regiment battalions formed in 1908 our present regiment has origins in the four battalions listed below.

21st	(County of London) Bn (First Surrey Rifles)	The Queen's Royal Regt	PWRR
22nd	(County of London) Bn The Queen's)	The Queen's Royal Regt	PWRR
23rd	(County of London) Bn	The East Surrey Regt	PWRR
24th	(County of London) Bn (The Queen's)	The Queen's Royal Regt	PWRR

Although by 1922 the total number of battalions dropped to 23 they retained their identities, but as part of Regular regiments. Between 1935 and 1937 the battalions of the Regiment were either re-named as battalions of their Regular parent regiment or re-roled as armour, LAA and Signals. The title London Regiment was re-introduced shortly after the Second World War for some of the battalions but had been lost entirely by 1961.

### The London Regiment Today

The resurrection of The London Regiment title has given much pleasure to many of the forebears of our components parts. In its previous incarnations the Regiment preserved capbadge identities through its battalions; today, uniquely in the Infantry, we have four rifle companies each of which represents a different capbadge tradition, the preservation of which is fundamental to the success of the Regiment. Each company wears its own uniform and badges and retains an external affiliation: A (London Scottish Coy - The Gordon Highlanders; B (Queen's Regt) Coy - PWRR; C (City of London Fusiliers) Coy - RRF and D (London Irish Rifles) Coy - Royal Irish Regt However, the London Regiment stands in its own right in the Order of Battle and, through the chain of command, is entirely responsible for its own training, administration and fitness for role - presently that of a general purpose National Defence battalion. Geographically, we are spread throughout London in 10 TA Centres. Distances between each are relatively small although traffic can be a nightmare. However, time on the road is still shorter than for many of my rural counterparts. I believe we would be a very suitable unit for any future expanded peacetime use of the TA to reinforce or replace regulars at battalion level. If a new higher readiness category of TA soldier is introduced in Reserve Forces Act 95 The London Regiment would serve as an ideal platform to form a full unit. By adding to our own high readiness soldiers others from each of our affiliated capbadge TA battalions, we could reach the deployment establishment for each company. Such a unit would be truly representative of the United Kingdom; we are only short of the London Welsh!

The London Regiment held its Inauguration Parade on 1 August this year in the presence of Field Marshal The Lord Bramall, Lord lieutenant of Greater London and President of Greater London TAVRA. Apart from the four identities on parade our Drums and Pipes consisting of Scottish and Irish Pipes and a Corps of Drums must be unique. We work and train as any other TA infantry battalion, except I have the luxury of four rifle companies. Permanent staff are drawn from all four-capbadges. We are overcoming the disappointment of not being equipped with mortars or Milan by enhancing the importance of recce, machine guns, assault pioneers and snipers, which are available to all capbadges of the Regiment. Whilst much of the setting up of the Regiment is complete there are still further matters of London Regiment identity to be addressed encompassing everything from marches, shoulder titles, collects, and funds to the motif in the centre of the Colours to which we are entitled - now that last one will be really challenging!

As a concept The London Regiment is proving very successful and we can capitalise on the variety and richness of traditions. As the companies continue to become more familiar with each other and work together at unit level an excellent Regimental spirit is developing. Of course there is healthy and spirited competition between companies, but I would hope for that even if they all wore the same capbadge. The important end result is that as a Regiment we sing with one voice - "The Londons Return" - our recently adopted quick march.

PRPS



## Queen Catherine of Braganza

The Queen's Royal Regiment boasts several portraits of Catherine of Braganza. King Charles II of England married Catherine, Infanta of Portugal, by proxy in Lisbon, on 23rd April 1662. The marriage treaty between the royal families included a dowry of sugar, plate and jewels to the value of 400,000 crowns, bills of exchange to double that amount, the rights to free trade with Brazil and the East Indies, and the cessions of Bombay and Tangiers. It was the troubled state of Tangiers, under constant threat from the Moors, that led to the creation of the 2nd Regiment of Foot. This force was to protect Tangiers' strategic position at the entry to the Mediterranean for the next two decades, and on its return to England, Charles II renamed it, "*our dearest consort, the Queen's Regiment*".

When the marriage plans were under discussion, Charles II was persuaded that the Portuguese princess would make a tolerable wife when he was shown a portrait brought over by the Portuguese ambassador, (Fig. 1) A Londoner reported on 11th May 1661 that "*The picture of our intended Queen is at Whitehall; by that and the report of those that have seen her she is a lovely little woman*". Standing before it Charles is said to have remarked "*That person cannot be unhandsome*". His hesitancy was understandable, for the portrait in fact shows a doll like young lady wearing stiff Portuguese court dress with a huge farthingale. Her hair is brushed horizontally across her forehead, but allowed otherwise to ripple loose to her shoulders, signifying her virginal marriageable state. The original was painted by Dirck Stoop, a Dutchman working at the court in Lisbon.

On the wedding day in Lisbon a version of this portrait, together with a full length of King Charles, was carried through the streets as part of the public celebration. Apart from the solemn Catholic matrimonial mass in the great Manueline Abbey of St. Jerome at Belem on the River Tagus, there was a stately procession passing under triumphal arches, followed by a bull-fight and later an aquatic carnival with fireworks. A colourful record of the proceedings is to be found in a heroic poem called *Iter Lusitania: or the Portugal Voyage* which celebrated the wedding and the Queen's journey from Portugal to England. This publication was illustrated with half a dozen engravings by an eyewitness, the same Dirck Stoop, who had a special allegiance to the Infanta and came to England in her retinue in 1662.

On 13th May she landed at Portsmouth. A few days later she was joined by the King and their marriage was given Protestant validity by the Bishop of London in a private service. The Queen wore a rose coloured dress with blue love knots which were later snipped off and handed round to all present. The King was not displeased with his new bride and wrote shortly afterwards to Minette, his sister: "*Her face is not so exact as to be called a beauty, though her eyes are excellent good, and nothing in her face that in the least degree can disgust one. On the contrary, she hath as much agreeableness in her looks as I ever saw, and if I have any skill in physiognomy, which I think I have, she must be as good a woman as ever was born. You will wonder to see how well we are acquainted already; in a word, I think myself very happy, for I am confident our two humours will agree very well together*". A royal marriage at this time was merely a political match, although they were expected to produce an heir. In this she signally failed, but the King remained true to her, in the formal sense of honouring her as his wife, despite her childlessness and throughout the time she was accused of sedition during the succession crisis and the Popish Plot of 1678-1681.



1. Portrait by Dirck Stoop, 1661.  
By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

Very soon after arriving in England the Queen adopted English dress and arranged her hair in fashionable wired bunches of ringlets on either side of her face. It was like this that Samuel Cooper painted her, in an unfinished miniature which is one of the prized possessions of Her Majesty the Queen today. (Fig. 2) Charles II acquired it for the Royal Collection after the artist's death. A royal portrait like this, made from the life, from which he might be required to make many copies, would be kept by Cooper in his studio for the purpose of reproduction. The spontaneity of a life-sitting is clearly visible.



2. Unfinished Miniature by Samuel Cooper, c. 1662.  
The Royal Collection ©1994 Her Majesty The Queen.



With the fervour of the restoration, demand for paintings of Charles outstripped all expectations. The affable King's personal popularity was high, and his Queen, despite her Catholicism, basked in reflected glory. They were both painted by Peter Lely, but the head and shoulders of the Queen, which normally hangs in the Mess at Howe Barracks, is after an original by a Dutchman called Pieter Borsselaer who came to this country in the early 1660s. The larger of the Regiment's pictures of the Queen, hanging at Regimental Headquarters over the stairs, is a composition usually ascribed to Jacob Huysmans, a Catholic painter from Antwerp. Both show her holding an orb, with a crown nearby. The complimentary inclusion of the regalia, ermine and crimson velvet makes them both formal state portraits, but the fact is that the Queen was never crowned. Charles had been crowned well before her arrival, in order to avoid the difficulty of crowning a Catholic.

The portraits known definitely to have been painted by Huysmans are rather different. Samuel Pepys visited his studio on 26th August 1664 and saw the artist working on two portraits at once: "*The Queene is drawn in one like a shepherdess - in the other like St. Katharin, most like and most admirably.*" Perhaps it was the Queen herself who chose less stately but more subtle types of portrait. Portrayal as a Saint (Fig. 3), carrying a martyr's palm, and kneeling on a broken wheel, reveals that she had dedicated her life to the devotion of her religion. Her childhood had been spent in a remote convent, and upon her marriage she saw her duty in England to be protector of the Catholic faith. It had been one of the conditions of the marriage treaty that she would be allowed to practise her religion in England without interference, and throughout much of Charles II's reign, her chapels at St. James's and in Somerset House were the only places in London where Catholics could worship freely.



3. Portrait of the Queen as St. Catherine by Jacob Huysmans, 1664. Private collection. Photograph, Courtauld Institute of Art.



4. Portrait of the Queen as a Shepherdess, by Jacob Huysmans, 1664. The Royal Collection © 1994 Her Majesty The Queen.

The second very beautiful portrait of the Queen as a shepherdess can be seen today in the King's dining room at Windsor Castle in an elaborate Grinling Gibbons' frame. (Fig. 4) The mood of the painting would appear recreational: the ducks at her feet might reflect her interest in birds - she kept her own aviary, importing parrots and cockatoos from India. She wears silvery white, rose and blue, and a broad-brimmed hat pinned with a butterfly brooch. Her hair hangs long and loose. It was *de rigueur* at the time to be painted in this 'timeless' pastoral gear to avoid being quickly dated by changing fashions. But 17th century paintings often have hidden symbolism. She also holds a crook and her left hand rests on a lamb with a fair-haired boy tipping flowers over its back. The lamb is associated with innocence, gentleness, patience and humility. It is also symbolic of Christ the Shepherd, and with his sacrifice for mankind. Catherine had all the foregoing qualities, and she may have identified particularly with the Good Shepherd in her duties as leader of the Catholic faith in England. Why else is the boy showering the *lamb* with flowers, rather than herself?

She is shown seated out of doors, surrounded by birds and animals, in a later portrait painted about 1680 by Benedetto Gennari. (Fig. 5) This is the painting illustrated by Jock Haswell on p. 15 of his book on the regiment: the painting itself hangs at Goodwood. Gennari was another Catholic, an Italian who came to England in the suite of Mary of Modena when she married James, Duke of York, the King's brother. Further gentle symbolism is intended: nourishment is being given to the lamb of Faith, and the book would be a holy one. The fountain, as a source of water, represented one's spiritual life and salvation, and was often used as an attribute of the Virgin and the Immaculate Conception - the Queen's hope of bearing a child was still evident.



5. Portrait by Benedetto Gennari, c. 1680. From Goodwood House by courtesy of the Trustees.

When Charles II died in 1685, Catherine, as Queen Dowager, had three years of openly practising her religion without fear while the Catholic James II was on the throne. After his exile in 1688, however, under William and Mary, all Catholic chapels were closed, Catherine's household was drastically reduced, and she was hounded into meager accommodation. For a number of years she felt it her duty to stay on and represent the Catholic faith in England, but finally the cross that she had borne so bravely against the spiteful intolerance of Queen Mary, became too much, and she managed to get leave from Louis XIV to journey across France to her homeland, the only method of travel that she could afford.

She died in Portugal after steering her own country, as Queen Regent, through some difficult shoals at the start of the eighteenth century. By then, to English Catholics, she had become something of a martyr. I would suggest that it was as her special symbol that the Paschal Lamb was adopted by the Regiment at the renaming in 1684. It was about this time that its officers began to be called "*Kirke's Lambs*" and the Regiment would not have been averse. The army historian, John Childs, states that before its dissolution, the Tangiers garrison was periodically accused by Parliament of being a hot-bed of popery. It would be the hidden Catholic significance of the lamb combined with the flag of St. George of England that could convey the Regiment's dual allegiance to Queen and to nation.

The lamb is not an emblem of the royal house of Braganza which has seven towers in its crest. A tower can just be seen in the background of the painting of 'Saint' Catherine by Huysmans. The original of this portrait is now in the hands of a wine-growing family and kept at a Quinta or villa/farmhouse just south of the Tagus. It is a wry post-script to her story to discover that it is this saintly representation which is reproduced on the label of a delicious woody Vinho Branco called "Catarina".

Katharine Gibson

## The 1/7th Queens (Southwark) O.C.A.

On Saturday 5th March members of the O.C.A. met the Belgian Delegation led by the Burgomaster H. Schosters and Commandant Rene Van Den Burgh at the Kennington War Memorial Kennington Park for a wreath laying service, thence onto the Royal British Legion for a get together and a buffet luncheon which was kindly provided by the British Legion Members.

Guests at the annual reunion dinner at the Union Jack Clubs, Gascoigne Rooms were:

Lt Col A S Bookless, Burgomaster H Schosters of Sint Nicklaas, President Commandant Rene Van Den Burgh and members of the Patriotic Association, Messrs J Walters and A Cooke of the R.B.L. Major General D Gordon G B CBE DSO was applauded on arrival, such a revered Commander of the Battalion in the Western Desert, Salerno and Normandy landings and appreciation for the efforts this gentleman endeavours to be in attendance at the reunions. Toasts to the Queen and to King Albert (King of the Belgians) were proposed by the President, Major S Playfoot MC and Absent Comrades by J Rowe MM spoken with great feeling.

Lt Col Bookless spoke of his association with the Battalion in the early days of the war serving in the B.E.F. and until the Battalion left for the M.E.F. The Burgomaster spoke of the preparations they are planning for the 50 years Liberation commemoration when we visit Sint Nicklaas in September.

Finally the President thanked the Committee and Major John Tamplin for the sterling work they do for the O.C.A.

The long distances undertaken by many members shows the special comradeship which still exists through the years, 68 members attended.

All in all a memorable day and all are looking forward to our next meeting at Sint Nicklaas in September.

LU

## Lt Col J Y Whitfield

Memories came flooding back when I read Fergus Ling's tribute to Lt Col J Y Whitfield in Newsletter No 54. "Piggy" Whitfield as he was commonly referred to by all other ranks of 2/5 Queen's (I've no idea why) commanded the Battalion for a number of years and led us across North Africa and into Italy before he was promoted to command 56 (London) Division.

I served for much of the time with Lt Col Whitfield in Battalion Headquarters and in the Sergeants' Mess we used to parody a well-known wartime song

*There'll always be an England  
While there's a Second-fifth Queen's  
And while we've got a BHQ we'll give the Jerry beans  
Old 'Piggy' he will lead us  
Through dangers thick and thin  
But while we've got a 2/5 Queen's  
We'll always bloody well win*

It was the same 'Piggy' Whitfield who was being driven by Pte Parker in a Bren gun carrier at Enfidaville, Tunisia, when he encountered a heavy mortar 'stunk' from a Nebelwerfer. Parker thought it would be prudent to pull off the road beside a sandhill. "What on earth are you doing, Parker?" the CO asked. "Put your faith in God, man, and drive on." Parker did - and he lived to tell the tale.

JAN



## Jugoslav Refugees

The account (in the November 1993 Newsletter) of the wartime evacuation of Yugoslav refugees from Italy to Egypt reminded me of my own slight involvement in Balkan politics at the end of the war.

When Axis forces ( i.e Germans and Italians ) first occupied Yugoslavia, resistance was led by a Royalist, Colonel Mihailovitch and his Chetnik guerrillas. We supported him- indeed our own Brigadier C.D.(Nipper) Armstrong CBE DSO MC was dropped in by parachute to lead the Military Mission- but after some time it appeared that he was more keen to fight the Communist partisans led by Tito than to fight the Axis forces. Indeed it was alleged that he was conspiring with the Axis powers to defeat Tito. There was no doubt Tito sought complete control of the country but he had first to beat the Axis forces and his Partisans seemed to do a better job of this than the Chetniks. In consequence we changed sides and supported Tito believing no doubt on available evidence that therein lay our best chance of beating Hitler and Mussolini. They had between them about eleven Divisions in Yugoslavia, and it obviously paid us to ensure they were kept fully occupied there. At the end of the War, Tito's courts found Mihailovitch and several of his aides guilty of war crimes, some in their absence, for many had escaped to Italy ostensibly to join forces with the Allies, and sentenced them to death.

In 1946 and 1947 I was serving with another Regiment. My Battalion was near Rimini on the Adriatic Coast involved mostly in repatriating or resettling Displaced persons and SEPs (a post war euphemism for POWS meaning "Surrendered Enemy Personnel").

The most common duty was to escort train loads of these people to dispersal points all over Europe. We all travelled in railway horse boxes, and a train usually consisted of at least thirty such boxes. Dirty, noisy, cold in the winter, despite a wood burning stove, unbelievably uncomfortable, and desperately slow, these trains enjoyed no priority and we were frequently shunted into sidings for hours on end without reasons or excuses ever being offered. Indeed any communication between the escort and the driver was virtually impossible. There was no intercom, and if one walked forward to make enquiry there was a very real risk the train would start off and leave you behind! It was not unusual to be away on escort to the north of Germany for seven days at a time.

The escort consisted of a subaltern, a senior NCO (usually the platoon commander and his platoon sergeant) and about two rifle sections, carrying their normal platoon weapons, a modest allotment of ammunition, and of course compo rations. The escort customarily occupied the front and rear horse boxes, and occasionally the middle one as well. Sometimes the destination was secret and unknown even to the escort commander. That usually meant the SEPs hadn't been informed and if the train included White Russians or Ukrainians who had sided with the Germans they would attempt to escape, rather than risk repatriation to Vienna or Eastern Germany where the authorities might hand them over to the USSR troops. In consequence the duties of the escort were usually to hand over all of their charges and then return the train in an undamaged condition to Rimini sidings.

I was returning after one such trip, very much in need of a bath and a good sleep and had given my Sergeant routine orders for the return to Barracks when, drawing into the sidings I observed that they were a hive of military activity. What at first looked like the entire Battalion, but later proved to be the Duty Company, was dug in or behind

sangars around the perimeter and every kind of weapon was deployed and pointed down the line in a most war-like fashion. Vehicles were coming and going, officers were conferring, and bearing down on me was the Adjutant with purposeful tread. Apparently a train load of Chetniks escorted from Naples by soldiers of another Battalion had disarmed their escort near Florence and their train was now about half an hour away and approaching. The duty Company would disarm them, arrest the ringleaders, and I was to take them on to their destination. They had been selected for resettlement in Canada but their fate was now unclear. I protested that I was dirty and tired, but the Adjutant was adamant, and gave me thirty minutes to clean up and get back for a more detailed briefing.

Telling my driver to emulate Fangio, we raced to the Mess where I bathed, changed, packed clean clothes and returned to the sidings where the CO told me more of the story.

He clearly didn't have any regard for the people of the Balkans, and his language was salty. The train had arrived and the Duty Company had recovered all the stolen weapons without incident. Some apparently high ranking Chetniks were sitting disconsolately in a line with their hands on their heads and were being systematically searched. I had the distinct impression they had spoiled the COs day and he was obviously disappointed that they had not made a fight of it as he would have preferred to shoot the lot of them! The reason apart from dislike and mistrust of Balkans was that a fellow subaltern in the Battalion had been escorting Chetnik War criminals to Rome Prison and the train had been stopped at signals North of Florence. The train load of Chetnik soldiers now under arrest in the sidings travelling in the opposite direction had also stopped on the adjacent track. The Chetnik soldiers were not locked in. There was no reason for them to be; they were looking forward to a new life.

Unfortunately they discovered that the occupants of the adjacent train were compatriots who had little to look forward to except prison for the lucky ones and death for the less lucky.

The Chetniks had therefore disarmed both escorts, locked them in the Southbound train, freed their compatriots and moreover had done this so quietly and efficiently in remote and uninhabited country they might have journeyed much further had the operation not been witnessed by the train driver who somehow alerted the Military authorities. As it was more or less a hanging offence to lose such high grade prisoners I had, unusually, nearly as much sympathy for my CO, as I had for the plight of my brother subaltern. They were both on a certain loser! He then handed over the Chetniks in a condition of close arrest, and told me to ensure none escaped!

Much to the annoyance of some of my soldiers and the fury of the Chetniks I separated the Chetnik generals from their troops and made them travel as hostages for the good behaviour of their troops in the horse boxes of the escort. I let them know I considered them all a nuisance and I would deal harshly and summarily with any disobedience. I had all the other boxes kept locked and only unlocked under strict controls at "comfort stops". Unfortunately when we stopped on the Brenner Pass, my escort allowed a Chetnik to climb on the roof in order to unblock the chimney pipe with the use of a broom handle. Unfortunately the handle made contact with the overhead power line and the poor chap was badly burned. That delayed us for some hours but otherwise we had an uneventful journey and I handed over all save one of my charges to the Cavalry Regiment running the Transit Camp



at Munster Lager. They seemed fairly chastened by this time (as well no doubt as constipated!) and were no doubt nervous at the prospect of being punished for their part in the incident near Florence. I had allowed the rumour to circulate that bad behaviour under my command might result in some being handed over to Tito. I later learned that the electrocuted Chetnik had made a miraculous recovery and that all of them had been resettled in Canada. I understand my fellow Subaltern faced Court Martial but the charge was dismissed as he had surrendered to a numerically superior and armed force, rather than place the lives of his soldiers at risk. What happened to the other escort commander I never discovered, but as there were about a thousand Chetniks on that train, realistically he stood little chance, even though he was armed and the Chetniks were not.

My other experience of escorting Yugoslavs had a much less happy ending. One day I was instructed that I had been detailed to take an important Yugoslav War criminal back into Yugoslavia and, most unusually, I was to attend Area HQ for briefing. Arriving there I was briefed by the GS01 and by no less a person than the Deputy Commander (a distinguished Gunner who I later discovered had been Spike Milligan's Battery Commander). My prisoner, it seemed was an expert escaper. He had escaped his escort twice before, and on recapture had attempted to commit suicide by slashing his wrists with a concealed razor blade. He was now virtually recovered but lying in the local Military Hospital under sedation, and under very close arrest, I was to take him as soon as the Doctors pronounced him fit to travel. Area wanted him out of their domain without delay. I was told that Tito himself was demanding the man's instant return, was making enormous political waves and if I lost the man I might as well shoot myself rather than face the consequences which would assuredly be much worse! I was to travel with one Sergeant and the prisoner to Mestre by rail. A compartment would be reserved and the OC Train advised of the importance of the prisoner but not his identity which was to remain secret. From Mestre we would be picked up by a mobile escort and would continue by road without stopping to a Yugoslav Army barracks near Storey. I was to get a receipt and hand this to the Deputy Commander in person on my return. The prisoner probably had many enemies and I was responsible to hand him over alive. The escort had orders to shoot anyone seeking to impede our progress and units in the Venezia Giulia area would be informed of the importance of our convoy. The name of the prisoner was Moscov Ante. He was a senior Naval Officer who had probably surrendered the Yugoslav Navy to the Axis. He was Mihailovitch's Deputy and after Mihailovitch (who had already been tried and executed in Belgrade), my prisoner was Tito's most wanted man!

After a few hours the prisoner was pronounced fit to travel and after suffering the indignity of an intimate body search, lest like Goering he had secreted a phial of poison inside him, he was handed to me and we started out on one of the most disturbing journeys of my life. My prisoner proved to be a highly articulate man of considerable charm intellect and culture. He was a staunch Anglophile who had travelled extensively in UK and probably knew my own county of Northumberland as well as I. He was a cricketing buff. He spoke English with hardly an accent. He had been the guest of the Duke of Windsor when the Duke had been Prince of Wales, and had entertained the Duke on several occasions at his home on the Adriatic. We played chess and chatted, no doubt to avoid discussing his future-or lack of it. I felt uncomfortable and embarrassed about taking such a man to his certain death. Of the two of us he was, initially at least the more urbane, the less apparently concerned or disturbed.

At Mestre we were met by our escort consisting of four jeeps, each with a mounted Lewis gun and containing four MPs all carrying automatic weapons. The prisoner and I rode inside an ambulance and my Sergeant rode shotgun with the MP driver. We made a very fast journey to the frontier where we were obviously expected for we were flagged through after the briefest delay. During the road journey my prisoner's composure diminished and he insisted on letting me have his version of the events leading to his present predicament. He stated that whilst vehemently opposed to communism in general and Tito's conception of it in particular, he had never ever at any time or in any way aided or abetted the Nazis. He could not therefore understand why the British decided to return him to face his execution. I asked him if he had appeared before any kind of British Court and it seemed that the decision to return him as a war criminal was indeed taken by a British Court Martial. According to him, as I remember his story, the only evidence before the British, Court Martial were documents containing unsubstantiated allegations and smears put out by Tito's underlings and an occupied Yugoslavia Postage stamp issued by the Germans and bearing my prisoners portrait! He told me he was aware that the Germans had done this for political reasons but without his previous knowledge or consent. He was clearly of the view that the Court Martial had been a sham and his faith in British justice was shattered by the knowledge that he was being handed over for reasons of political expediency. I could offer him neither argument or comfort, and we lapsed into miserable silence. As we entered the Yugoslav Barracks I gave him what was to be his last cigarette.

We alighted from the vehicle before an avenue of Yugoslav soldiers pointing their automatic weapons at us. I remonstrated with their officer in my poor Italian that I didn't enjoy being threatened. He took no notice so I pulled the prisoner back inside the vehicle, calling to the MP Sergeant Major to have his men point their weapons at the Yugoslavs!. This had the desired effect. The Yugoslavs reluctantly shouldered their weapons and my escort did likewise, but I was relieved to see that the Lewis gunners stayed where they were, behind their guns! My prisoner was very tired by the long journey and still weak from his previously attempted suicide and had to be helped by my Sergeant and I to walk the two hundred yards to a hut where after some argument the Jug officer signed my receipt. We shook hands with our prisoner and there being nothing more we could do for him, we left. We marched back to our vehicles through the ranks of sullen, ill-dressed Yugoslav soldiers and left the Barracks, satisfied that we had done our duty, but extremely concerned that we had probably escorted an innocent man to a violent and unnecessary death. As to his guilt or innocence we shall never know, but as to his death we had not long to wonder for as we drove away from the Barracks we all heard the volley of rifle fire. Our prisoner was dead.

WEMcC

*Major J.L.A. Fowler TD*

*THANK YOU for your extra help  
with our largest edition to date.*



### HMS Excellent Re-Commissioned

On Friday 18th March the President, Brig Mike Doyle accompanied by his wife Ann, Lt Col and Mrs Anthony Beattie and the Secretary, Lt Col Les Wilson were invited to Whale Island, Portsmouth to represent the Regiment at the

Service of Blessing of St Barbara's Church which has been re-opened as a Shared Church.

This was followed by the Re-Commissioning Ceremony of HMS *Excellent* on the barrack square. The Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir John Kerr, GCB., ADC inspected the Guard and the Captain of HMS *Excellent*, Captain P R Sutermeister then read the Commissioning Warrant. The guests were asked to face the Quarterdeck, the Royal Marine band played the National Anthem and the White Ensign was hoisted and the Commissioning Pennant broken on the flagstaff. This was followed by the Act of Dedication and prayers from the Gaelic Blessing of 1589 for the blessing of the ship.

Then followed a short service on a bitterly cold day, but fortunately the rain held off throughout the morning. The band then marched the Guard and Divisions off the square to the Quarterdeck where the Commander-in-Chief unveiled a commemorative stone followed by the Cutting of the Commissioning Cake. The Ships Company and their guests then moved into Fisher Hall for a reception and to toast the re-commissioning of HMS *Excellent*.

Looking at the Battle Honours of HMS *Excellent* and HMS *Queen Charlotte* on the Quarterdeck, is one which has always been held with much affection, and been celebrated over the years by officers and men of The Queen's Royal Regiment and its successors. 'First of June 1794' and always referred to, by the Royal Navy and the Regiment as "The Glorious First of June". In this, the 200th Anniversary of the Battle, it would not be out of order for a brief history of HMS *Excellent*.

During the American War of 1812 the Royal Navy suffered a number of defeats, mainly due to the better training of the enemies guns' crews. The lesson was learnt and in 1830 Commander George Smith was appointed to command the *Excellent* which was moored in Portsmouth Harbour and fired her guns across the mud flats towards Portchester. She was fitted with one gun of every description then in use.

In 1891, HMS *Excellent* moved ashore to Whale Island. The Island had been made by dumping the spoil dug out when building the basins of Portsmouth Dockyard on to two small mud flats called Whale Island (or Whaley) and Little Whale Island in the Harbour. The work was all done by hand using convicts as the labour force.

The Island had been used before the move ashore. Lieutenant Percy Scott was First Lieutenant of the *Excellent* while convicts were still working and he persuaded them to level a small part and make a running track. Scott was later Captain Scott, who as Captain of HMS *Terrible* landed his guns to defend Ladysmith in the Boer War - the origin of the present Field Gun Competition at the Royal Tournament. Later, rifle ranges were constructed and the first building, a hut called 'The Excellent House That Jack Built', was made by sailors as a sort of mess hut in which classes could eat their dinners.

Thus started the illustrious story of this Naval Establishment on Whale Island

Hundreds of Gunnery Officers and Instructors were taught on the island over the years, but the demise of gunnery instruction culminated in the closure of HMS *Excellent* in 1985, although the Ministry of Defence retained the land. The command and administration of this piece of Naval

real estate became the responsibility of the Commodore HMS *Nelson*. Its name was changed to HMS *Nelson* (Whale Island) to reflect this.

Recent developments have included the movement of HMS *Royal Arthur* to the Island as the Royal Naval School of Leadership and Management (RNSLAM) and HMS *Phoenix*, as Phoenix (NBCD), now located in the recently constructed Phoenix Building. Current development includes the construction of a new building for Headquarters Royal Marines (HQRM), and the movement of the Royal Naval Reserve Headquarters into Fraser Building.

Whale Island has a challenging and exciting new future for many decades to come, once again under the name of HMS *Excellent*.

LMW

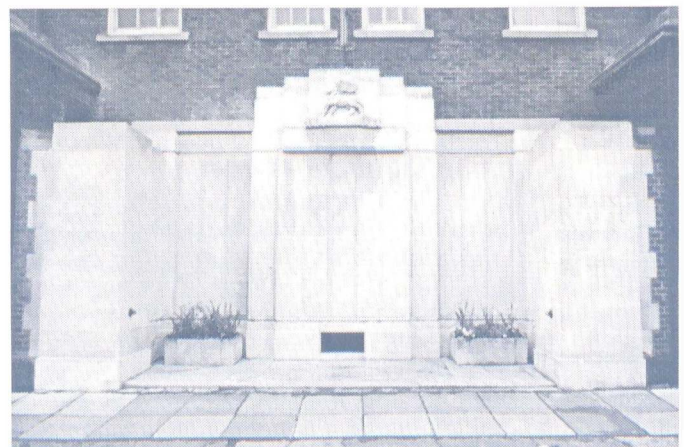
### 6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment O.C.A.

Our main project for 1993 was the restoration of the 22nd Bn. The London Regiment (The Queens) War Memorial.

Since it was erected over 70 years ago at Bermondsey, it has suffered from the wind and rain, and the polluted atmosphere of South East London, in that the stone work had been worn away to such an extent, that the lettering was becoming illegible.

Towards the end of 1992, a stonemason had been found, who was prepared to provide a quotation, and carry out the restoration work.

Having reached this stage, it was then necessary to raise the money to cover the cost of the work. With the help of the Queen's Surreys Regimental Association, the TAVRA for Greater London and donations from individual members, sufficient money was raised to enable the restoration work to be undertaken and completed. We are most grateful to the Association Trustees for their very generous support.



The Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Union Jack Club in October. The Royal Reviews of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Canterbury and the Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Reunion were other events supported by the O.C.A. during the year.

A coach is being run from Bermondsey for the Queen's Regt/2 PWRR Annual Reunion at Canterbury on Sunday 26th June 1994. Anyone wishing to travel on the coach should book their seat with Mrs J T Brown 6 Lawrence House, Millbank Estate, London SW1P 4ED, as soon as possible.

The Annual Dinner and Dance for 1994 is to be held at the Union Jack Club on Saturday, 22nd October. Anyone wishing to come to the Dinner and Dance will be most welcome. Copies of our last Newsletter are still available, if required. Details of both items from Jim Brown at the above address.

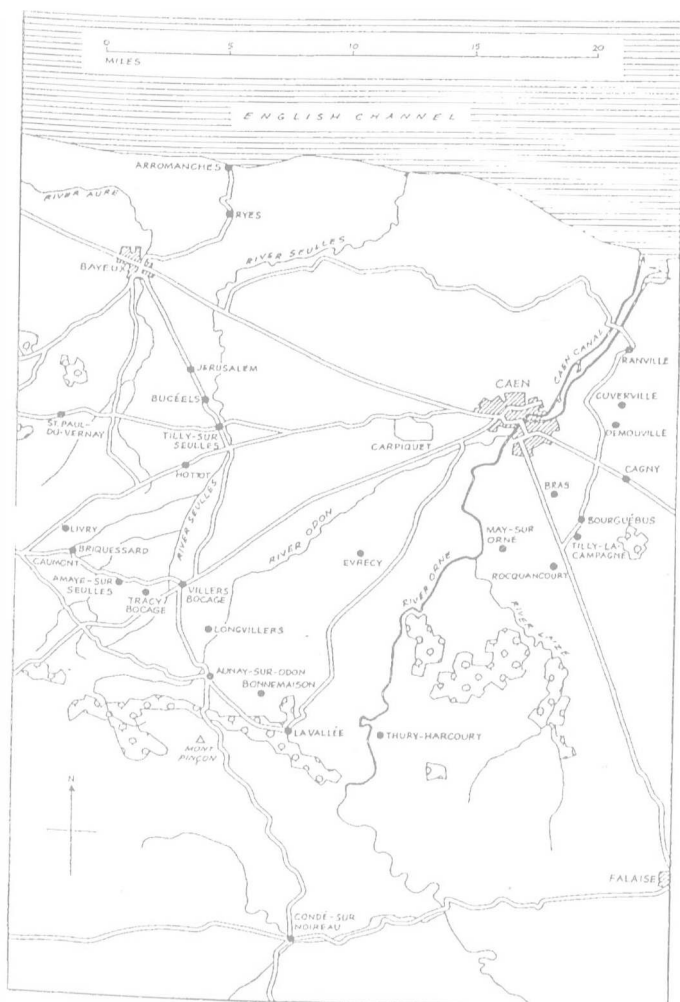
MRN



## Queensmen Versus Panzers - II

I first became interested in the 1944 German Ardennes offensive, better known as "The Battle of the Bulge, when serving at the NATO Headquarters in Holland in 1970 and, as some of you will know, it has been my major hobby ever since. A vital 'player' in this offensive was the 1st SS Panzer Division, an expansion of the Fuhrer's Lifeguard Regiment "Die Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler"; in studying the history of this Division I was interested to learn that one of its officers, Michael Wittmann, is generally accepted as the greatest tank ace of World War II. What fascinated me even more however, was the discovery that Wittmann's Tiger tank had been knocked out by members of my own Regiment in the battle of Villers Bocage in Normandy on 13th June 1944.

Obersturmfuhrer (Lt) Michael Wittmann joined Hitler's Lifeguards in 1937. As a sergeant he commanded an armoured car in the campaigns in Poland and France and he went on to earn the Iron Cross 2nd Class in Greece in 1940. After being wounded twice and winning the Iron Cross 1st Class in Russia in 1941, he was sent to an SS Officers' School and commissioned in December 1942. His career then really began to take off and after only a year as a tank commander he was credited with sixty-six tank 'kills' and had been awarded the Knight's Cross. On Hitler's birthday in 1944 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and ten days later he received 'Oakleaves' to his Knight's Cross. In April 1944 he was given command of the 2nd SS Panzer Company of the 101st SS Heavy Panzer Battalion. He and his permanent gunner, Bobby Woll, had by now been credited with a total of 119 enemy AFVs destroyed! The Tiger I, with which his Battalion was equipped, mounted the famous 88mm gun and was superior to any Allied tank of the time.



1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th (Territorial) Bns, The Queen's Royal Regiment, landed in Normandy in early June 1944. They still formed 131 Lorried Infantry Brigade and together with 22 Armoured Brigade, they made up the famous 7th Armoured Division, "The Desert Rats" of 8th Army fame. Brigadier MS Ekins, a Royal Fusilier, had recently taken over 131 Brigade from a Royal Sussex officer, Brigadier LH (Bolo) Whistler. Other relevant senior commanders were Brigadier WRN (Loony) Hinde, commanding 22 Armoured Brigade and Major General GWEJ Erskine, the commander of 7th Armoured Division. XXX Corps was commanded by Lieutenant General GC Bucknall and Lieutenant General Sir Miles Dempsey was the Commander of the 2nd (British) Army.

The key to the British part of the front in Normandy was the city of Caen. Defending the area to the west of Caen on 12th June was the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitlerjugend), with Panzer Lehr Division, an elite and experienced division, on its left. There was then something of an open flank which the 2nd Panzer Division was coming up to fill from the south. The Leibstandarte had still not been released from the Strategic Reserve by Hitler but on the evening of the 12th June the 101st SS Heavy Panzer Battalion, under the command of Sturmbannfuhrer von Westernhagen, arrived as an armoured reserve for the 1st SS Panzer Corps.

Up to the 12th June the 50th Infantry and parts of the 7th Armoured Divisions had tried unsuccessfully to penetrate Panzer Lehr's front around Tilly sur Seulles, west of Caen. The 'bocage' country, as this part of France is known, was easy to defend with wide, thick, embanked hedges which were major obstacles, even to tanks; nevertheless, the Germans were always worried that Allied infantry would infiltrate their positions using these same hedges for cover.

At noon on 12th June General Erskine received orders for the 7th Armoured Division to move round to the right flank and advance through Villers Bocage in the direction of Evrecy. The American 1st Infantry Division had reported only slight opposition on this front in their advance on Caumont and General Dempsey hoped that this move would cause Panzer Lehr to withdraw, exposing Caen, or risk encirclement. It was a daring move in that 7th Armoured would be advancing on a narrow front and without support on its flanks.

SS General Sepp Dietrich, the founder and for ten years commander of the Leibstandarte, was now commanding the 1st SS Panzer Corps in the Normandy sector and he confirmed in his report of 13th June that his only reserve to meet this thrust were the 14 Tigers of the 101st SS Heavy Panzer Battalion! The plan had therefore, every prospect of success.

How was 7th Armoured Division organised for this daring operation? 22 Armoured Brigade, which was to lead, had 5 Royal Tank Regiment (5 RTR) and 4th City of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) (4 CLY) as its armoured regiments and Lt Col Paley's 1st (Motor) Battalion The Rifle Brigade (1 RB), mounted in half-tracks and carriers, as its only infantry battalion. At 0500 hrs on the 12th June 1/7th Queen's, commanded by Lt Col Desmond Gordon, was placed under command to give it more infantry. Lt Col Gordon, a Green Howard by origin and later to be their Colonel, was well known to the Regiment having been Brigade Major of 131 Infantry Brigade in the Western Desert; he assumed command of the Battalion in late March 1943. This left 131 Infantry Brigade with its own 1/5th Queen's (Lt Col H Wood), 1/6th Queen's (Lt Col Michael Forrester) and Support Coy (Medium Machine Guns) The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (RNF). For



armoured support it was given Lt Col Michael Carver's 1 RTR from 22 Armoured Brigade. He later became Field Marshal The Lord Carver and Chief of the Defence Staff. Each brigade had a Royal Horse Artillery Regiment in support.

Brigadier Hinde gave orders at 1500 hrs on 12th June. The 8th Hussars, Divisional troops, were to lead and kick off time was 1600 hrs. A German anti-tank gun and a few infantrymen were encountered in Livry and as it was 2000 hrs before the place was cleared, it was decided to leaguer for the night rather than give away future intentions.



*Michael Wittmann's 'Tiger'*

The advance began again at 0545 hrs on the 13th with the idea of placing 4 CLY, with A Coy and the anti-tank platoon of 1 RB, on the high ground, Pt 213, a mile north-east of Villers Bocage and 5 RTR with the rest of 1RB on the high ground a mile to the south. A battery of the Divisional Anti-Tank Regiment, the Norfolk Yeomanry, was to cover the gap between the two groups. 1/7th Queen's was to move into the town itself and 131 Brigade, now with a squadron of the 8th Hussars under command, was to follow up and occupy the area round Livry, with 1/6th keeping contact with the Americans on the right. Another squadron of 8th Hussars remained back at Pont Mulot with orders from General Erskine to guard the left flank. The other two squadrons were given the job of right flank protection whilst the whole of the 11th Hussars was tasked with reccing both flanks of the main axis.

Sadly for Generals Dempsey and Erskine and in particular for 4 CLY and A Coy 1 RB, nobody knew that the 1st SS (Tiger) Coy of Hauptsturmführer Mobius and the 2nd SS (Tiger) Coy of Obersturmführer Michael Wittmann had been ordered to the area of Villers Bocage the night before, with the task of securing the left flank of the 1st SS Panzer Corps. It was not expected that they would see action on the 13th and the day was seen as one for much needed maintenance after the gruelling journey from Beauvais via Paris. There had been a lot of breakdowns and considerable losses due to an Allied air attack on 8th June near Versailles. The 1st Coy had only nine Tigers left, Wittmann's Coy five and the 3rd Coy, which had been totally crippled, was 25 miles away at Falaise. During the night 12/13 June Wittmann's Coy had to change position three times due to intense allied artillery fire. Dawn found Wittmann asleep in his echelon area, which was in a small wood 200 yards south of the road between Villers Bocage and Pt 213 and some 500 yards from his Tigers which were nearer Pt 213. The other Tiger company was ten kilometres away to the north-east.

4 CLY, commanded by Lt Col Viscount Cranley, began its advance on 13th June at 0545 hrs with A Sqn leading, followed by A Coy and the anti-tank platoon 1 RB, then

RHQ and B Sqn followed by C Sqn. Villers Bocage was entered at about 0800 hrs and the advance continued towards Pt 213 without opposition. Having cleared the town, and while two tank troops deployed on the high ground, the rest of the Sqn and A Coy Group halted on the road to Pt 213. The infantry got out to stretch their legs whilst their officers, including the company second in command, Captain Christopher Milner, went forward for an 'O' group on Pt 213. The following reconstruction of what happened next makes use of both British and German sources.

After being alerted by a sentry at around 0800 hrs, Michael Wittmann spotted the British armoured column and immediately, and without waiting for the rest of his Tigers, drove his own tank towards the column with the aim of splitting it. From 80 metres he engaged the rear of A Sqn and knocked out the two rear tanks. Then, by driving down the rest of the column at a distance of between 10 and 30 metres towards Villers, his single Tiger knocked out most of the RB half-tracks, some Honey tanks of the 4 CLY Recce Troop, two gunner OP tanks and the four CLY RHQ tanks which had halted on the eastern edge of the town whilst the CO had gone forward to visit A Sqn in his scout car. The 22 Armoured Brigade War Diary says RHQ 4 CLY was shot up and all its tanks knocked out by 0830 hrs. Sgt O'Connor of 1 RB put the situation in soldiers' language when he came up on the A Coy net and said, "For Christ's sake get a move on, there's a Tiger running alongside us about 50 yards away!" Christopher Milner describes how he saw this event in George Forty's book "Desert Rats at War": "When my truck had just passed the rearmost CLY tank at the foot of the rise, the tank was hit and burst into flames.....a minute later we dismounted..... to join a shaken 'O' group in circumstances which had changed utterly since it had been called. There followed a period of physical inactivity on Pt 213 whilst the enemy attended first of all to the three motor platoons by cutting the road behind us and then trundling back towards Villers Bocage, shooting up vehicles and riflemen section by section, with only the company's two 6 pdr anti-tank guns able to offer even a measure of resistance, which I learned afterwards they did with considerable bravery but with little effect."

Wittmann, having dealt with a large part of the leading group and RHQ 4 CLY then returned to the area of Pt 213 and his four other Tigers. He found the rest of A Sqn paralysed and making no attempt to either advance or withdraw. The CLY War Diary says that at 1000 hrs A Sqn reported being surrounded and attacked by Tiger tanks; half an hour later Viscount Cranley said his position was untenable and withdrawal impossible. Five minutes after that A Sqn went off the air. The surviving A Sqn tanks, about eight of them, the 5 RHA FOO in his tank and about 17 officers and men of A Coy 1 RB with a scout car and three half-tracks, remained in the area of Pt 213 hoping for rescue. Viscount Cranley was also cut off somewhere in the forward area.

Since Brigadier Hinde's Tac HQ was less than two miles away near St Germain and he himself was well forward when the A Sqn/A Coy Group was hit, he was well aware of what had happened. At 1000 hrs 1/7th Queen's was ordered to enter Villers Bocage and join B Sqn 4 CLY. The Carrier Platoon under Capt JA Beard and Anti-Tank Platoon commanded by Capt Alan Reed moved immediately and their arrival coincided, more or less, with Wittmann's second entry into the town. Captain Reed had taken over the Anti-Tank Platoon (of Medenine fame) from Captain Guy Sandys who had been promoted and was now commanding HQ Coy. The eight 6 pdrs of the Platoon were commanded by Sergeants Andrews, Brenton, Glenn, Baker, Buckland, Saunders, Wright and Ycomans and the Sergeant-Major was WO II John Bromwich. Some of the men who manned the guns were Cpl Pugh and Ptes Carr, Crossman, Wilkins, Smith, Flack, Murfitt and Lawrence.

At 1115 hrs B Sqn reported that the position in the town was 'definitely unhealthy with an 88 firing'. It was Wittmann looking for prey again! According to German sources some of his Tigers lost him at the eastern entrance to Villers due to dust and smoke and did not enter the town - but maybe they were not quite as brave as Wittmann?

The rest of 1/7th Queen's debussed at St Germain, just beyond Amaye. Some minor opposition was encountered short of Villers but this was cleared by D Coy, under Major PC Freeman, with a staff car (!) and three panzer-grenadiers from 2nd Panzer Division being captured. D Coy suffered two killed and two wounded in this initial action. C Sqn 4 CLY had not entered Villers Bocage and 5 RTR and I Coy 1 RB were now moving to join it in the area of Tracy Bocage. At 1130 hrs D Coy 1/7th entered the town followed by C Coy commanded by Major Edward (Tiny) French.

Wittmann's citation says: "In the centre of the town his tank was immobilized by an enemy heavy anti-tank gun. Despite this he destroyed all vehicles within reach and routed the enemy unit". This, as we shall see, was a major over-statement but anyway Wittmann and his crew bailed out and, after walking 5 kilometres to the north, managed to join up with troops of the Panzer Lehr Division.

In the meantime, the small British force on Pt 213 was still holding out. Christopher Milner describes what it was like there: "The CLY tanks had fanned out a little, but apart from intermittent harassment by shellfire, the Germans left us to our own devices whilst they dealt with the main body of the regimental group ..... Not long after, a CLY tank, edging forward..... was hit and the wounded crew bailed out having suffered the driver killed."

The final surrender on Pt 213 came at about 1300 hours. 22 Armoured Brigade War Diary reports that at 1235 hrs five Tigers and another unspecified tank were on the outskirts of the town trying to encircle the leading sqn and immediately afterwards the CO reported himself surrounded - it was Mobius's 1st SS (Tiger) Company, which had been alerted during the morning and had moved to counter-attack the British. The last message from CO 4 CLY came at 1240 hrs. A vivid description of those final minutes is again provided by Christopher Milner: "Suddenly there was a rumble of tanks from the east and as I darted round to the front of the cottage I was astonished to find that the tank shooting seemed to have ended and that some tank officers in black berets were standing about talking to one or two of our officers in the middle of the main road. Since there had been no shooting and everyone had been very friendly I took them to be members of the RTR and stepped out to join in the conversation, only to be frozen in my tracks when I realised they were German tank crews."

What were the British losses on that dreadful morning? The 4 CLY War Diary lists 20 Cromwells, 4 'Firefly' Shermans, 3 Stuart tanks, 3 scout cars and a half-track lost, together with 4 killed, 5 wounded and 76 men missing, including the CO. 5 RHA lost three OP Shermans. The 1 RB War Diary speaks of 100 men missing and only 40 getting back to own lines; it later transpired that nine officers and men had been killed. The 22 Armoured Brigade Diary adds that 1 RB lost 14 half-tracks and 1-6 carriers. The Germans claimed over 200 prisoners.

22 Armoured Brigade Diary says that at 1300 hrs, about the time of the surrender on Pt 213, CO 1/7th was appointed "IC Villers Bocage with the remainder of 4 CLY placed under command". When I mentioned this to Major General Gordon on 1st December 1993 he replied that it was news to him! Apparently OC B Sqn 4 CLY, Major I Aird, was also unaware that he had been placed under Lt Col Gordon's command. As we shall see, in an article he

later wrote for the Royal Armoured Corps Journal, he hardly acknowledged the presence of the Queen's in Villers Bocage at all!



Meanwhile Wittmann had made contact with the Operations Officer of the Panzer Lehr Division and, since he knew the situation, was allowed to join a company of about 12 Type IV tanks which then advanced on Villers. Bocage to link up with the 1st SS Coy's Tigers in their counter-attack. Mobius had sent six Tigers into the town, two down each of the three streets which run east/west through the town while he followed down the main street. A good description of what happened in Villers Bocage is given by Lt Col Gordon in his citation for Major French: "While assembled in the square of the town a report was received that several Mk VI Tiger tanks were moving down the main street towards the square. Major French immediately ordered his Company to disperse into the houses in the side streets which overlooked the main road and to be prepared to take aggressive action. He then personally took a PIAT mortar and together with a small party armed with sticky bombs, went off further into the town in the direction from which the enemy tanks were approaching. He found four Mk VI tanks and one Mk IV in the main street and approached the leading one from a side street to within a range of twenty yards. He fired two rounds with his PIAT while his Party threw their sticky bombs. The results of this attack could not be observed but it caused one tank to move forward where it was driven on to the waiting 6 pdr anti-tank guns and the guns of our waiting tanks and completely destroyed. During this attack one of the enemy tanks blew down a house near which Major French was standing and he was wounded in the leg but in spite of this he returned to collect his Coy and take them to their allotted positions." One of the men who accompanied Major French with the sticky bombs was Sgt J Rowe MM and it should be noted that several other Queensmen were wounded when the house was destroyed. There is no doubt that a number of PIATs were fired at the German tanks from extremely close range in this battle and that sticky bombs were dropped from upper storey windows and thrown from ground floors. At least one Tiger and one Type IV were claimed by these methods, whilst the Anti-Tank platoon claimed four Tigers. Mr E Brown of the 1/7th Carrier Platoon has written that he personally saw one Tiger knocked out by a Battalion anti-tank gun in the middle of Villers and another Tiger hit at only 15 yds range by a 4 CLY tank.

Major Aird's version of events is as follows: "During the next four hours (author's note: commencing about 1300 hrs after A Sqn had surrendered) a curious battle developed, a battle which became a duel between Lt Cotton MM commanding a Troop of three Cromwells and a Firefly, with some infantry and anti-tank guns from the Queen's..... Cotton's own tank was a 95mm, not much use against armour, so he put it in a garage and conducted most



of the battle on his feet, merely using its wireless to give occasional orders." Despite this rather cavalier dismissal of a complete battalion of Queensmen and their eight 6 pdrs and the fact that Major Aird and Lt Col Gordon never even met in Villers Bocage that day, the combined force of infantry and armour fought well together. We have already heard from Mr E Brown how one German tank was knocked out by a 4 CLY tank and even Major Aird, whilst claiming two Tigers and a Type IV for his own men, does acknowledge that the Queen's destroyed one Tiger: "The first Tiger was 'killed' by a 6 pdr which Cotton directed on it!"

The 1/7th War Diary goes on to say that the rifle coys, after fighting the tanks in the town, then moved to take up their original dispositions and to cover the main approaches to the town, together with the Battalion anti-tank guns and B Sqn tanks. Major French's citation continues "On arrival the Coy again found a Mk VI tank approaching from the east and once again Major French personally led an attack on this tank and although his bombs failed to destroy it they caused it to change direction and move away." A Coy tried to get to the railway station on the south side of Villers but was held up by tanks and infantry; Major Hodgson was injured. C Coy took up positions in the north-east part of the town and D Coy was in the southeast sector.

Edward French was a lieutenant, temporary captain, acting major, when he was recommended for a DSO and finally awarded an MC for his actions on 13th June!

At 1430 hrs Brigadier Ekins of 131 Infantry Brigade arrived at HQ 22 Armoured Brigade after a short visit to CO 1/7th. Lt Col Gordon had told him that enemy infantry were beginning to infiltrate his positions and that he had nobody to cover a gap which had developed between the south and north-west edge of the town. The desperate need for more infantry was at last appreciated and at 1500 hrs 1/5th Queen's was placed under command and ordered to move into the town. Major General Erskine, GOC 7th Armoured Division, gave this order. The Battalion moved at 1515 hrs but the order had come too late. The remaining Tigers and fresh Type IVs, together with infantry from 2nd Panzer Division and a scratch force from Panzer Lehr, were too much for the meagre defences. As the afternoon wore on Lt Col Gordon, in desperation, drove back to report personally to Brigadier Hinde that unless he was reinforced his Battalion was in danger of being overwhelmed. At 1650 hrs Brigadier Hinde reported to GOC 7th Armoured Division that the position was 'unsatisfactory' and Erskine ordered a withdrawal from Villers Bocage, with the proviso that the high ground just to the west, Pt 174, should be held at all costs.

1 RTR, 1/6th Queen's, two anti-tank batteries of the Norfolk Yeomanry, 3rd Regiment RHA and most of the RNF Support Coy had been holding a firm base between Livry and Torteval since 1100 hrs. They were under the command of Lt Col Carver as Brigadier Ekins had apparently been cut off somewhere in the forward area; he did not reappear at his Tac HQ until the next morning. At 1700 hrs, only 15 minutes before 1/5th Queen's arrived, Hinde gave orders for 1/7th and B Sqn to withdraw and join what Major B E L. Burton, second in command of 1/5th, described as "most of the Armoured Brigade, less a battalion of tanks, the greater part of two armoured recce units and a regiment of Royal Horse Artillery" sitting only two miles west of Villers Bocage. At 2000 hrs 1/7th was in position on the high ground which it, with 1/5th and others, was forced to defend in a hard battle the following day. Morale was still high though due to the successes against the German tanks and would probably have been even higher if the men had known they had knocked out the greatest tank ace of World War II! The Germans had certainly lost four Tigers, Wittmann's and three from

Mobius's Company, and at least one, possibly three, Type IV tanks during the day. We have photographs of three of the Tigers and a Type IV taken by the Germans immediately after the battle and before the heavy bombing which took place later. Two of Mobius's Tigers were lost in the main street, rue George Clemenceau, and one in the rue Emile Samson. Total casualties in the Tiger Bn were 10 dead and 12 wounded; six of Mobius's tank commanders survived the Normandy battles, including Falaise, to fight again in the Ardennes.

Major General Gordon has told me that, as he stood at a road junction during that withdrawal, he heard mutterings to the effect that "The Queen's have never before been ordered to withdraw!" The fighting at Villers Bocage and on the following day cost 1/7th Queen's 128 casualties. 1/5th Queen's lost 6 killed and 36 wounded in the battle on the 14th June. A tribute to 1/7th appears in Max Hastings's fascinating book "Overlord": "There had been spectacular acts of individual heroism, many of which cost men their lives. The 1/7th Queen's, especially, had fought desperately to hold the town."

I will leave the final comment to Chester Wilmot in his superb book "The Struggle for Europe": "Thus the fruits of the initial success, which might have been turned into a striking victory, were handed back to the enemy. Erskine's troops had suffered no defeat after the first costly encounter with the single Tiger."

And what happened to Michael Wittmann, the man who halted and then paralysed the most famous Division in the the British Army and whose citation for 'Swords' to his Knight's Cross for his actions that day ends: "With the count of 13th June, Wittmann has achieved a total number of victories of 138 enemy tanks and 132 anti-tank guns with his panzer"? He was promoted to Hauptsturmführer (Capt) shortly after the 13th June battle but he and his crew were killed on 8th August near Caen when their Tiger was destroyed during a counter attack against the Canadians. Some historians say it was knocked out in a trap set by five Shermans but a more likely version, written by Hubert Meyer, the Chief of Staff of the 12th SS Panzer Division in September 1991 and quoting two witnesses, says the Tiger was hit by a rocket fired from an RAF Typhoon which caused the tank to explode. The skeletons of Wittmann and two of his crew members were discovered by a French farmer on 23rd March 1983 on the spot where they had been buried 39 years earlier.

Readers may be interested to know that Viscount Cranley's family home was Clandon Park near Guildford. Clandon now belongs to the National Trust and houses the Regimental Museum of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

In writing this account I have used the following sources: The War Diaries of 7 Armoured Division, 22 Armoured Brigade, 131 Infantry Brigade, 1/5th, 1/6th, & 1/7th Queen's, 1 RB and 4 CLY, a narrative of the battle written by Lt Col Gordon dated 18th June 1944, "The History of The Panzer Lehr Division" by Oberst Helmut Ritzgen, "The History of the 12th SS Panzer Division "Hitlerjugend" by Hubert Meyer, Michael Wittmann's citation for 'Swords' written by Sepp Dietrich, Major 'Tiny' French's citation for a DSO written by Lt Col Gordon, Lt Col Burton's "Diary of a Regimental Officer of 131 (Queen's) Brigade, Normandy", Chester Wilmot's "Struggle for Europe", an unpublished "History of the 7th Armoured Division" by Capt M Lindsay and M Johnson dated Sept 1945, "The Desert Rats" by Major General Verney, "The History of The Queen's Royal Regiment" Vol VIII by Major R C G Foster, "Out of Step" by Michael Carver, "Desert Rats at War" by George Forty and "Panzers In Normandy" by Eric Lefevre.



I would like to thank the following for their help without which I could not have written this story: Major Christopher Milner, a survivor of A Coy 1 RB on 13th June, for providing me with personal accounts and other valuable information, Mrs Daphne Hill for providing me with a host of essential material and important personal contacts, Oberst Dieter Bechtold of the German Army for sending me German accounts of the battle including one first hand report by the commander of a Tiger, Lt Col Les Wilson for providing contacts and archive information, Major Generals Desmond Gordon and Michael Forrester, commanding 1/7th and 1/6th Queen's respectively on 13th June 1944, for their valued comments and the following former members of 1/7th Queen's for some fascinating first-hand reports: Mr Gordon Courchee, and Mr Peter Hoggarth, the Battalion Adjutant and IO respectively in June 1944, Mr H Buckland and Mr W Murfitt both of the Anti-tank Pl, Mr J Rowe MM of C Coy, Mr E Brown of the Carrier Pl and Mr D Summers of D Coy.

### *Pristinae Virtutis Memor*

MFR

#### **Anzio**

Anzio, which the historians say could rank as the most terrible of all the battles in Western Europe during the Second World War, cost British and American forces 7,000 killed and more than 36,000 wounded during its four months slaughter 50 years ago! The 56th Division, which included 169 (Queen's) Brigade, was so badly battered in three weeks of combat there that it was sent to the Middle East to rest and refit, before returning to the war in Italy later in the year.

The Queen's brigade, comprising 2/5th, 2/6th and 2/7th battalions, had previously suffered heavily on the Garigliano and Damiano front and when 2/5th Queen's, for instance, sailed for Anzio from Naples on 17 February 1944, it was on only a three-company basis, "D" Company having been disbanded because of heavy casualties on the Damiano feature. The division was commanded by Major General G.W.R. Templer, who after the war earned fame as the "Tiger of Malaya" for his campaign against Communist insurgents there,

An American colonel, Carlo D'Este, author of a history of the Anzio campaign, "Fatal Decision", in 1991, lists the Allies' consumption of ammunition by type. Twenty four weapon types are quoted and the highest totals were: 1,633,402 rounds by 105mm howitzers, 577,653 grenades, and 62,822,996 of .30 calibre cartridges,

Col. D'Este says: "Resupply at Anzio was maintained by use of 1,500 21/2 ton trucks reserved for this purpose, a great majority of which were dedicated to carrying ammunition. These trucks embarked fully laden with approximately five tons at Naples and were unloaded and driven to the appropriate ASP where they were discharged. By employing a four-day turnaround system, 350-400 trucks per day carried 1,750-2,000 tons of stores and ammunition to Anzio... It was the first mass employment of the roll-on, roll-off concept."

Personally, as orderly room sergeant of 2/5th Queen's, I spent most of my time on the beachhead in a farmyard within sound of the sea. Somebody before me had excavated a dug-out 3ft underground in which I established the battalion office when it became too risky to operate from my truck. The Americans had a couple of 5.5 guns in the farmyard and did a lot of night firing, blowing out my hurricane lamp in the dugout with their blasts. I still have a letter sent home, dated 25 February 1944, which says: "The gunners near me have a tame goose which never turns a feather when the whoppers are fired.

The concussion shakes my truck but the goose carries on sleeping on one leg by the side of the gun pit. The other day a foolish Italian allowed his sheep to stray among the Army and several animals came to a hasty end. We had one in the Mess and when the beast was ready for the pot it was only as big as a hare. When I asked the mess cook when we were going to have the mutton for dinner he said 'You've had it.' Apparently the sheep featured in the stew we had had for tiffin". - Why a shepherd stayed in a nightmare of shelling and cruel death is beyond belief.

The Germans had excellent observation from the Alban Hills and there was nowhere out of range of their guns. As casualties mounted, a "Q" Company was formed from B Echelon personnel, and they in turn contributed to the daily toll.

After the division was evacuated to Naples I wrote home: "A couple of days ago I had an amazing experience and one which you may envy". I had a bath and began by undressing completely and throwing away everything I had been wearing with the exception of my boots and braces. After the shower I was presented with a new towel to dry myself, new underclothes, new pullover and finally a new battle dress, so that I emerged with a complete change of attire. I've never known the Army to give so much away in one go. The idea was, of course, to give the men who had been in the front line for weeks on end an absolutely new beginning."

Captain P.N. Tregoning's, history of 2/5th Queen's, put the battalion casualties at 113, against 208 at Salerno and 391 in the Gothic Line. When we arrived back at Naples, Vesuvius was in full eruption, its lava flowing red down the mountain. Somehow it seemed appropriate.

LWG

#### **Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society**

The Autumn meeting of the society took place at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 6 October 1993. On this occasion we suffered the worst weather conditions for some years. Perhaps some of our members had a touch of *deja vu* as the numbers playing were reduced to 12 the lowest for some years. Everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves and under the circumstances some very creditable scores were returned. The hospitality of the Woking Club as usual was of the highest standard.

#### **The Results of the Competitions were:-**

Autumn Bowl	M.J. Power Esq	68 Net
Glasgow Greys Cup	Major R. Green	75 Net
Heales Memorial Trophy	H.P. Mason Esq	35 Net
Veterans Halo	Major W.J.F. Sutton	43 Net
Petri Plate	H.P. Mason Esq	68-71=139

#### **Aggregate Spring and Autumn Meetings**

P.M. Foursomes 14 Holes	Lt Col P.G.F.M. Roupell and M.J. Power Esq
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The winner of the Society sweep was Lt Col B.A. Hannaford. Joint runners up were Major V. Sheppard and Capt B.A. Scripps.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Richmond on Thursday 5 May.

The Autumn Meeting on Wednesday 5 October at Woking.

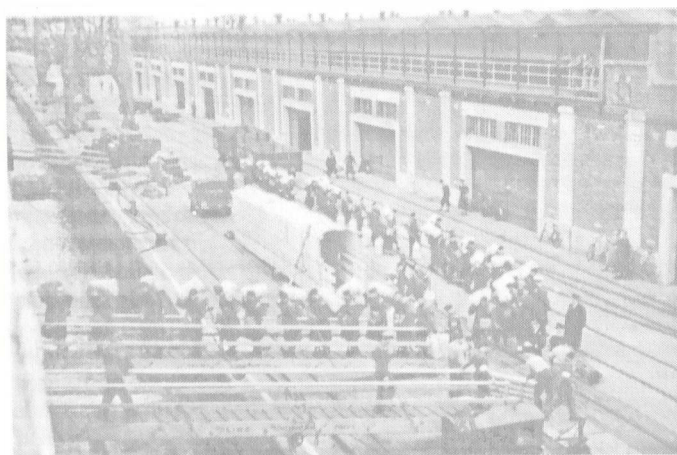
The Royal Marines match will be held at Fleet on 24 May. Please try and attend our meetings this year, we need your support.

## Forty Years Ago

*The following article was written by Colonel John Davidson, then a recently joined subaltern from Sandhurst. Colonel Davidson & Brigadier Mike Doyle both joined 1 Queens just before the battalion sailed for Malaya in January 1954 on the HMT Georgic.*

Forty years ago I had just been commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment and today, as I write, it is the 40th anniversary of the 1st Battalion's embarkation for an operational tour in Malaya and Singapore that would last until early 1957. I have a few faded photographs, some two hours of 8mm cine film which I have recently converted to video and the personal diary written by Mike Doyle throughout the tour. What memories.

Mike and I were commissioned into the Regiment together in July 1953 and, after the usual YOs courses, we joined the 1st Battalion at Maidstone just before Christmas. The Battalion was in the charge of the 2nd XI, the CO, Company Commanders, CSMs and other key personnel having gone ahead to prepare for training the Battalion in the mysteries of jungle warfare. We had an interesting start. Our first rocket was received on Day 1 for failing to stand to attention in the Adjutant's presence in a local Pub the previous night - the fact that we had never seen him before was, apparently, irrelevant. I then upset C/Sgt Bill Elkins, who was acting CSM of D Company, by appearing for the first time on parade to meet my new platoon wearing a medal ribbon. He evidently thought it quite improper that an officer cadet should have received a Coronation Medal! Most of the Battalion was on embarkation leave, but the available subalterns, in accordance with custom, were busy packing the silver. Why such beautiful, delicate and valuable property was entrusted to someone who knew absolutely nothing about packing, was beyond me. 30 years and 19 married quarters later I might have done it better!



*A Company embarking*

An abiding memory of the journey with the Battalion to Southampton was at Waterloo East. Mike Doyle and I, as the two junior regular officers, were put in charge of the Colours for the journey. Gerald Sharpe, then a short service officer, had the Colonel's Colour. We detrained at Waterloo East, but Gerald had not perfected the technique of getting a six foot colour in its box out of a railway compartment. He got stuck, but the train wouldn't wait and Gerald was last seen leaning out of the carriage window shouting "help" as the train, with only him and the Colour aboard, disappeared towards Charing Cross. Somehow they were recovered and made it to Southampton and we all embarked on *HMT Georgic*. We sailed on 20th January 1954 with all the pageantry that was traditional. The Band of *HMS Victory* on the quayside played us away. And then

a tiny little boat, flying an enormous Regimental flag, with Brigadier Pickering at the helm, escorted us out to sea.



*HMT Georgic leaving Southampton*

There was something magical about sea trooping. I was an old hand at it having made six troopship journeys before and during the war, the last some ten years earlier in October 1943, on the *SS Orduna*, returning to England from South Africa, via the Suez Canal (for some inexplicable reason). That journey took 8 weeks and only half the convoy survived the German U-boat and dive bomber attacks. No such risk on the *Georgic*; the only serious hazards were alcohol poisoning and Ian Beattie. Ian was the Ship's Executive Officer. He undoubtedly improved the ship's bar profits and was the life and soul of the party particularly on the piano, which he played noisily, if not beautifully - but he had the irritating habit of regularly putting Doyle and me into "close arrest" for such trivial offences as interfering with his playing! We did a little simple training aboard, shooting at balloons from the stem and PT, and inspected soldiers' feet. We caught a tan, drank plenty of beer and had lots of fun and laughs, not least when Paul Swanson, in the course of auditing Alan Jones's accounts, accidentally threw his false teeth out of a porthole! It required a major logistic operation to get them replaced at Colombo. Fortunately we had some of our wives aboard to add tone and make sure we behaved some of the time.

At Aden, Ghulam Hassan, the Contractor, appeared to measure the officers for our tropical uniforms. We could not possibly disembark in issue Jungle Green. He reappeared with the Pilot in Singapore on 12th February laden with one beautifully tailored and starched suit per officer, so that we should march from the quayside to our transport looking a credit to the Regiment. But it was pouring with rain, so we might just as well have been in the issue kit! I still remember vividly the smells associated with the Singapore monsoon. I knew India, but the smells as we drove to Changi were different.

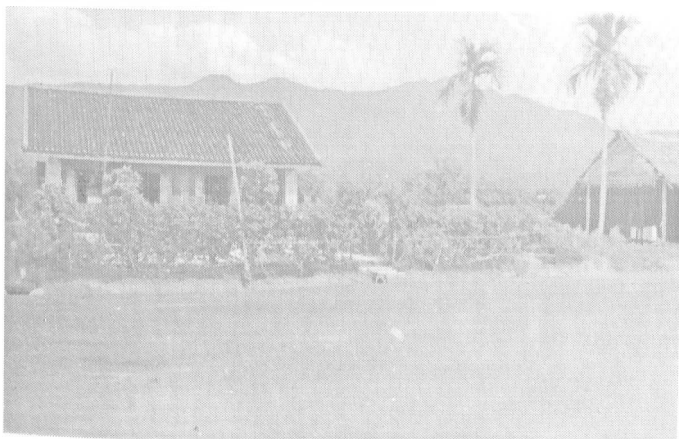
The first sight of Selarang Barracks was memorable. I had heard a lot about it and the signs of its period as a Japanese POW camp were clear. Particularly, the neat rows of oblong patches on the square where the prisoners' latrines had been filled in and asphalted over. I remember visiting the battalion dentist and suffering the excruciating pain of a pedal operated drill.

The ten day period we had in Selarang was the first chance for me to meet some of the key members of the battalion who had been on the Advance Party: amongst many others, the Commanding Officer, Francis Piggott; D Company Commander, Mike Lowry; the CSM, Frank Bohm (who sadly died at the beginning of this year) and my 10 Platoon section commanders, Cpls Chinn, Mann and Bacon. It was a time to shake off the sea legs and get acclimatised. It was



also a time for administration. Terry Mulady was appointed Pets Officer and Neil Frame, the MO, acting on Part I Orders, despatched his pets William and Mary in a matchbox, complete with PULHEEMS, for registration. They were geckos, but unfortunately, in transit, Mary had eaten William. Needless to say, time was also found to sample the delights of such as the Seventh Story Hotel and Bugis Street.

Three weeks Jungle Warfare training followed at Kota Tinggi. To most of us it was new and exciting. We were told that there were CTs in the area, but it wasn't one of those that I first encountered. I led my first patrol into a hornets' nest and, suffering over 100 stings, became the platoon's first casualty. I never want that again. We trained hard and I soon learned that in my platoon I had a superb team of NCOs and men, mostly National Service. Mike Lowry, my company commander, was a seasoned jungle fighter and a thorough trainer. He led from the front and I counted myself fortunate to have been in his Company. Others were not so lucky.

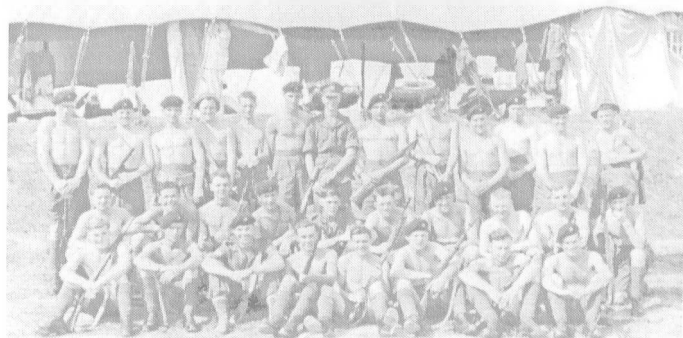


*D Company Officers Mess - Ayer Tekah  
(Mount Ophir in the background)*

On 25th March 1954 the Battalion moved to a large operational area covering North Johore, Malacca and Negri Sembilan taking over responsibility from I Gordons. D Company went to a base camp on the Ayer Tekah Rubber Estate, near Asahan in Malacca. Our territory included the whole of Mount Ophir, a steep jungle covered mountain rising to 4,187 feet and covering an area of some 50 square miles, a very large area of lallang (4ft high grass) used as an artillery and mortar range, a fair amount of swamp and plenty of 'clean' and 'dirty' rubber - the former leaving one very exposed and the latter, covered in thick secondary growth, very tough going. The camp was an old rubber factory. The main godown was used for most central activities, cookhouse, canteen, recreational area; the platoons lived in "godolphins" - a fancy name for corrugated iron huts; the officers and sergeants each had a small bungalow as a Mess and we had the "Ayer Tekah Stadium", a half size and very uneven football pitch. Another of my company commander's attributes was his enthusiasm as a cricketer, and so a concrete net was added to the Stadium. We had some good cricketers in the Company and Ted Dexter, later to play for England, was our supporting Armoured Car Troop Commander, so the net was well used between patrols. Ted and I were both selected to play for the State and the Malayan XIs, and valued the practice in the net. I should add that Mike Lowry was kind enough to arrange 10 Platoon's patrol programme, all else being equal, around the State cricket fixture list!

On 18th April, I was sent with my platoon on detachment to the Tanah Merah Estate on the southern fringe of Mount Ophir. We were to remain there for three months. This was

an exciting and successful time. It included my 21st birthday. I had met some planters on the nearby Dunlop estate and they had arranged a party. But that afternoon some hot information came in and 11 Platoon, commanded by Sgt Last, joined us. I briefed the platoons for an operation departing at 0300 hrs and forgot about the birthday party. When a planter arrived to collect me, I said I couldn't go, but Sgt Last, who seemed old enough to be my father, said: "Go on, Sir, you are only 21 once. Be back by 0200 hrs and I will lead the platoons out". I arrived back paralytic, was dressed and led off (with my rifle unloaded). All I can remember of that day was being led through waist deep swamp and on reaching dry land being called forward by silent signal and asked by Sgt Last if I thought this was a suitable area to set up base camp. I said "yes" immediately, whereupon my batman, Pte McGinty, built a basha round me and I slept until fit to reassume command the next day. A few days later we took a re-supply air drop and included with the rations was a bottle of Vat 69 whisky with a label round its neck from Alan Jones, the Battalion Intelligence Officer, saying "Happy Birthday".



*10 Platoon, D Company*

But I digress from the serious business of jungle warfare. On 12th April, Mike Doyle, commanding 4 pl, B Coy, had the Battalion's first success by killing two bandits. My Platoon was to get the next three: one on 21st April, the day after we moved to Tanah Merah, shot at 80 yards by Cpl Chinn; and two in a night ambush on 7th May, shot by Ptes Bignell and Hanney at five yards. Mike Doyle's diary entry that day reads:

*"That means that it is the two new officers from Sandhurst who managed to get the first three bags!"*

My platoon had missed a terrorist in an ambush a few days earlier and I still have the handwritten letter from the Commanding Officer. It reads:

*"Many congratulations on your latest success: a single, a two - perhaps a four or a six next time, now that you are getting your eye in? I gather you dropped one in the slips two days ago, but this makes amends!"*

He continued the cricketing analogy by offering to propose me for membership of the Free Foresters and then arranged for me to play in a qualifier in Singapore in July.

The monotony of continuous patrolling, was broken up by platoon sporting activities and the occasional curry lunch - cooked by the dhobi who was better at it than the cooks or charwallah. Any variation in activity was welcomed. On one patrol in Mount Ophir we came across an elephant. Pte Mount was all for taking it on with his bren gun. It was a magnificent beast and appeared to have no intention of harming us. I didn't think it would react too kindly to the bren, so we backed off. We also had our first casualty - on the range. Our regimental cook decided to look up after

throwing a grenade and was hit in the shoulder. I operated with a penknife and the cook, whose name I forget, was delighted. He kept the piece of shrapnel and no doubt he now shows it and the scar to his grandchildren recounting tales of war! The dreadful business of keeping score, and the rivalry between 4 and 10 Platoons, continued. Mike Doyle's diary again:

*"We got 3 out of 4 CTs in an ambush on 20 June, putting my personal score to two above John D. However, he has done very well today (23 June) equalling the score. We have each got five now out of the Battalion score of 13, so Sandhurst is doing remarkably well".*

The 10 Platoon action on 23rd June, an attack on a camp in Mount Ophir, was successful, exciting and dramatic. I still have the red starred hat of the State Committee Member (Brigadier equivalent) that we killed. The events of that day are all brought back to me vividly as I read again the account of the attack in the Regimental Journal. As this brings out the problems, excitement and frustrations of a small jungle operation, the article is reprinted elsewhere in this journal. Forty years on, all the emphasis on kills and scores seems reprehensible. But at the time we were young, life was exciting and the adrenalin was flowing. Nevertheless, I, and no doubt every other decent human being, felt great remorse at the taking of human life however evil that life was. In quiet moments I used to think deeply about it, but never disclosed my thoughts perhaps for fear of being thought spineless. So I found it interesting to read that Mike Doyle had the same concerns and committed them to his diary:

*"I think deeply about killing people and war, and how wrong it was. I couldn't make my mind up at all. When one is actually here it does seem so necessary and the only way, however unpleasant it might be. What would happen if we didn't chase and kill CTs? They would merely mutilate and murder thousands until they had intimidated people sufficiently to declare Malaya a liberated area, kicking out or killing all Europeans in the process. One must kill, vile and ungodly though it is".*

We were soldiers carrying out orders in the advancement of British Government policy. And we were very successful.

The routine of jungle operations continued in the second half of 1954, but the rate of success slowed. In November, I started a three month spell at Tampin, running an NCO's cadre and training new drafts with Sgt Keith Yonwin and Cpl Walker, who was to become my MMG Platoon Sergeant in 1955. This was a welcome break and I much enjoyed the comfort and luxury of the Officers' Mess. It was also a chance to get to know other officers and senior ranks in the Battalion. These included a young signal sergeant, Les Wilson, who 13 years later was to become RSM when I was Adjutant and a company commander, and my Quartermaster 20 years later when I was commanding 1 Queens. I spent a period with the Fiji Battalion as part of a stock taking board. The Fijis were a marvellous lot. Great jungle soldiers and superb rugby players, but administration was not their strong point. The Board was somewhat confused on returning to work after Christmas to discover that the Fiji MT platoon had given the Signal Platoon a Jeep for Christmas and the signallers had given the MT a wireless set!

Back at Tampin, Neil Frame, our Scottish doctor who had earlier stolen the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey as a University prank, got me into terrible trouble with Cpl Stevens, the Provost Cpl, leading me "first footing" at Hogmanay. Mike Hare led me astray on a naughty expedition to Seremban. We never made it; I turned the borrowed contractor's car over on a bend just north of Tampin. How did Peter Durrant, the Adjutant, discover that I did not have a Malayan driving licence? More extra

orderly officers! Peter Mallett, our Padre, who had joined the Battalion with me on his first posting, often came with me on training patrols. He liked to lead patrols out of the jungle and was a fearsome little fellow with a Sterling in one hand and a compass in the other. He was also the Good Fairy in "Babes in the Ulu", the Christmas Pantomime written and directed by Don Donaldson, in which I had a minor part. We played at all the Company locations, bringing to an end an exciting, enjoyable and successful 1954.



*Peter Mallett - "A fearsome little fellow" in the Ulu*

The tour was to continue for two more years. Bob Hill was now in command. Oscar Palmer, Paul Swanson and Terry Mulady had taken over A, B and C Companies and Don Donaldson was running Support and Training Company. Mike Lowry was still with D Company. Mike Doyle left in March for the Depot in Guildford. Ian Beattie had moved to the Malayan Basic Training Centre in Singapore where he and Sally provided an hospitable, albeit sometimes dangerous, watering hole for those able to escape from the jungle. The rate of turnover of officers and men increased rapidly as National Service demob dates came round. And it is to these National Service men that I would like to pay a final tribute. With few exceptions they were magnificent. Many of the cockneys arrived with no conception of life away from street lights. We had spivs, teddy boys, graduates from Borstal and the Scrubs as well as country lads from the remoter parts of Surrey and Sussex. Almost without exception their sense of humour was irrepressible. They had no wish to be away from the comforts of home, yet they played their part with loyalty and professionalism. They kept me sane and did the Regiment proud. Of course the clock can never be put back, but wouldn't the country be better for the return of National Service?

JGWD

### From The Plains of Spain

Spanish Civil War veterans may not seem likely candidates for The Queen's Royal Regiment but nevertheless seventy of them were recruited in 1940 when 50 Middle East Commando was being formed by Colonel George Young of the Royal Engineers whose obituary was reported in the Daily Telegraph in January of this year.

Described as being "neither Communists nor Fascists, of little religious beliefs" the veterans had been conscripted to fight in the Civil War. After Franco's victory they had taken refuge in France and served in Syria before reaching Palestine. They are reputed to have been excellent soldiers while serving with The Queen's. 50 Commando took part in raids on the Dodecanese and in the battle of Crete where many of them were either killed or taken prisoner after the evacuation of the island.

R.F.



## The Queen's on Mount Ophir

This is the story of a patrol of 10 Platoon, "D" Company, who were sent out on a routine patrol to search a certain area for bandits on Mount Ophir.

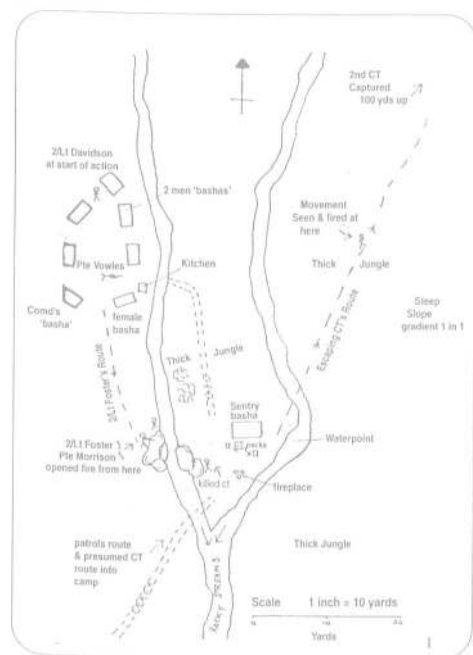
Mount Ophir rises to 4,107 feet, is extremely steep and is covered with primary jungle. There are many mountain streams strewn with huge boulders in steep valleys, vertical rock faces, and the going is extremely difficult. The bandits and the security forces always make jungle camps near water for obvious reasons.

At 0300 hrs., 22nd June, 10 Platoon set off. We were inside the jungle by first light, 0600 hrs., and after a strenuous climb to 2,500 feet, dropped some 200 feet into the valley of our objective. We "based-up" for the night 200 yards from the stream, and were preparing for the night when L./Cpl. Pitchers came in very excited from his local security patrol; he said that he had come across signs of C.Ts. In fact, these signs had been spotted by a surrendered bandit who was with us, and who noticed some shoots that had recently been cut from an unpleasantly thorny jungle bush; these shoots, he said, were cut by bandits for food.

We were certain that we were within striking distance of a bandit camp, and the next morning set off, leaving six men to guard our base.

The plan was to move down to the stream and, if we could find definite tracks, continue as one patrol of fourteen under the Platoon Commander, 2/Lieut. Davidson. If we could not find any we should then split into two parties, the second party under 2/Lieut. Foster (who was on his first patrol), and patrol up-stream, one patrol on each bank.

We did find a definite track, so



continued together. We moved very cautiously for about two hours parallel to the track in the hope that we would get into the camp without being spotted by the sentry. In this time we covered about 300 yards and suddenly came upon a camp that was deserted. It was a small camp for three men, and after searching it we found another camp for twelve, twenty yards away. While we were searching and destroying this, 2/Lieut. Foster and Pte. Morrison went to investigate a noise from the first camp. As the former clambered up a rock, a bandit put his head over the top and was instantly shot in the head by 2/Lieut. Foster, as he did so falling backwards into the stream. There were only three bandits in the camp and the other two attempted to fight; one fired one rifle shot which bounced harmlessly off a rock, and the other opened up with his tommy-gun or automatic; but, fortunately for 2/Lieut. Foster, who was only seven yards away, the first round was a misfire. He didn't try any more and both bandits turned and fled.

Meanwhile the remainder of the party, somewhat bewildered by the shooting, were just wondering whether we were attacking or being attacked when Pte. Vowles (now L./Cpl.), saw movement across our front on the steep slope above us; he fired but couldn't tell if he had hit. "Cease fire" was called and we found one dead body with

two packs in the middle of the first camp. The bandits must have come in just after us and they were starting to cook their lunch!

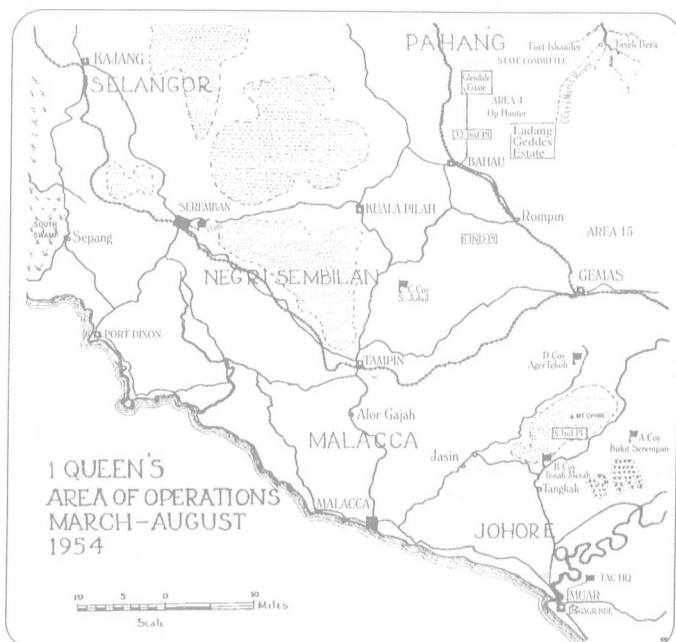
In order to find tracks of the escaped bandit, Pte. Vowles went back to his fire position and directed 2/Lieut. Davidson on to the spot; after a small search a footprint was found and also a drop of blood. Pte. Vowles had obviously scored a hit. With a small patrol we followed the footprints and blood trail and after going 150 yards we heard Chinese shouting in front of us. 2/Lieut. Davidson, seeing the outline of a man through the jungle, fired at him and we charged in. The C.T. was not dead and Pte. Vowles took the wise precaution of making a dive for his tommy-gun and grenade. He was very badly wounded; both his right ankle and left knee were shattered, and he also had a stomach and mild chest wound.

It took one and a half hours to patch him up and get him on to a stretcher. Meanwhile an Auster which flew over told us we were too high for a helicopter evacuation and so we decided to march him out.

By the time we had packed up our base and were ready to move we had only one and a half hours of daylight left and 1,100 yards of precipitous and thick jungle to traverse. Apart from our own kit and weapons, we had two men, their kit and weapons to carry.

That evening we only travelled 250 yards, and when it was too dark to move further we lay down for the night. It was a miserable night; it poured with rain and only by great care did we keep the wounded man dry. He was having regular morphine injections; even so, it was a miracle he was alive in the morning. It took us four hours to travel the remaining distance out of the jungle. We were still 800 feet up, but in open lallang (elephant grass), and as our captive had taken a turn for the worse, we decided to ask for a helicopter. He died before the helicopter arrived, and some ten minutes before the arrival of a carrying party from the Company. We had kept him alive for twenty-six hours, and all the Platoon had worked to their last ounce of energy to get him out. This was a very great disappointment; captured bandits are most useful for the information they are prepared to give.

Before he died he told us that the man we killed was a State Committee member who had been sent after a high-powered meeting three days before to reorganize the Tangkak District and take command of it. His documents, which were many, proved to be of considerable value. He was the senior C.T. killed in that area for three years; the other man was his bodyguard.



## 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. The first part was published in the November edition.*

### 1943 Wampo South - Building the Railway

It was twelve mid-night before a lumbering old wood burning locomotive hove into sight. Filling the flat, open trucks of the train we chugged slowly along up the continuously rising gradient over a distance of about ten miles to the end of the track so far completed. The short journey was not without some forboding; would there be any subsidence, we wondered, bearing in mind our earlier attempts at sabotage by burying the occasional rotten tree trunk when building the embankment! Although very rickety we arrived all in one piece at Aruhira, already rechristened Arrowhill by the lads. It was difficult in the black night air to see much, but there were indications that some sort of yards had been built here. The area was even more mountainous but, after marching in a steady climb for about four miles, we suddenly descended and arrived at what seemed to be a gravelly beach. A halt was called and then we learned that this was where we would be staying for the rest of the night, so I scooped out several handfuls of pebbles to accommodate my hips and settled down to sleep through the remaining hours before sun-up. When daylight dawned we found that the 'beach' was actually part of a dried up river basin and above, about one hundred yards away, were towering cliffs of solid rock rising above a sharp bend in the river. This was Wampo South, the first of a trio of camps - the others being Central and North - established for one of the most perilous and difficult projects on the whole line.

The cliff, which projected out over the river, was a major obstacle to the direction of the line and we were to join in the task of blasting the rock away from the top to create a ledge. A viaduct would then have to be built close in to the face, taking the track around the sharp bend for a distance of a quarter of a mile. It was a colossal job and, as we had moved into the camp that day and saw the thousands of men already at work completing the embankment that ran up to the proposed viaduct, I could scarcely believe my eyes. There were so many of them, just like a colony of ants as they toiled away silhouetted against the sky-line. The actual height would be seventy-five feet from the river bed and the supports made from green timbers cut down in the surrounding jungle, all to be erected without the aid of any mechanical equipment, just us and a few elephants. Work had just started on construction of the concrete base and blasting the rock on the cliff, the little men told us that the project had to be completed within three weeks, which everybody thought was impossible.

The main body of workers were housed in the other two camps, but we had been directed to a handful of very poor huts virtually on the work site. Twelve men squeezed into bays ten feet wide and five deep and everybody started work immediately, some going up on the rock face and the others to a woodyard. We returned in the evening to find all of the bed spaces occupied by those employed on the night shift, with whom the accommodation had to be shared.

High up on the cliff, pairs of men drilled holes one metre deep, one wielding a sledge hammer whilst his mate held the steel drill. It was hard work breaking through the granite and went on all day until, each evening, the engineers filled the holes with sticks of dynamite in preparation to blasting. This took place at 6.30pm and was heralded by the raising of a red flag plus the sounding of

a warning bugle, debris fell all over the camp and we had to take cover as best we could in the surrounding jungle. This heralded the departure of the night workers, who now climbed the mountainside and, under the glare of kerosene lanterns suspended from above, cleared away the loose material and prepared the ledge for the next day's operations.

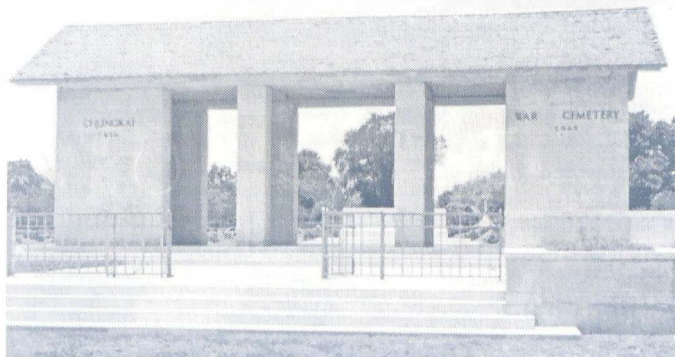
On our side of the river there was great activity at the woodyard. Felled tree trunks arrived by bullock cart from lumber gangs in the jungle and were then cut to length and shape, prior to being sent across the river for erection as the main viaduct supports. I found myself with a partner on a large cross-cut saw and we sawed away continuously on the huge lumps of timber which measured about a metre in diameter. As our pace slowed later in the hot, humid day we came in for much verbal abuse from our overseers who sometimes pulled one of the team away, sawed furiously and yelled out that Nippon were No.1 and we were No.10. After a few minutes we would be back and he resumed lolling in the sun!

When the timbers were ready three elephants dragged them on a sled to the edge of the river, from where they floated across to the site for erection. Another of their jobs was lifting and stacking accumulated stocks, the great gentle creatures delicately stepping between the rows of wood with ease. At night their mahouts securely chained each one to a stout tree, especially before blasting took place - they did not like this at all and bellowed loudly. Afterwards they were fed on the beach from large ration baskets full to the brim and then taken into the water to bathe, submerging their whole frame with just the top of the head protruding through the surface.

I suppose the most hazardous work of all was the actual erection. With the green timber supports wedged into position, cross piece supports, which were made from splitting saplings down the middle, had to be affixed with iron staples some nine inches long. This entailed perilous climbs on the flimsy structure up to seventy-five feet high to drive them into position, but it did not prevent the irate engineers striking blows up there if things were not proceeding to their liking. As the construction progressed it became quite obvious that there would be no platform on the top, just sleepers laid across from side to side to take the rails. Upon completion we walked over it, stepping from sleeper to sleeper; there was nothing in between to prevent a drop to the water far below.

### 1943/4 Chungkai - The Toll

As the railway work proceeded throughout the monsoon at even greater pace large parties of sick, the prey of many diseases brought about by malnutrition and overwork, arrived daily by barge. They suffered in the main from bacillary and amoebic dysentery, benign and malignant malaria, tropical ulcers, pellagra and beriberi. Most of



Chungkai War Cemetery



them were seriously ill and some found dead in the barges, the journey having been too much of a strain. Early in July one such party brought the startling news that cholera had broken out in a camp at the Burma end. One of the world's most infectious diseases, it spread with great rapidity to all the many camps that now existed along the Kwai. Water borne, all bathing in the river was immediately prohibited and the use of water strictly controlled. Furthermore, the Japs were prevailed upon to issue supplies of chloride which was added to all water, whether for drinking or washing. Food was also disinfected in the same manner and cans of treated water provided at the meal queues to enable the dipping of mess tins and spoons. The high degree of chlorination made the meagre meals even more unappetizing, but it was of course most necessary. All cases were isolated in special tented accommodation outside the boundaries, the brave doctors, and medical orderlies plus some volunteers staying there to treat them. A wasting disease, dehydration rapidly shrinks the body tissues and to counteract this it was imperative to pump saline liquid into the system continuously. For treatment some saline drips were made up and in addition the patients made to drink copious quantities of salt water - not an easy task when taking into consideration the vomiting and excretion common to the ailment. These were very contagious and the men nursing the patients, constantly exposed to the disease, were deserving of the highest praise. It was all most fearsome, a companion could be quite well in the morning, develop a fever during the day and, after being reduced to near skeleton, die the same night.

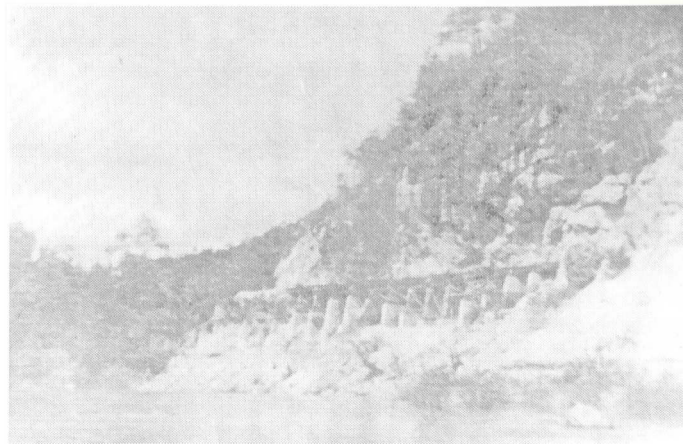
The epidemic raged for three months throughout June, July and August and many hundreds died before it finally petered out.

The barges continued to arrive bringing their dreadful loads of sick in the most appalling condition. Most of them came late at night and there was an eerie procession of volunteers who went out to meet them and carry the worst cases to the hospital huts. Many were suffering from huge ulcers, usually on the shins, the result of a combination of those deadly bamboo thorns and jungle conditions. In the tropical climate, with lack of facilities for proper hygiene plus the universal malnutrition, the original small sores rapidly developed into a deep ulcer. It was a major problem for the medics. Within days the wound would be the size of a fiftypence piece and after a couple of weeks would encompass the whole shin.

The man faced with the dilemma was Capt. Markovitch, a Polish/Canadian serving with the R.A.M.C. and he decided that the only way of saving lives was by amputation. There was no operating theatre, only a limited supply of anaesthetics and only a few surgical instruments but he went ahead and carried out sixty amputations during the next ten days.

### 1945 Final Savagery

As the Jap forces were driven further down Burma by the 14th Army, more and more working parties were being assembled to build routes through the jungle to facilitate their retreat. In March a group departed for an unknown destination, but it was believed that they went into the Mergui region where the work was to prove every bit as strenuous as that on the railway construction. To make matters worse they were stricken by a mystery fever from which few recovered - the death rate was alarming. 'Polly' Saunders and George Cast, two friends of mine from the East Surreys, lost their lives there. Polly had been my hut mate in Shanghai, the Chinese High School at Bukit Timah and also Tangjong Pau; George was a regular army



*Wampo Viaduct, Thailand*

sergeant who had returned home from Shanghai in early 1939 and then came back in charge of a small draft of militiamen who had followed us out in 1940. Both were quite well and in high spirits upon leaving Nakhon Pathom.

So remotely had the survivors of this final savagery penetrated the jungle that at the end of hostilities even the Jap Command HQ in Bangkok did not know where they were and it took an advance party of the British Special Services three weeks to locate them.

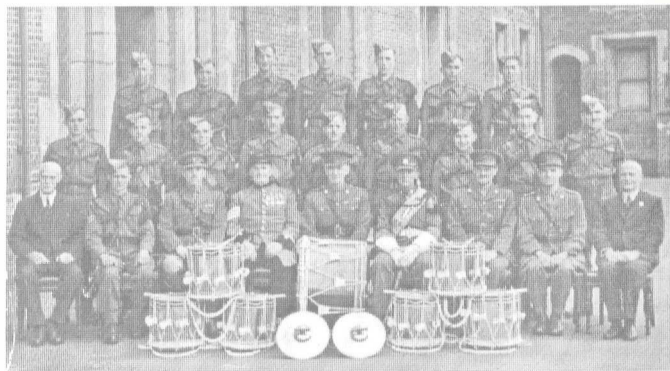
### 1945 Going Home

On the morning of the 15th September the great adventure started as we boarded the aircraft with no thought whatsoever of any danger, even though none of us had ever flown before. We would not have shown such equanimity if we had known that one of the twenty-five planes that had left Saigon was destined not to arrive at Rangoon and that all on board would perish, no such matters worried us as we filed aboard and took our places on the long aluminium benches that ran along the full length of the plane on each side. Everyone was given a blanket, for warmth at high altitude, and solemnly told that noses should be pinched and blown hard during ascent and again upon descending.

Once airborne we peered down and could see the jungle that had been our home for so long, stretching out below as we passed over the area traversed by the railway. There was a hushed silence as we all thought of the 12,364 companions we were leaving behind for ever; one life, it was said, for every sleeper that was laid on that accursed project.

JS

### From the Past, Dover Castle



*Re-Formation of The 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment 16th June 1942, Maj Gen Sir John Longley, General Sir Richard Foster Drum Major, Lt Col P H Drake Brockman, Lt Col C A Clark.*

Whilst 'B' Company 1 QUEENS SURREYS was serving at MUKEIRAS in ADEN during 1961, it was decided at a 'DEMOB' party of National Servicemen that those present would meet in four years time at 'THE WORLDS END', CHELSEA, on 2nd January 1965. Although this arrangement was only made amongst some fifteen people attending the party (Regulars and National Servicemen) it was heartening to find that twenty two of the old 'B' Company turned up for the reunion. The venue was chosen for its amusing name, but unfortunately it lived up to it so after a quick 'warmer into the bank' a 'rece party' was sent out to find another 'Pub' which could provide a suitable room to hold the celebrations. Fortunately this was found within four hundred yards and so the party moved to the more salubrious surroundings of the 'Man In The Moon'. A good time was had by all and after the success of this reunion it was agreed to hold a second reunion at the same venue in three years time and so on 6th January 1968 twenty members of the company met again and enjoyed another successful reunion.



Owing to the overseas postings of some of the regulars, some twenty three years elapsed before one of the National Service leading lights of the company (Jim Matthews) tracked down his old Company Commander (Geoffrey Mason) and organised another reunion. This time it was held in the heart of 'QUEENS SURREYS' land at the Shepperton Moat Hotel on 26th January 1991, which twelve members of the old 'B' Company with their ladies attended. Recognising each other after twenty three years was a slight problem but the time factor made the reunion even more enjoyable and so it was agreed that the reunions would be held at three yearly intervals from then on. As a result, on 5th February this year Jim Matthews organised another reunion at the Shepperton Moat Hotel which the following members of the old 1961 'B' Company 1 QUEENS SURREYS attended:-

Geoffrey Mason (Coy Comd)-	Now Living in Otley, Suffolk.
Keith Burnett (Coy 2i/c)	- Now Living in Benhall, Suffolk.
Paul Gray (Coy 2i/c)	- Now Living in London.
Keith Yonwin (CSM)	- Now Living in Verwood, Dorset.
Jim Matthews (6Pl)	- Now Living in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.
Alan Cruse (4Pl)	- Now Living in Peacehaven, Sussex.
Barry Pickford (4Pl)	- Now Living in Camberley, Surrey.
Bob Beaven (6Pl)	- Now Living in Bromley, Kent.
John West (5Pl)	- Now Living in Bracknell, Berks.
Brian Johnston (6Pl)	- Now Living in Camberley, Surrey.
Len Cabble (6Pl)	- Now Living in Basing, Hants.
'Tiger' Tyson (Coy HQ)	- Now Living in Steyning, Sussex.
Ken Hone (4Pl)	- Now Living in Addlestone, Surrey.

Sgt Eric Lockwood (6Pl) who attended all the other reunions was prevented from attending this one due to ill health, we wish him well.

As can be imagined the reminiscencing that went on after thirty three years was never ending and the reunion did not break up until 3am the following day! The next reunion will take place in three years time on the first Saturday of February 1997. All members of the 1961 'B' Company reading this are invited to attend and to contact Jim Matthews at 'The Pines', 1 Crossway, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 3JA - Tel. (0932) 221062, who will give them information about the venue and times etc. They are also asked to pass this information to anyone that they know who was in the Company at this time and who may not see this Newsletter.  
'The chaps love it'

GM

### The 1994 Calendar

Eagle eyed readers will have observed that January 1994 "lost" seven days on the calendar sent to you with the November Newsletter. This was NOT a deliberate mistake, and as it also lost the Editor's birthday he was not amused.

The Editor and George Harris the printer, having carefully checked the days and months of the year decided that it would be better to close the months slightly to make the finished article more pleasing. It was then that new technology, struck in the shape of a computer, "to compensate" we lost a week! The Editor and George Harris apologise to all who spotted the mistake. This error brought a couple of letters and two dubious poems one of which is printed below. With no Editorial comment!

### Amazing Daze

*Thirty days hath September,  
April, June and November,  
Most others have but thirty-one  
That's how the little rhyme should run.*

*But January's thirty-one seemed odd,  
So some deep thinking R.H.Q. bod,  
Used to forming ranks in threes,  
Has altered all things if you please.*

*Before our unbelieving gaze,  
He's taken out a whole seven days,  
And left the month with twenty-four,  
That's eight times three - no less, no more.*

*All tidied up, parade ground style,  
A happy man with happy smile,  
Who thought that nothing could be better,  
Went off to Press with his Newsletter.*

X.Q. Rayter

### H M Queen Mary

During the last war Queen Mary, who was Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Regiment until her death on 25th March 1953, supervised a knitting guild to provide comforts for her Regiments. It is on record that Her Majesty gave 106 scarves to our Battalions. We have no idea if this is correct. Would any reader who may have received one, or knows of others that were given a scarf inform Mrs Penny James c/o The Regimental Museum, Clendon Park. (We know that her Majesty gave the officers of 2 Queen's wind-cheaters on the outbreak of war).



## Museum Notes

Richard Ford, who has been our Curator for the past six years, retired on 31st March and we are grateful to him for all that he did during his term of office. Mrs Penny James, who was his assistant, has been appointed by the Trustees in his place. We welcome her, already well known to many, together with Mr Roy Harding as the new Museum Assistant. We know that the Museum will be well served by this strong team there is a great deal for them to do!

We have had a particularly successful cleaning season during this immediate past winter closure period and we are grateful to all the willing helpers, particularly the new faces, for their dedicated hard work. All medals have been cleaned, mostly by Roy Harding, and the opportunity has been taken to remount the greater part of our collection.

We are particularly grateful to Colonel Toby Sewell for producing the new and updated Museum Guide and Brochure. It will look particularly attractive with many photographs. Colonel Anson Squire, aided by Major Peter Hill, have whiled away their leisure hours by producing a booklet "Algiers to Tunis" a worthy addition to its companions. It is available from the Museum.

Our superb collection of unit and regimental photograph albums, carefully indexed by Colonel Anson, continues to be a source of great pleasure to those who peruse them, not least by those who can show their wives what fine figures they were forty years ago. Daphne Hill, indefatigable as ever, continues to apply herself to anything that needs to be done and her attentions have been directed recently at sorting our collection of buttons and badges. We are hoping to purchase a computer in the near future with a view to storing the vast amount of factual material we have in the Museum together with the details of our artefacts including medals. This will enhance our information retrieval capability and take us into the 21st Century. It will not, however, relieve our hardworking Treasurer, Graham Wenn, from his essential role and we continue to be in his debt for his conscientious guiding hand in our financial affairs.

We are grateful to General Desmond Gordon for presenting to the Museum a water colour painted by his driver, Private Tom White, when Commanding 1/7th Queen's depicting the battalions final position along the River Garigliano in 1943 before they were withdrawn to the UK in preparation for D Day. We have also acquired an important collection of the private papers of General Sir Edward Hamilton, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1920. These papers include a personal account of his life from 1854 to 1944, details of his service in India, South Africa and Sierra Leone, scrap books, the original letters written to his father from India, collectively provide a fascinating insight into aspects of regimental soldiering including campaigns on the NW Frontier of India, the Boer War and social activities between the years of 1879 and the outbreak of the Great War.

PAWGD

### Stopping the rot

Recently, as part of the National Trust's building maintenance programme, routine examination of the Regimental Museum at Clandon was made for traces of dry rot. The Curatorial staff were somewhat surprised when the examiners announced their intention of "putting a sniffer dog through" but assumed this to be a trade term for a highly technical piece of modern equipment. But no, in trotted a golden labrador retriever who joyfully whizzed round the premises emitting occasional barks which were treated with due reverence and interest by his handlers. Thankfully, the "dry rot dog detective" passed the Curatorial staff without sound.

RF

## Dear Editor,

On retiring from the post of Curator of the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park I write to thank Association and Committee Trustees and Members and all other persons who made my six year term of office so enjoyable and a time on which I shall always look back with happy memories.

The handsome various presentations which I received will have honoured places at home and, as an ex Naval man, I shall be making frequent reference to the very fine volume entitled "Nelson's Navy" which I received from the hands of Colonel Peter Durrant, Chairman of the Museum Trustees at the delightful farewell party where my wife also received a greatly appreciated bouquet of flowers.

As an honorary member of the Regimental Association I shall be keeping in touch and I wish every success to the Museum under its new Curatorship and management in the future.

*Richard Ford*



*Richard and Mary Ford*

### HMS Queen Charlotte

The parts played by The Queen's Royal Regiment on board HMS *Queen Charlotte* and other ships at The Battle of The Glorious First of June are well known, passing into history and eventually resulting in a Battle Honour. But what of "Charlotte" herself. A 100 gunner, built in 1790 she was blown up by accident in 1800 after giving ten years honourable service to the Royal Navy. Considering her armament, wooden structure and the elementary, fire precautions of the times her fate is not surprising. This information was obtained by me from the the book "Nelson's Navy", a very fine volume presented to me by the members of Clandon Museum on my retirement in March. So I'm "ploughing my profits back in".

Richard Ford

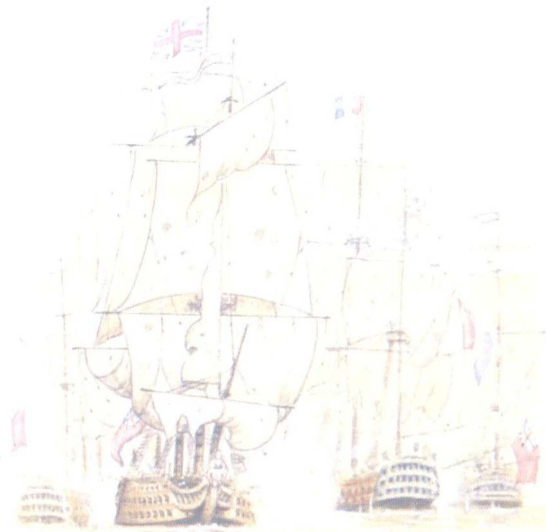
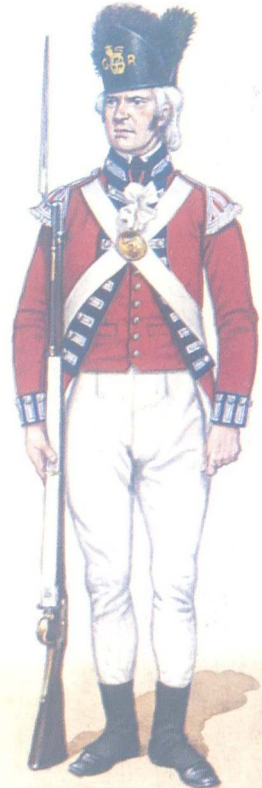
### Retirement

The end of the Summer Season at the Regimental Museum, Clandon saw the retirement of Harry Southcott who has been the cleaner there for eleven years. Although a very much "behind the scenes man", his work has always been of the highest standards and the resulting bright and sparkling appearance of the Museum has frequently brought favourable comments from visitors and members of the public. At a Xmas function at the Museum Harry, accompanied by his wife, re-joined old friends and was presented with a box of wines by Colonel J.W. Sewell on behalf of the Trustees and all at the Museum. Paying tribute to Harry's work, Colonel Sewell wished him and his wife a long and happy retirement, to which Harry made suitable response resulting in warm applause.

RF







## The Glorious First of June 1794

On the outbreak of the Revolutionary War with France in 1793, Admiral Lord Howe, a former First Lord of the Admiralty, was appointed to command the Channel Fleet which comprised 26 sail of the line and 7 frigates. A French fleet, which set sail from Brest at the end of May 1794 to support and act as escort for a valuable convoy due from America, comprised the same number of ships of the line and 5 frigates. The French Admiral, Villaret-Joyeuse flew his ensign from the 120 gun "*Montagne*". Howe's ensign was hoisted on the first rate 100-gun HMS "*Queen Charlotte*". During the last decades of the eighteenth century it was the practice to supplement the meagre Marine establishment on HM ships with Infantry Regiments and the Queen's Royal Regiment was chosen for duties on the following ships

*HMS Queen Charlotte*  
*HMS Russell, HMS Defence*  
*HMS Royal George and HMS Majestic*

When the two fleets came within 9 miles of each other the French Admiral declined to engage and turned about. Howe gave orders for his fleet to give chase and eventually forced an engagement. The bloody action which followed resulted in a resounding British victory on the 1st. June,

### The Officers' Plate

**The Central Motif:** The Naval Crown superinscribed 1st June 1794". Below the Crown is the regimental pattern gorget of the period. The gorget was silver but was changed to the universal gilt type in 1796. **Top Left:** The silver cross belt plate. **Top Right:** A Regimental badge comprising the Garter with interwoven monograms of Charles and Catherine. **Figure Top Left:** A Grenadier Company Officer wearing the hat with a white plume in lieu of the dress fur cap. He also has two epaulettes with fringes, a distinction of the grenadiers. **Figure Top Right:** A Light Infantry Company Officer in a short jacket and scarlet waistcoat. He wears the fur crested "Tarleton" helmet with a green plume much favoured by the Light Infantry Officers of the period. The precise style of headdress of the Regiment is not known but this reconstruction follows the general pattern, much favoured, and shown in contemporary prints. Many flank company Officers adopted sabres. **Figure Bottom Left:** A Field Officer distinguished by two epaulettes with silver bullion fringes. **Figure Bottom Right:** A Battalion Company Officer with a single fringed epaulette on the right shoulder, the distinction of his rank. A Regimental distinction for Field and Battalion Company Officers was the black plume. **Central Figures:** A Grenadier Officer wearing his dress cap greeting a Naval Lieutenant. **Bottom:** A representation of the death of Capt. Neville on "*HMS Charlotte*". Mather Brown's painting clearly shows the two epaulettes and white plume confirming his distinction as a Grenadier Officer.

### The Other Ranks Plate

**The Central Motif:** The Naval Crown superscribed 1 June 1784. To the left the Other Ranks cross belt plate and to the right the Regimental Badge, the Pascal Lamb. In the centre the Other Ranks fur grenadier cap with a front plate taken from a rare contemporary source, a drawing by Agostino Brunyas, which shows a Grenadier of the 2nd Regiment in Jamaica where a detachment served as a guard to the island's Governor during the uprising by the Maroons. This is a unique example of a Regimental badge or device being used on this pattern cap. **Top Left:** A Grenadier wearing the hat, habitually worn for everyday duties on ship. **Top Right:** A Light Infantry company private in the short jacket and red waistcoat which distinguished them from the remainder of the regiment. Note the leather cap which is of the universal pattern worn by Light Infantry of the period. **Bottom Left:** A Sergeant of a Battalion company armed with the crossbar pike prescribed for his rank in January 1792. **Bottom Right:** A Battalion company private. All NCOs and men of the Battalion companies had white plumes with blue tips, a regimental distinction. **Centre:** "*HMS Charlotte*" passing between the "*Montagne*" and "*Jacobin*". **Bottom:** A naval member of a gun crew relaxing against a 32 pounder.

### The Glorious First of June

Events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy ought not to cause neglect to another historic date important to The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Glorious First of June, 1794. On this day 200 years ago, when Britain was at war against the French Republic, the Regiment was on board the fleet in a battle in the Atlantic off Ushant. Eleven enemy ships were destroyed and ten dismantled. The regiment possesses a fine painting of the death of a Queen's officer, Lieutenant Neville, in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Lord Howe, on board his flagship, *The Queen Charlotte*.

The name of the flagship was afterwards changed to *Excellent* and the Queen's have kept in close touch with all the *Excellents* through two centuries. This comradeship was very evident on the 150th anniversary, in 1944 in the Middle East, when 169 Queen's Brigade was being rested and reinforced after evacuation from the Anzio beachhead with heavy losses. By good fortune, HMS *Excellent* was part of the Naval presence in the Mediterranean and the ship sent a cricket team of officers and ratings to oppose a Queen's team at the newly opened Alamein Club in Cairo. Among the senior officers who attended was

an action which has been known, ever since, as "The Glorious First of June". A notable incident in the action was the breaking of the French line when the "*Queen Charlotte*" passed so close under the stern of the "*Montagne*" that the French ensign actually brushed her lower rigging. She raked the French with a broadside through the stern and then engaged the enemy on the leeward side before her guns could properly be brought to bear.

The Regiment served with such great distinction in this battle that it was duly authorised to wear the Naval Crown, superinscribed "1 June 1794", as a Battle Honour on the Regimental Colour. Each year the Regiment celebrates the great victory with the officers and men of the Royal Naval Gunnery School, Portsmouth. Mather Brown's excellent painting of the death of Captain Neville of the Grenadier Company in the presence of Lord Howe commemorates the battle and has always been greatly valued by the Regiment.

British casualties in the action were 222 killed and 700 wounded and a total of 1,148 for the entire operation. The French losses were much greater. On six captured ships alone the killed and wounded totalled 1,270. Upwards of 2,000 were made prisoner and their total loss was some 7,000 officers and men.

General Sir Harold (later Earl) Alexander, C in C Allied Armies in Italy.

In the ante-room to the throne room in St. James's Palace there once hung on either side of a portrait of King George III two large marine paintings, The Glorious First of June, by Philip James de Loutherbourg, and The Battle of Trafalgar, by J.M.W. Turner. The *Queen Charlotte* is shown with her fore-topmast broken, and in the foreground are several small boats full of sailors from wrecked warships. It is a dramatic picture, and Christopher Lloyd, surveyor of the Queen's pictures, says of it: "The facts of the battle are accurately recorded, but it is what is happening in the foreground that is most important. This, in human terms, is where the drama really lies and where the individual is confronted by fate. The artist emphasises the individual's personal sacrifice in battle."

Both paintings remained in St. James's for only a few years. George IV gave them to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, where they are now displayed. The King did not think much of Turner's "*Trafalgar*", HMS *Victory* being shown too high out of the water, and Turner felt that this failure cost him a knighthood.

LWG



## A Day Out With Daphne - A Hill On The Western Front

"Why don't you come with us?" she asked. "Where?" I enquired. "You see, I've applied for this cheap Channel crossing offer from (a well-known daily tabloid) and I thought we could nip over to Belgium and pay our respects to Hill 60"! When you know this lady as I do, the proposition of a day trip to Ypres is not the logistical nightmare it might be to the rest of us. So I readily agreed and my faith was not misplaced because we had an absolutely marvellous day.

I have visited Hill 60 twice before, wearing a different hat, and, together with Montauban and Newfoundland Park on the Somme, it is one of my favourite places on the Western Front. It has always troubled me that there is no mention there of the enormous bravery and sacrifice of the East Surrey Regiment and the gaining of three Victoria Crosses (Lt Roupell, Lt Geary and Pte Dwyer). On this visit we placed two poppy crosses on the hill for our personal remembrance and wandered over the crater-dented mound to the pillbox where a Veteran friend of mine spent many days firing at the enemy only 150 yards away. Hill 60 poignantly illustrates for me the whole ghastly business of the gaining and losing of such small areas of land which characterised much of the fighting during the First World War. Because the countryside around Ypres is so flat, one can understand how the possession of this small bump, created by the spoil from the excavation of a railway cutting, could give a birdseye view of the area for miles around including the town of Ypres. In 1915 alone, the struggle for Hill 60 resulted in the 5th Division losing 3,000 men.

Our pilgrim party consisted of Daphne Hill, her daughter and granddaughter and myself. We enjoyed a comfortable drive on those traffic-free motorways from Calais to Ypres (only 62 miles) with a stop in an "aire" for our picnic. Here we were subjected to a few loud hoots from passing lorry drivers and eventually realised that we were parked on the slip road to the car park, not in the car park itself. "Tant pis" (too bad) remarked our driver, "after all, we are foreigners".

Daphne drove like a homing pigeon straight to the back of the Cloth Hall in Ypres and to within a few feet of a welcome public loo. She had arranged for us to meet Tony De Bruyne, former Curator of the Salient 1914-1918 War Museum in the Cloth Hall and now a Director of The Documentation Centre. The Centre houses the libraries of Dr Caenepeel and Rose Coombs who is a well known authority on the First World War. The staff has done a wonderful job of documenting and cataloguing these large collections for the use of researchers. We had time before our meeting to visit the chocolate shop in the square and the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate was as always, very moving and sparked off much reflection and discussion among us.

Tony De Bruyne generously gave up his afternoon to us and after showing us the Documentation Centre he taxied us out to Hill 60, Hooge Chateau, where the enemy used flamethrowers for the first time, and Bedford House Cemetery (this at the special request of Sam, Daphne's granddaughter, who had not visited a war cemetery before). Here I found the grave of Lt Col W H Paterson, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, who was killed on Hill 60 on 20th April 1915. We signed the visitors book which is so important. Some of the smaller cemeteries may have to be closed because of lack of funds for maintenance. If it should come to this, the decision will probably be made on the basis of numbers of visitors. Each cemetery has its visitors book together with the register of graves lodged behind a small metal door in the stonework usually near the entrance. Our day

in Ypres ended with a delicious, calorie-blowing tea of apple tart and cream in a pleasant cafe on the square.

The contrast between the efficiency of loading on to the ferry at the Dover and Calais ends was very obvious. It was definitely loaded in favour of Dover. On our return to Calais we had to submit to a lengthy and inexplicable progression round the huge "parade ground" (our driver's name for the ferry port car park!) before we eventually approached the booths where all passports were being checked.

Peter and Daphne Hill had kindly offered me an overnight stay with them which I gratefully accepted as we did not reach base until 23.15. I enjoyed a most comfortable night in Peter's study on a camp bed which had seen service on the North West Frontier of India and being surrounded with other Regimentalia I felt very much at home.

PS - "Commissioned in the Field" - I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed to take over the Curatorship and Administratorship of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum following the retirement of Richard Ford. I look forward to welcoming lots of you this season. I think that you will agree that the Museum reflects the care and devotion lavished on it by our team and the generosity of our donors. We need a large volunteer base to help patrol the Museum during the open season and would be delighted to hear from anyone who could offer an afternoon occasionally, especially at weekends and Bank Holidays.

PJ

## Presentation



The directors at Gilbarco Ltd of Basildon Essex recently presented a copy of Dr Angelo Pesce's book 'Salerno 1943 Operation Avalanche' to a former private in 2/6th Queen's, Les Crowe. Les served in 17 Platoon, D Company and was wounded on the 14th April 1945. Les is seen here on the occasion of his 70th birthday being presented with his book which had been personally inscribed by Dr Pesce who had also arranged for the book to be sent direct from Naples to the Directors of Gilbarco Ltd for the presentation.

## 'The Surrey Star'

In looking through the Newsletter of November 1982 I noticed it was stated that 'The Surrey Star' was only worn by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. However I do recall that some time after Lt Col N B Brading had taken command of the 2/6th Battalion in August 1940 the badge was adopted and was worn on battle dress by All Ranks of that Battalion on both sleeves beneath the divisional flash.

GLAS

## 1993 East Surrey Reunion

The 1993 East Surrey Reunion held at St Johns Drill Hall Clapham on 16 October was an outstanding success. The new Secretary, Tony Ramsey, had put a great effort into advertising the event and 260 attended - more than double the recent average. An unexpected number bought their tickets at the door and so bar and buffet were under heavy pressure.



*Two brothers from 1/6 Battalion ESR*

The minor delays and shortages caused by the very success of the evening were totally offset by the excellent atmosphere of comradeship and great good humour. Extracts from this letter from Tony Ramsey tell the story:

*"I was very proud to see the Drill Hall filling up with the old East Surreys. Within an hour it was clear that the Reunion was fully back on the road. The fall in numbers in previous years had made us think we might have to call it a day, but 1993 has changed all that. Surreys came from far and wide including Canada, Germany, Wales, Devon and Cornwall.*

*I was practically pushed into the job of Secretary, but I must say I have enjoyed every minute of it, and it was great to see that the hard work of the committee had produced such a grand result. Apart from the support of the Association Chairman, Olly Hyman and Treasurer, Fred Jenkins, I must particularly mention Mrs Kathy Bedford who has been a tremendous help in handling tickets and application forms - something she has done for the last 19 years. Well done Kathy! Others who regularly help at the reunions themselves are Gladys Wyers and Kathy's daughter and son-in-law who run the raffle which is always a great success.*

*I am grateful to all those who turned up for making my first year as Secretary such a success."*

Kathy Bedford, who is the widow of John Bedford who set up the Reunion Association, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a cheque at the Reunion to express the thanks of the members for all her work over the years.



*Sam Dickason (our only in-pensioner, Chelsea Hospital) with Lt Col Peter Roupell*

The 1994 Reunion will take place at Clapham on Saturday 15 October.

**For all those born before 1945,**

Consider the changes we have witnessed!

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses and before the Pill, radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, ball-point pens, pantyhose, dishwashers, electric blankets, air-conditioners, drip-dry clothes - and before man walked on the moon. We got married first and then lived together. How quaint could one be! In our time, Bunnies were rabbits and rabbits weren't Volkswagens: and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with your cousins!

We arrived before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. Before day-care centres and group therapy. Folks hadn't heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness - not holiday homes, chips were pieces of wood or you ate them with steak, hardware was the store where we bought nuts and bolts and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, Made in Japan meant junk and the term "making out" meant how did you do in your exams. Pizzas, MacDonalds and instant coffee were yet to be created. There were 3d and 6d stores where you bought a variety of items for 3d and 6d. Ice cream cones cost 1d and wafers cost 2d. For 1 shilling you could ride a tram all day, make a ten minute phone call to Eire, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail 8 letters or 12 postcards. You could buy a new Ford for £125, but who could afford one - which was a pity as petrol was eleven old pennies a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking put you in the fast track, "grass" was mowed, dope was the kid in your class who always got the wrong answer, speed was fast highway driving, coke was a cold drink and pot was what you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were poorly paid helpers.

Thank God we knew the difference between the sexes but we were before the sex-change operation. So we made do with what we had. We were the last generation that was dumb enough to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are confused and there is a generation gap, but nevertheless..... WE SURVIVED!!!

ANON



## 50 Years Ago

This account records something of the preparations of 131 (Queen's) Brigade for the Second Front in June 1944.

**7th Armoured Division returns to UK.** 131 (Queen's) Brigade, a pre-War Territorial brigade, consisting of the 1/5th Battalion (Guildford), 1/6th Battalion (Bermondsey) and 1/7th Battalion (Southwark) had been part of 44 Division when it left the UK in 1942. They fought with this division at the Battle of Alamein in October 1942. Shortly afterwards they were transferred to the 7th Armoured Division (the Desert Rats) as their lorried Infantry Brigade. After crossing the Western Desert to Tunis, they relieved 169 (Queen's) Brigade at Salerno in September 1943. This relief in battle of one brigade by another of the same regiment had never happened before in British military history. These two brigades of The Queen's Royal Regiment led the advance of the 5th Army across the Plain of Naples and beyond.

On 5th November 1943, the 7th Armoured Division was transferred to the Imperial Strategic Reserve prior to returning to England. Preparations were in full swing for the invasion of North West Europe and it was essential that some divisions with battle experience should be included in the invading armies. In the small hours of 4th January 1944 131 Brigade arrived at Gourrock on the Clyde in cold and rainy weather. The men and baggage were landed by lighters to board a very long troop train, leaving at 0740 hours via Glasgow, Edinburgh, Doncaster, across to Lincoln and Kings Lynn, arriving at Hunstanton on 6th January after nearly 60 hours in the train. The bleak midwinter no doubt was an unwelcome shock for the Desert Rats.

**131 Brigade in Norfolk.** The men were in billets - the 1/5th and 1/7th in Hunstanton, and the 1/6th in Kings Lynn, 17 miles away. The 1/7th had their headquarters in the Station Hotel and their Officers Mess in the Golden Lion. The men were mainly in civilian homes, local halls and schools. The 1/7th were in a girls school near the sea front, which was very bleak and barren. After a sort out and clean up, the newly designed Rat shoulder flash was issued. It looked more like a Kangaroo than the familiar Desert Rat, and a number of old ladies with memories of the First War thought the Australians had arrived. Once everyone was spruced up, the Battalions went on leave. Some soldiers were to marry their sweethearts who had had a long and anxious wait since the men went overseas in 1942. Others went home and were soon enjoying wartime England to the strains of such popular songs as

*'That certain night, the night we met  
There was magic abroad in the air'.*

The Quartermasters had to get used to the UK accounting, coal rations, food rationing, in fact to adjust to the Home Scale. No desert free-and-easy ways now. The cooks returned to coal burning stoves in the cookhouses, a change from cooking meals in the open and the use of hay boxes to convey food to the companies and platoons.

Altogether the Queen's were very lucky as the 'other lot' were out on Thetford Heath in tumbledown Nissen huts with few amenities, not even a pub nearby. That was the luck of the draw! Passes were given to the Hunstanton chaps to visit Kings Lynn where occasional weird cries in Arabic could be heard, and a certain amount of buck was passed when rubbing shoulders with the black beret boys from the other Brigade. As well as the pubs to meet in, there were hops in the village halls and the cinema to visit. The LNER ran leave trains to London at concession rates for the soldiery. A pass to London to see a show, perhaps?

Pat Kirkwood and Vic Oliver were on at the Hippodrome. Someone remembers that Pat's legs made a great impression! Joe Loss came up with his band and put on a show. The local squire laid on a dinner dance for the officers in the Leicester Arms. One blade, while dancing with the squire's daughter, was asked if he got much hunting. As a veteran of the chase since Alamein, what did he reply? Some photos have come to light of a Sports Day run by the 1/7th before they left the area. The RSM was wearing a large notice proclaiming he was the Chief Announcer! It must have been a fine day as the regimental pianist and a drummer are playing in the open, while 'Nutty' Edwards with a patch over one eye and a scarf round his head appears to be running a 'Nutty' sideshow. The brief respite was running out, and Battalions held final Church parades before leaving the district.



RSM Jack Groves MM

**Preparations for the Second Front.** Meanwhile reinforcements arrived to bring the battalions up to strength. Among them were a number of Canadian officers, three or four to each battalion. There were still several South African officers serving, so the messes took on an Imperial touch! A lot of activity was going on. Training started on 31st January 1944 - at this stage mostly drill and weapon training. Ranges to fire weapons were few and hard to come by. The training areas were also restricted and very different from the Desert. A large pond in the amusement park at Hunstanton was used for training with collapsible boats. Exercises 'Shiver' and 'Shudder' with tank co-operation took place. Very apt names for such unpleasant operations during a Norfolk winter. New vehicles had to be drawn from Ordnance to replace those left behind in Italy. Carriers came from Grantham, motor cycles from Chilwell and all types of 3-tonners and 15-cwt trucks from Northampton. They needed to be adapted to their new role. As the models were different, the drivers had to acquaint themselves with their characteristics.

When on the line of march a lead singer would start the singing. Everyone knew the words and joined in. When in the pub or in the NAAFI round the old joanna, the singing would raise the roof'. Remember this one?

*'The other night, dear, as I lay dreaming  
I dreamt that you were by my side.  
Came disillusion when I awoke, dear,  
You were gone, and then I cried.*

*You are my Sunshine, my only Sunshine  
You made me happy when skies are grey.  
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you.  
Oh, please don't take my Sunshine away'*



These were good songs of love and home, especially those of Vera Lynn, with rolling out a certain barrel for good measure. When the chaps got home from abroad, they found 'Lilli Marlene' generally unknown, but not for long. The lady soon took her place in the Hit Parade later in the year.

**Regimental Visits.** On 11th February, Major General Erskine, the GOC of the 7th Armoured Division addressed all officers in the Mudford cinema on the nature of the coming battle, with a rough outline of plans and training required. On the 17th February, General Montgomery



*General Montgomery accompanied by Lt Col D S Gordon inspecting 1/7th Queen's. 17th February 1944.*

visited the Division. The day was cold and wet, but the Guard of Honour provided by the 1/6th Queen's was highly praised. Then on 24th February, His Majesty King George VI visited the Division in a field at Sandringham. One of the South African officers serving with the 1/7th



*1/6th Queen's. General Salute for General Montgomery. Kings Lynn. 17th February 1944.*

with bayonets fixed. One company commander remembers it well. The cobbled stones were very slippery and it was alarming when the soldier in front of him kept slipping - the only time during the war when he was in danger of being bayoneted - and that by a member of his own battalion! Before returning to Norfolk in their TCVs the detachment played the Guildford Fire Brigade at rugger - and lost!

On 11th March the Commanding Officer with 70 of the Bermondsey Boys, accompanied by their wives, sweethearts and mothers, attended a reception given in their honour by the Mayor. John Snagge, BBC Announcer, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The CO gave an interesting account of the fighting the 1/6th Queen's had been involved in since they had left for overseas in 1942.

The 1/7th Queen's were invited by the Mayor of Southwark to a sit-down lunch. Among the dignitaries present was the then Minister of Labour, Mr Isaacs. The CO gave an account of the Battalion's doings in North Africa and Italy. He told them the story of the 6-pounder anti-tank gun which had been presented by the Canadian Government to commemorate the gallant action of the 1/7th's Anti-Tank Platoon at the battle of Medenine, and how, with no authority, he arranged for the gun to be hoisted on board the ship taking the Battalion home from Naples. On arrival, the Regiment decided to place the gun on view at the entrance to the barracks at Guildford. At this, Mr Isaacs jumped to his feet and protested that 'our' gun should be displayed on the steps of Southwark Town Hall!

**Waterproofing.** In late April the vehicles had to be prepared for waterproofing to enable them to 'swim ashore'. It was a dirty and tedious job, involving a special compound and rolls of hessian. The exhaust was extended up in the air to the appropriate height, using convoluted hard rubber piping. The air intake was dealt with in the same way with a small breather pipe joined in from the petrol tank filter. Petrol tank, batteries starter motor and any live electrical gear had to be effectively sealed, and items of cargo carried in the vehicle itself had to be waterproofed. Drivers as well as MT Workshops were involved, the drivers in their own interests were anxious to get it right! The River Wessex was dammed at Stoke Ferry which made a convenient trial crossing ford. The vehicle was driven through, slowly at first, and then quicker so as to create a wave. A driver of the 1/7th remembers one of the tracked vehicles stalling, and trying to get a tow rope on to it in the freezing water. Eventually the waterproofing was



*Lt Col M Forrester presenting Lt P Toolan MM to HM the King 24th February 1944.*

was presented to His Majesty. He was so thrilled that he 'phoned his father in Cape Town to say he had shaken hands with the King of England! Sadly, he was killed in Normandy. The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Ivo Vesey, and the respective Honorary Colonels of the Battalions also paid visits during this period. A Russian Military Mission was much impressed by the smartness and turnout of the Guard of Honour, mounted again by the 1/6th Queen's.

During March a representative party from each Battalion visited its home town for a civic reception. The 1/5th marched through Guildford on 4th March 1944. As the Freedom of the Borough had already been conferred on the Regiment, the detachment marched down the High Street



completed just before embarkation, and, when the time came, most vehicles made it to the beach.

**Sealed Camp (S5) near Brentwood, Essex.** Seven days leave started on 1st March, with an additional 48 hours on 26th April. On 8th May the battalions moved by transport to a dirty tented camp at Thornden Hall. The camp was isolated among trees and surrounded by Dammart wire. From 26th May the troops were confined to barracks, with members of a Vulnerable Points Section, Corps of Military Police (wearing Blue Cap Covers) guarding the only gate into the camp. There were not many places one could go to, so most of the battalions stayed put. In one battalion the officers put on a concert, and ENSA laid on a show. Men were marched out to the local cinema to see the films. 'The Green Man' was not far away, but drink was in short supply in those days. Inevitably some chaps got bored and decided to get out for a breather. One crowd was lucky. Having got out by the way of the golf course, they reached the pub only to find it full of Military Police! Fortunately they just turned their backs. Another lot was not so lucky. They bumped into the Brigade Major playing a round of golf and got 'jankers'. One of the officers who had been visiting his sick wife found on his return that the camp had been sealed. The Blue Caps would not let him in, so he went round to the back of the camp and charged the Dammart wire on his motor bike. He got in, but the bike did not! One Commanding Officer, somewhat inadvisably, had taken his dog, Rags, with him. It was not long before puppies arrived. What was he to do? After discussion with higher authority he was allowed to take them home, where his mother-in-law was told it was part of her war effort to look after Rags and the puppies.

**Embarkation and forming up at sea.** On 25th May, the officers were briefed in the Brentwood cinema for the task ahead. On the same day Battalion vehicles were lined up in their loading order on the Southend Arterial road (A127), leaving only half the dual carriage-way for moving traffic. The road was marked out ready for the drivers to return and move to Tilbury Docks when ordered. On 31st May the loading of vehicles, some on American Liberty ships, started in the Docks. One of these was the 'George Wythe', or MT 24 as she would be referred to in the huge fleet forming up in the Channel. Loading was completed by the 1st June, a significant day for the Queen's. It is of interest that a company of the 30th Queen's became the Ilford Company for duty with the 3rd Stevedore Bn, Royal Engineers, and possibly assisted in the loading of 131 Queen's Brigade vehicles and stores. The River Thames was now full of liners, cargo ships, large and small coasters and, most important of all, the Royal Navy escort vessels were in position. Fortunately there was no enemy air attack at this time.

**The Landings.** D Day had been fixed for 5th June, but owing to the bad weather forecast, it was postponed for 24 hours. The sea was rough when our ships weighed anchor and pulled out to join the never ending convoy. On 6th June John Snagge announced on the wireless that the first troops were ashore in Normandy, and that the Second Front had opened. The convoy lay off Southend for the night of 6th June, and next day passed through the Straits of Dover protected by a dense smoke screen laid on by our aircraft, warships and smoke floats. The German guns from France fired regularly, but few hits were registered. All troops were now fully briefed in the part they had to play. On 7th June the ships anchored off Spithead and that night sailed across the Channel to the Normandy coast. While at sea the Queen's Brigade received a signal from the 1st Bn The Queen's (Lt Col HG Duncombe) at Kohima, in wishing the Brigade good luck in the great adventure ahead of them. The Commanding Officer of 1/6th Queen's

asked the Captain of his ship for permission to fly the Regimental flag- request approved.

**Operations ashore.** The 1/5th was the first Queen's battalion to arrive off the beaches on 8th June, and they disembarked about midday. The next to land was the 1/7th at 1600 hours. The troops had to wade ashore from their landing craft. These two battalions marched to the concentration area round Pouligny, north of Bayeux, and dug themselves in as there were still elements of the enemy in the area. The cooks managed to brew up some tea, but it was too risky to cook a meal.

Although the 1/6th had also arrived on 8th June, they did not start unloading until 0930 hours on the 9th. During the 9th and 10th the first line transport had joined their battalions and 131 Brigade was ready for action. The Brigade moved on 11th June through Bayeux and deployed round Nonant and Blady, with the 1/5th forward, followed by the 1/6th and 1/7th. Defensive positions were then dug.

**Subsequent operations.** The Brigade crossed the River Seine on 31st August 1944 and the advance into Belgium, Holland and over the Rhine into Germany had begun. Much hard fighting would ensue however, before the Victory Parade took place in Berlin in 1945.

### Post Script

What memories there are of the great events of 50 years ago, yet do we all recollect the same things? One is reminded of Maurice Chevalier's famous song from Gigi 'I remember it well', -

*'We met at nine,  
(No, it was eight).  
I was on time,  
(No, you were late)  
Both: Ah yes, 'I remember it well!'*

Memories may become blurred with the passage of time, but the one feature that never changes is the comradeship which supports and sustains men in war, whatever the conditions.

The following books were consulted and most can be obtained from the Public Library.

The History of The Queen's Royal Regiment Vol VIII by Major R C G Foster, MC  
The Desert Rats by Maj. General GL Verney, DSO, MVO  
History of the 7th Armoured Division, 1943-1945 by Capts Lindsay and Johnston.  
Overlord, D Day and the Battle for Normandy by Max Hastings.  
And We Shall Shock Them by David Fraser  
The Turn of the Tide by Arthur Bryant  
Crusade in Europe by Eisenhower  
The Struggle for Europe by Chester Wilmot  
The Memoirs of Fd Marshal Montgomery  
Private letters, telephone calls and Regimental Journals.

Thank you to those who helped

Maj Gen M Forrester, CB CBE DSO MC, Maj Gen D S Gordon CBE DSO, Col C H Nice TD, The late Lt Col B E L Burton and Maj J T Peasley Maj D Watson, Maj D Grant MC, Maj A S Playfoot MC, Capt A R Lugg, Capts J B L Ainsworth, P Hoggarth, C H Courchee, P Knight, W E Morris, R Clark, D Mitchell, H G Birwell, E Pickard, D G Coles MM, J G Rowe MM, H Buckland, the REME Museum.

DH

## D Day

While our eyes are focused on the D Day landings and all that it entailed we are apt to forget those at home that made all this possible! The 30th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment provided a company to act as dockers at Tilbury.

The re-constituted 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment ran 3 camps under the auspices of 21 Army Group and had the task of preparing and running a camp marshalling sub area at Harbledon in Hampshire for the invasion of France. The Battalion threw itself whole heartedly into this necessary duty, and did all it could to give the more fortunate units taking part in 'Operation Overlord' the best possible start on the great adventure. Major B K Favelle recalls he ran a camp at Petersfield.

## Rupert goes to Guildford

These were no butterflies that were attacking my insides, they must have been crows. I had taken all precautions - my hair had been cut, apart from a steam iron, I had only brought what I had been told to bring and I was smartly dressed. But as I approached the gateway the crows were having a field day. Suddenly all the stories I had heard about the horrors of doing one's National Service looked as if they were about to come true. The barracks looked formidable and both the Sergeant and the Corporal that he was talking to looked awesome.

The Sergeant looked up as I approached, all the while trying to avoid his penetrating stare. "Welcome to the Queen's Royal Regiment lad, don't worry you are going to enjoy yourself here. Now follow Corporal Upfold and he will show you to your barrack room. Later you will fill in some forms and when that is done you will get your kit issued. Any questions?" The relief was intense. Good grief this demi-God that gleamed in front of me all polish, creases and shine was human and sounded friendly. A good man Sgt Cager.

I cantered after Corporal Upfold and walked half round the camp to some lofty old Victorian barrack blocks. We went up a wide set of echoing metal ribbed stairs to the first floor and into the barrack room where I would spend my time whilst doing basic training. There were some twenty beds each with a nasty little bedside mat, a wooden boot locker at the bottom of the bed and a green steel locker beside it. I sat on the bed and wondered what the future would hold. Looking round the room there were two or three other nervous faces adopting much the same pose. Soon halting, hesitant conversations started, but there was an air about the place that indicated that any moment the executioner would appear.

"GET OUTSIDE - NOW!" We scrambled to obey and clattered down the stairs in a mad dash to the roadway in front of the block. "Right, what we're going on with now is documentation. The Army wants to know all about you and it's going to put the results on fahsands of forms." With that we were marshalled to a hut on the other side of the parade ground. Once inside we were met with a series of tables and at each one there was an NCO with an empty chair in front of him. The procedure was simple in the extreme. You went to the first table listened to the question, answered it and then moved to the next table. The army was quite brilliant at breaking down a complex operation into its basic, simple component parts.

The NCO's and clerks looked bored, they had obviously been doing this all day and were fed up with stupid recruits and their fatuous answers. Nerves were getting frayed. The next table I went to was overlooked by a red-faced overweight, and to my eyes, very old sergeant. He gazed past me with bored glazed eyes. "Name of father."

Now my family background has been the subject of much complication and normally requires a diagram or two to explain the intricacies of having a mother and father who divorced and remarried, a mother who died, a stepfather who re married, an adoption by my step grandfather and so on. So to answer the question, Name of Father, is not as straight forward as it might seem.

I looked the sergeant full in the face and began with determination. "Well sergeant I am not sure which one you want because I have three possibilities." Just as I was getting into full flow he raised a hand to stop me and then turning his tired watery eyes on me he said - "Listen son, I want the name of the man, who poked your Mum."

The Army certainly had a way of simplifying things.

When basic training had finished and Steve Petzing and I had successfully completed the War Office Selection Board we were, as potential officers, despatched to the Cookhouse for shifts of washing up which began around six in the morning and finished at about the same time in the evening. This was considered good training for potential officers.

The cookhouse was controlled by Sgt Keep. It seemed strange that someone from the Army Catering Corps could be such a strict disciplinarian - he even charged a member of the Vestey family for having badly repaired boots. Vestey at the time was going through a regime of blackouts to impress CSM 'Douglas' Fairbanks and the Army psychiatrists that the Queen's Regiment or any other part of the British Army was not the place for him. He would wait for an opportune moment, kick over a fire bucket and then quickly lie down to await discovery by a sympathetic passer-by. Sgt Keep was not in that category.

"Pepzin!" (he never quite got the hang of Petzing) "get on them tins." The tins in question were large ones full of grease and baked on goodies that Keep and his merry men had attempted to turn into black fossils during the cooking process. It was up to Steve and I to get the muck off with Soda crystals and wire wool. The tedium of the job led us to think up interesting, innocent ideas that would help to pass the time. Our favourite would be tried out on any newcomer. "Here, how would you like to have a go at beating the world record." The challenge was seldom turned down. It was simple in the extreme. We would help the poor individual hold two plates on the ceiling using two broom handles. When he was in position with arms outstretched holding the two broom handles vertical, which in turn kept two plates pressed against the ceiling - we would start to count and at the same time walk off leaving the poor unfortunate to his fate. The result was predictable. He would realise he had been had and attempt to catch the plates as they dropped. We never saw anyone who caught both plates - one would always crash to the floor and Sgt Keep could hear a breaking plate at three hundred yards. Another good wheeze was to remove one of the chains inside the conveyor-belt dish washer. The following tray of plates would go through the tunnel of steam at well over the national speed limit, smashing a complete rack of plates. But this tended to get Sgt Keep's blood pressure up to dangerous levels and so was only done when the going was tedious in the extreme.

Front of house - the dining hall was the responsibility of Cpl Reeves. To us he looked as old as time itself and had obviously been very active in the Crimea. Cpl Reeves had two interests and one hate in life. His interests were the horses and a quiet life. His dislike was Potential Officers. He would take up station sitting on a stool behind the servery with a constant large mug of tea at his elbow whilst deciding which piece of horseflesh was going to perform



a minor miracle for him. Our job was to prepare the dining hall for meals and at the end of meals to scrub the floor. Originally we used to scrub the floor by hand since Reeves thought we would ruin the electric floor scrubber if we were allowed to use it. But for some strange reason, this particular day he said that I was to use the Electric machine to scrub the floor. Now here was sport.

First I created a small flood, there is no point in doing things by halves. Next I uncoiled the very long cable, from the machine which I parked in the middle of the flood plain, to the plug on the far side. Then came the great moment to put the monster to work. I held on to the handle and at the same time reached down to press the start button. The sensation was definitely alarming. A zapping bolt of electricity went straight through me to my water encased feet and left me feeling quite stunned. Being young and fit, the shock and frizzy hair soon passed. But then I got to thinking....

"Steve, do you know how to start this thing?" It was spectacular. The height he jumped would have borne medal fruit at the Depot games. When he had recovered from the ordeal and stopped pursuing me around the cookhouse I saw that Cpl Reeves was still avidly reading the Sporting Life and supping from the outside mug. He had noticed nothing. "Excuse me Corporal, but I am not sure how to start the Floor Scrubber." He eased himself off the stool and slowly ambled over to the machine, mumbling "The trouble with you Potential Officers is - you're all as thick as pigs" or something like that. I watched fascinated as the fingers of his right hand curled around the handle. Slowly he bent over and his left forefinger touched the start button. ZAP! CRACK! POW! the electricity did its stuff and his aged frame arched under the power surge.

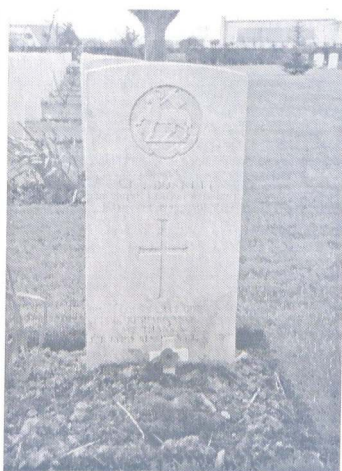
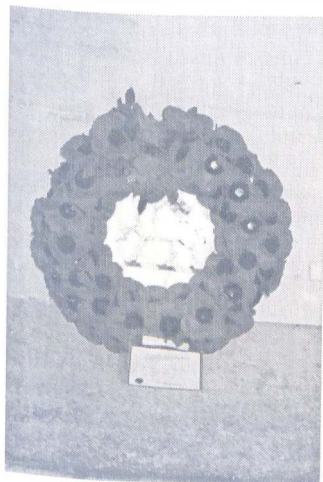
It was no good I could not contain myself, the laughter just would not stop. I was still having mild hysterics long after Cpl Reeves had recovered and had me marched to the cells where I was to be charged with electrocuting a non commissioned officer.

I wonder how they train potential officers today?

'Rupert'

#### Pilgrimage to Normandy - 1994

It being the 50th Anniversary of 131 (Queen's) Bde landings in Normandy I thought it a suitable time to visit three of the British War Cemeteries in Normandy. (The Association had given us two very nice poppy wreaths with the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the centre, and these were inscribed in 'Remembrance and memory of 131 (Queen's) Bde, June 1944'. The first wreath was laid in the 'Chapel' at Bayeux so it would be



protected from the weather. My supply of wooden crosses ran out, but every Queensman we found was listed and respects paid.

There were far more of our friends buried in Tilly-Sur-Seulles Cemetery. Here the gardener, English married to a French lady, had tended the graves for 30 years and felt he knew the men. He took care of our second wreath inscribed to the memory of those killed in 131 Brigade. Our wooden crosses had run out by now, but my daughter and granddaughter chased around in the wind and rain listing the names wherever they saw a Lamb.

We were looking for the grave of a South African officer Lt H R T Large, 1/7th Queen's, who in 'my story' I mention being introduced to the King. The gardener said he only knew of one South African and he was in Hottot les Bagues. I was able to take a photo of his grave in the hope that I can find a relative alive in Capetown. Capt P Toolan MM 1/6th Queen's is buried there. We hope to let you have our photographs soon in case we can trace relatives.

In passing I would like to mention Sgt Tidey, his grave had just been visited as fresh flowers were on the ground. Perhaps if readers recognise any of the attached names we would like to know in which battalion they served. It was of interest to us that we found one East Surrey in Bayeux. It was Lt Geoffrey Firth - He is mentioned in the Queen's History attached to 1/6th Queen's.

It was altogether a very moving experience for us all and we feel very honoured to have represented the Regiment and to have paid our respects to so many Queensmen of fifty years ago.

#### Bayeux Cemetery

Maj A C T Borrett 1/5th Queen's  
Maj Blessey 1/6th Queen's  
Lt G A Firth The East Surrey Regiment att 1/6th Queen's  
Maj Jeyns 1/6th Queen's  
Capt J H Kemp 1/7th Queen's  
Lt E R G Mayer 1/6th Queen's  
Sgt A A Tidey  
E Adcas  
R Alford  
W J Aubrey  
H Baxter  
J Bennetts  
G Barrow  
N Brooks  
E Burrows  
J Clark  
W E Cumming  
C Curtis  
H Ford  
E Foster  
E Goddard  
L Hurl  
C C Hindley  
D Hurst  
L Haworth  
F Hopkins  
J Hughes  
R Joel  
C Lewis  
G Langdale  
G Miles  
T McGregor  
A Palmer  
L T Wood  
J Reeve  
E Richer  
? Sissons  
S Sutton  
S Spicer  
A H Taylor  
L G T Tizzard  
C Woodrow

#### Tilly Cemetery

Maj T Adams  
Maj R Elliott 1/5th Queen's  
Capt D A V Lavers 1/5th Queen's  
L/Cpl R Price  
C Scriven 1/5th Queen's  
E Bonner  
J Breen  
L Bicknell  
F Brocklehurst  
J Barber  
W G Cool  
H Crugten  
J Chalk  
D Chowcat  
J Edward  
I Hughes  
T Jarman  
A Latty  
W Lovell  
V Lippett  
T Nicholson  
A Powell  
E Osmond  
T Sibley  
J Shelley  
J Smith  
W Smith  
E Stone  
E Williams  
3 Unknown Graves of Queensmen

DH



## FROM THE EDITORS POSTBAG

### Mr C Wilkes writes:-

I would like to thank you for the help you gave me for my needs. I have never been in a position when I have asked anyone for help. Now I am an OAP and live on my own and find it very difficult to manage and this was the reason for asking for your help. I am not very good at writing letters, but for your help and generosity I thought it only right that I should make the effort. Many thanks God Bless you all.

### L Wellbelove writes:-

Many thanks again for the Newsletter, I find it extremely interesting to read and mull over.

Half forgotten places and names spring from the pages and in my mind I am taken back once again to events and to good comrades, and to share the experiences of long ago soldiers and those of our new Regiment. Sadly of course the obituaries column bring, as the years go by, the names of comrades we have personally served with, the latest being Lt Col Culverhouse who I first knew when, as a young officer, he joined "D Coy" 6th Bn East Surrey Regiment at the Drill Hall, Orchard Road, Kingston. Please keep the Newsletters coming as I, like many others, like to be reminded of some of the most rewarding, in terms of comradeship, and exciting days of our lives.

### V Kearslake writes:-

I was a Corporal in 2/7 Queens Carrier Platoon and I write to thank you for my copy of the Newsletter. I find it very informative and it makes the memory move backwards recalling good and bad, hilarious and sombre times in those historic and fateful days.

### Jock Stewart writes:-

I am at present in a support role, a serving member of the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, so the article on "soldier fireman" in the November issue made interesting reading. Also in that particular issue was a photograph of Dorock (Del) Gardner, this brought memories flooding back. Del may be interested to know that I have in my possession a photograph of Del and Bill Rippon on the round the island race whilst the regiment was stationed in Hong Kong 62/63.

The photograph shows Del and Bill looking completely knackered. Bill Rippon is sitting in the back of an open Landrover passing a water bottle to Del Gardner who is

hanging on to the rear of the vehicle looking like he has not the strength to reach out for it. Although I was not a participant in that race I seem to remember being part of the party that was formed to search for a participant that had gone missing, not I hasten to add from our regiment, I believe he was found by a helicopter crew suffering from a broken leg or other injury.

### Brigadier Michael Perrett-Young writes:-

Many thanks for your good wishes via Bill, and also for the excellent Newsletter.

Bill Roadnight had told me about the Cup, and I am glad you found such a good home for it. I enjoy his annual visit up here, and you can be sure that between times he keeps me up to date on Regimental happenings! I enclose two slides of 1 Queen's Malaya 1954-57, which may be of interest, although please don't feel any compulsion to use them for the Newsletter.

One is a Sunday post-prandial group outside the 'Officers Mess' at Simpang Rengam - front row: Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Bill Peet, Margaret(?) Dinsdale, Captain Johnny Hayes, Norman Dinsdale (Manager of the Pineapple Estate on which we were based). Centre: Ken ? (Reporter from a Surrey newspaper). Back row: Captain Ted Orme (Paymaster), Major Cyril Grindley.



The second is a 'Where are they now' picture of the MT detachment with D Company (Major Edward Clowes) at Tampoi near Johore Bahru.



Further to RF's item 'From Bassingbourn to Surrey' in the November Newsletter': In 1943/44 while I was at school at Old Windsor, a Flying Fortress came down on our Runnymede rugby fields, alongside the Windsor to Egham road opposite Magna Carta Island. It was on it's belly, propellers bent back, no sign of crew probably quickly picked up, and unguarded for sometime thereafter. Could it have been the same aircraft mentioned by RF? Seventeen years later Royal Air Force Bassingbourn was home to a



Canberra Operational Conversion Unit, and I routinely briefed aircrew there on air photo interpretation aspects.

**Lt Col Bob McGhie writes:-**

In the last edition John Davidson referred to the donkey polo match held on the Glorious 1st June at Trefoir against the Royal Navy in Bahrain. At that time I was one of his subalterns and a fellow 'donkey wollaper' on the day. The subaltern whose donkey mounted Tony Ward's beast was Graham Brown on whom was not lost, I'm sure, the sweet revenge of seeing the Adjutant ignominiously crushed beneath the snorting participants. Meanwhile, Malcolm Hyatt's steed left the field and cantered off to watering holes unknown with Malcolm, incapable of halting his progress and scared of toppling off, feigning an air of indifference to the cheers of the spectators. We, the victors, were presented with 'La Toilette Troffee' (RN spelling!) which was an inscribed toilet seat mounted on a wooden shield. For years this masterpiece hung in the Officers' Mess Loo. I rescued it and it now resides on the office wall of the company that Jeremy Coke- Smyth and I set up. He, too, was present at the original proceedings, in body anyway, as much spirit had been consumed that day. Frankly, the 'Troffee' is quite hideous but it is a reminder of old friends and that quality of life that is so hard to recapture nowadays.

**Anthony Botton writes:-**

Please find enclosed a photograph of six members of C Company 1 Middlesex (Queen's) 'somewhere' in North Korea in November 1950. You may want it, I would really like it back as Con Hourihane who lent it to me would like it back. He is knocking on a bit now, and had a triple bypass operation earlier this year; so the sooner the better really!

Con is a caretaker here at Cecil Sharp house. He started life as a Queensman but transferred to the Middlesex after Korea. He left the army in 64, after 22 years as a Sergeant.  
Yours Anthony



*Left to right: Nobby Saxby, Paddy Drew, John Potter, Con 'Harry' Hourihane, Busty Humphries, Bert Dunnett.*

**T G Dimsdale writes:-**

Reference the picture puzzle on page 29 of the November 1993 Newsletter. Both photos were taken in the same area

Tientsin, North China about 1934. The bottom photo is of a Guard of Honour for a visiting dignitary. The Guard was found by the Machine Gun Company 1 Queens of which I was a member. I am right hand marker.

The picture shows the Guard outside the Tientsin Hotel, facing the War Memorial (as seen in the top photo) where the Battalion attended church parades. The Guard was commanded by Captain Oxley-Boyle. The officer in the foreground, I am sure, is Lt E T Jennings (I may have spelt this incorrectly).

Hoping this will solve the puzzle.

**G C Ayling writes:-**

It is with great delight that I have received the Regimental Association's Newsletter today and I must record my thanks to you for the superb quality of the production once again and your editorial acumen. Would that other journals were published to the same high standard. The article on Salerno by GBC is a fitting tribute on the fiftieth anniversary of the Invasion. As one who took part in the initial assault with the 2/5 Queens, it aroused many memories of the occasion, of the almost dry landing, the lack of immediate opposition, the approach to the airfield through rows of tomato plants before digging in on the very edge of the airfield. I recall seeing an American spotter plane land on the aerodrome, an hour or so later, having assumed that it had been captured, and German troops surrounding it to the consternation of the pilot. Later in the day the forward platoons of the 2/5th were over-run by Panzer tanks and I with others landed up in a POW cage at Battipaglia where I met up with this very irate US airman. After a hazardous journey by German truck and train, my colleagues and I ended up at Stalag 8B Lamsdorf, Ober-Silesia, Poland, which is also mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

**Eleanor Corpes writes:-**

It gives Peter (my husband) and myself such pleasure to read your excellent and such interesting Newsletter. It is so sad to me, that in this day and age individual Regiments have amalgamated. We are old now, and spent part of our married life, first in the Depot at Kingston, and Colchester, before Peter went overseas, spending happy times with The East Surrey Regiment. My beloved brother was killed whilst serving with The East Surrey Regiment in N Africa when his son was 8 days old. We all with pride remember The East Surreys. We all served God, Queen or King and Country. What a pity there is not conscription now for the young men!! A bit of army training would help the situation I feel.

Thanking you dear, for all your help. The electric wheelchair is such a help to Peter and enables him to get out when able. God Bless you all.

**G Swain writes:-**

Thank you for the latest issue of the Newsletter which I read with interest, especially the accounts of the SALERNO reunions and parades.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Salerno landings, this Association held a weekend of reunion at Margate last September. We organised a Grand Evening of Nostalgia in the Winter Gardens theatre attended by some 450 members and the public. We started with parade of Standards and an Act of Remembrance, followed by a concert with over 50 artistes - the theme being the wartime years with all the old songs, including of course our own "D Day Dodgers". We finished the evening with an impressive Sunset ceremony. The following day we paraded some 250 strong and marched past the Mayor of Margate.

#### **J M Day writes:-**

Many thanks for an interesting Newsletter. It was also interesting to learn our Divisional Commander Major General J Y Whitfield was once a Battalion Commander in the Queen's Brigade.

It was disappointing to read that the 2/6 Queen's had a reunion in September and I didn't know about it. The financial situation would have prevented me from coming to it, but I would have written to the organiser giving my regards to them and special regards to anyone there who remembered me. I was pleased also to read they are planning on having one at the same time next year. If you know the organiser's name and address I would be obliged if you would send it to me.

#### **Dr John Attenborough writes:-**

Thank you for the Newsletter - a brilliant production as usual. I was particularly interested in the article - JY - a Camino Memory. In January 1944, this Brigadier J.Y. Whitfield commanded 15 Bde, fifth British Division. In March, when we went to the Anzio beaches, I was in 158 FD Amb, attached to 15 Bde. I first remember JY about to cross the Camino road to get to the Wadi area (known as Lobster Claw and Fortress area. He was well known to be always up the "sharp end" and was often at Bde HQ. He always had the welfare of the troops at heart. Although a non smoker he realised the morale lifting effect of tobacco and endeavoured to get liberal supplies of cigarettes "up front". In 1948 I became RMO of 5 Queen's and used to meet JY every year at annual camp - a most courageous officer and a friend.

#### **J A Neal writes:-**

I was most interested to read the tribute paid to the late Major Nigel Oswald of 2/5 Queen's by Major (as I remember him) Fergus Ling in Newsletter 54.

I was talking to Major Oswald a few minutes before he was killed by shell fire in the courtyard of an Italian farmhouse in September 1943. I was on my way to take up my duties as guard commander at the entrance to the farm and I passed Major Oswald who was standing in the centre of the courtyard. As Territorials, we had served together since the beginning of the war and, despite our disparity in rank, we had established a friendly relationship. I was weighed down with all my kit and blankets but the major, ever the gentleman, could not let me pass without a word. We had endured a tough few days in the Salerno bridgehead and he wanted to know how I had been faring. It was natural for him to take a personal interest in everyone he knew.

We stood chatting for a few minutes and I had moved away from him by only about 50 yards when I heard the shell explosion that ended his life. I ran back, but Major Oswald was no more. It was a tragic loss for the Regiment - and a very near squeak for me.

Nigel Oswald was a truly fine man, respected and liked by all who had the privilege of serving under him.

Formerly 6090329 Sgt Neal, J A 2/5 Queen's, 56 (London) Division.

#### **D Stockham writes:-**

The Newsletter is always a high light of the month that it arrives and is read avidly, cover to cover. I was sad to note the passing of Col. East with whom I had the honour of serving in the 1/5th Battalion, The Queen's, in North Africa, especially the memorable first night in the minefields at El Alamein.

#### **R W Moyle writes:-**

Through a magazine I was put in contact with a sailor who served on the HMS *Vimy* in 1940, the ship which I and a number of others escaped from Dunkirk.



Recently he was in this area he called in to see me, and gave me a photo of the ship. I have had some copies made for some other lads who were also on it at the time. I am sending one thinking it may be of interest to other readers of the Newsletter

Best wishes to all members of the Association.

#### **G F Lefevre writes:-**

I must say what a grand day we all had for the Review. The drill and turn-out of the new Regiment was worthy of the credit of its ancestral Regiments who I know as a Queensman were second to none. We all used to take the mickey out of our fellow Regiments in the Home Counties Brigade, but as a group I think we were the best in the army, as wherever there was trouble in the world they would invariably send one of the old regiments to sort it out.

I received my copy of the Newsletter last week, and as usual you have done another superb edition, as a printer I appreciate the format, and the colour plates are a credit to the printers, it amazes me where you find all the historical pictures that are such an interesting feature of the Newsletter. The reunion at the Union Jack Club was a first class night, to see so many familiar faces makes the years roll back to what for me, was one of the best periods of my life and to have the honour to serve with men who's life we shall not see again. If there is any way I can help the Association please let me know.

I was sorry to hear that Sgt George Deacon is so unwell, he used to be my Platoon Sergeant in the M.M.G's so is it possible to have his home address so I can drop him a line and maybe cheer him up a bit? I enjoyed the letter from Colonel John Davidson in the Newsletter, and remembering his sense of humour I bet he couldn't stop laughing about the incident with the donkeys. Well I think I will stop boring you any more so I will close now.

#### **C W B Mills writes:-**

I was sorry to hear that Col Lance East had died. I remember him when he commanded the 2nd Battalion The Queen's in Dortmund in 1947. I was a Corporal in A Coy, in fact his signature is on my military conduct and testimonial showing in my soldiers release book dated 13 Oct 47.

I do enjoy reading the Newsletter though I do not see many of my contemporaries mentioned. I remember Colonel Toby Sewell well, when he was the adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in Poona and then later OC of A Coy. I played



rugger with him in the battalion team and also hockey. I also remember a certain Colour Sergeant Tommy Atkins who was also in A Coy at that time. I wish you and the Association members all the best for 1994.

#### **Major Roy Thorburn MBE writes from Mooloooba, Australia**

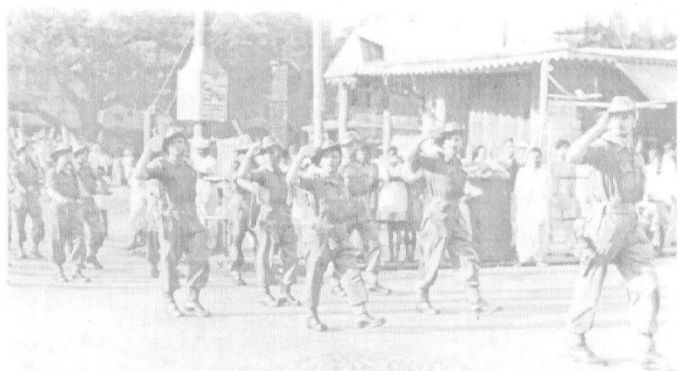
Receiving the November 93 Newsletter a couple of weeks ago reminded me that you had asked for photographs for the Newsletter, as long as names were provided. I've been meaning to send a couple relative to 2 Queen's, and now I'm prompted to do this before I get too old and forgetful. The background to 2 Queen's organisation and operations at this time may be of interest.

2 Queen's had been included in Brig. Orde Wingate's Special (Chindit) Force (or 3 Indian Div as it was known officially) and as such had been broken up and incorporated into the Column formation the Chindit Force used. After the fall of Myitkyina on the Northern Burma Front in August 1944 the Chindit Force had sustained quite some casualties, and illness was rife throughout the Columns. The Force was withdrawn to Bihar in India to rest and recuperate. The Imphal-Kohima battles ended in December 1944. By March 1945 Meiktila had fallen to the 14th. Army, and the Burma offensive was rolling south to its conclusion.

With the Chindit Force no longer to be used, the component Battalions were restored to standard organisation. On the re-organisation of 2 Queen's command was given to Lt-Col. H.G.de J. du Vallon, DSO, MC, a former regular Artillery officer, but now an experienced Infanteer.

With the Burma campaign on its way to a close, political unrest was increasing in India. The Brigade, including 2 Queen's, was moved to Uruli, near Poona, on internal security duty, to cover the Bombay area.

2 Queen's was first drawn into Bombay to help quell a Hindu-Muslim clash in September/October 1945. The original struggle of the Hindu and Muslim factions was aggravated by the fact that Hindu Temples were located in Muslim areas, but became most serious when mobs were incited to fight by looters, whose sole object was to break, enter and loot the shops in the Indian Quarter of Bombay, under cover of the fighting. Each platoon operated in a separate area, each with a Magistrate to call on the mob to disperse before military force was used and, if his warning was ignored the Magistrate called on the Pl. Commander to disperse the mob. The riots were eventually quelled and order restored. After a demonstration march through Bombay, 2 Queen's returned to the Poona area. Later in February 1946 2 Queen's participated in the 36 Div. Victory Parade in Poona.

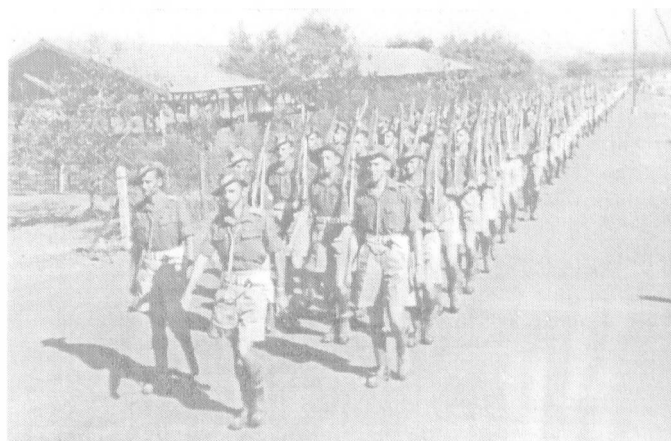


*2nd Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment March Past in Bombay India, following putting down of the riots in October 1945.*

In March 1946 trouble again arose in Bombay, and once again 2 Queen's was involved. The "Quit India" campaign by then was well under way throughout India. Local trouble started when the crew of a Royal Indian Navy Frigate mutinied, taking over the ship in Bombay Harbour. The frigate moved up to the Gateway to India, and pointed its 3 inch gun at the Harbour Bar of the Taj Mahal Hotel. Mutiny in the nearby Naval Barracks followed, together with civil riots in the Indian Quarter of Bombay. And of course again the looters moved in to increase the chaos.

At one stage B Coy HQ and one platoon were besieged in Nagpada Police Station by an angry mob. A curfew had to be imposed. Gradually the chaos and looting in the Indian Quarter were brought under control, although of course "Quit India" was there to stay.

Flower pots and other heavy items were dropped on to the troops from the higher blocks of flats at the height of the excitement. In particular the 8 p.m. curfew was not appreciated by the ladies conducting business in Sandhurst Road. They emptied the contents of chamber-pots on our passing patrols from upstairs windows, and hissed and spat through the barred windows on the ground floors!. In due course *HMS Capetown* arrived from Trincomalee, the crew of the frigate surrendered, and the Naval Barracks was recaptured with some casualties. Bombay settled down, "Quit India" continued on a much milder note, and 2 Queen's returned to Pashan, near Poona.



*B Coy, 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment Marching on to the Victory parade, Poona, India, 1 February 1946.*

This turned out to be rather longer than I originally intended, but it gives the background to the period when these photos were taken. I hope it's of some interest. If possible I would like Toby Sewell to see these photos, he will remember quite a lot of the faces. Toby came into 2 Queen's around about March 1946, relieving Arthur Damery as adjutant when Arthur went home on "Python".

My congratulations on The Queen's Association Newsletter. It is very well done and I look forward to receiving each issue. I can imagine how much work is involved, there is so much to cover.

ART

#### **P Rose writes:-**

With great interest I read *Destination Kwai* by Jack Shuttle, but particularly Jack's initial war time billet at Sharnal St station near Hoo in Kent. A branch line ran from Sharnal St Stn, through the orchards across Hoo marshes, which was an Airship mooring base in the 1914-18 war, and the line finished on a jetty out in the Medway river. This line was unused for years but, in May 1940 as Dunkerque was falling, it was found that a German and his

daughter, on the pretence of picking wild flowers, had oiled and got all the points working on this line, obviously with invasion in mind.

I joined the The East Surreys in May 1940 and found myself in 'C' Coy newly formed in Milton Barracks, Gravesend. Two days later, as a member of a volunteer party, we went to Kingshill Camp at Hoo, our job to foil the Germans and with the R.E.'s and the railway linesmen we blew up the jetty and pulled up the line the one and a half miles back to Sharnal St Stn. I might add that on our first night at Kingshill camp a German bomb managed to lift us all out of bed, thankfully an early few pints softened the blow. Fortunately I cannot remember any real casualties.

I trust this Surreys connection with Sharnal St is of interest.

#### Major General Michael Forrester writes:-

Following the interesting account, in the previous Newsletter, by Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis of his visit to Salerno to attend the ceremonies arranged by the Italians to mark their liberation by the British Forces in September 1943, perhaps I may record a visit I was privileged to make to Campania in late September, in response to an invitation also extended by Dr. Angelo Pesce.

The purpose of this visit was to attend the celebrations to mark the liberazione by 1/6th Queens Group of the towns of Scafati and Ottaviano - both actions being fully described in "Salerno Remembered". Having been warmly welcomed at Naples Airport, we were whisked off by Angelo to the splendid hotel Raito with its superb view across the Bay of Salerno to Paestum and beyond. During the next three days we drove over much of the route taken by 131 (Queens) Brigade fifty years before, from Battipaglia, and the nearby beautifully sited and immaculately maintained British War Cemetery, across the Beach-head to the Vietri Pass where 7th Armoured Division had formed up for the break-out. Then along our former axis, through Scafati and Ottaviano, and on northwards towards the River Volturno.

Memorable evenings were spent in Scafati, Angelo's birthplace, where the Municipality staged a meeting at which Angelo and others told the story of the battle for the town, and in Ottaviano where the Rotary Club hosted a similar meeting, followed by a dinner high up on Mount Vesuvius. On both occasions meaningful presents were exchanged. Also present at the Scafati evening were Suzanne Bardgett of the Imperial War Museum, and Mrs Eaton and Mrs Coldham, the daughters of A.B. Austin who, with two other War Correspondents had been killed in the fighting in Scafati.



*Vico Equense - Late 1943 on the balcony of the Officers' Mess  
L-R Back Row - Ray Caton, Jimmy Pretsell, Ted Kilshaw,  
Charles Litton. Front row - Rodney Goodridge, Gordon  
Spratt, Johnnie Johnson, Peter Kime, Vincent Docton*

The third evening was spent, not without nostalgia, in Vico Equense where 1/6th Queens were billeted in November and December 1943, prior to returning home to prepare for Normandy. Here we were entertained by Fernando Savarese who, as a boy, remembered his home being used as our Officers' Mess. This was a visit ever to be remembered, not least for the kindness and generous hospitality of Angelo and Elvira Pesce. We look forward to seeing them when they come to England, and to the forthcoming publication of Angelo's next book, this time on Scafati.

#### Dr Glywn writes from Watchet

A delay of 48 years is hard to account for, but at least it clears me of any charge of rash and precipitate action!

I hope the enclosed photocopies will be of interest. They are taken from the September 1st 1945 issue of "Phoenix", which I sent home from Burma shortly afterwards, and show our 1st Battalion on patrol in the Sittang Bend near the village of Letpanthonbin, near Waw, in July 1945. It was a day or so before the last engagement of the war, when we lost nine men in a night attack on a neighbouring Jap-held village. I remember the Army Photographic Unit arriving one day when we had come back from patrol and our having to stage another one for their benefit - not too unwillingly, as a matter of fact as with the prospect of campaigns in Malaya any publicity for us at home was welcome.



The landing from the sampan, "patrol moves in at the double to search a village", was pretty obviously posed, and the photographer seemed not to have noted the B Company sign, but he gave a fair idea of the operating conditions of the Sittang Bend. Unfortunately I can only identify the men whose names I noted at the time: "Dusty" Miller from Cardiff, Jimmy (surname forgotten), myself and ——— Tilbury.

I wonder whether these pictures ever reached England. I have never seen them in any other publication.



*Editors note: We were only able to print  
two from the five sent by Dr Glywn*



### Roy Gates writes from Henfield Sussex

In a biography of Mrs Eliza Shaw there is an interesting link between the Regiment and Western Australia. Eliza and her husband Will, with her 6 children and 2 servants, sailed from Gravesend in September 1829 and took 5 months before the ship reached Freemantle. They were amongst the first settlers of the new colony, as emigration had only started earlier in that year.

A major reason for their decision to emigrate was a drastic reduction in their income, which they hoped could be made good in this developing settlement.

Will Shaw, born in 1788, had served in the Napoleonic Wars and attained the rank of Captain. In 1826, however, he was retired from the army on full pay, only to have his pension halved 2 years later. An illustration in the book shows him under the title "aged about 30 years in the uniform of the 31st Regiment of Foot (Huntingdonshires) with which he served at the Battle of Waterloo"?

The Shaw life in Western Australia was extremely hard and difficult for many years, but ultimately they and their numerous family prospered. When he died in 1826, the Perth newspaper report of his death described him as "a veteran of the Peninsula and Waterloo".

### Ken Munday writes from Paddock Wood

I enclose details of two new members for the Association and Newsletter. Phil Cable and "Polly" Perkins joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in August 1957 (with me) at Stoughton Barracks. We served with 1 Queen's in Iserlohn as National Servicemen and have met each year since then with many others at our annual reunion and in between socially - holidays etc. There's nothing like service life for making life long friends. When they receive their Newsletters (November 1993) we may be able to throw light on the "From the Past" picture of D Coy 1 Queen's 1958 at Sennerlager.

I so enjoy receiving the Newsletter and often find something of very special personal interest - person, event. Well done to you and all others concerned.

### Congratulations To:



Mrs Sheila Roberts was recently awarded The Imperial Service Medal and she was presented with her medal at a simple ceremony at RHQ by Colonel John Francis, PWRR Regimental Secretary. Sheila assisted the Secretary of our Association and Major Joe O'Gorman as The Queen's Own Buffs Secretary. On behalf of all our members Sheila, very many congratulations and well done.

### 90th Birthday

Good God old boy, hav'nt seen you since Sobraon!



*Major Finch White celebrating his 90th birthday with Major Peter Hill.*

**Lt Col J. P. Riley** on assuming command of 1st Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

### Golden Weddings -

**Reg Dickinson and his wife** who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 15th January 1994. Reg and his wife live in Eumemmerring, Victoria, Australia. Reg writes, that they had a lovely weekend of celebrations organised by their son, and a lot of cards. One in particular gave them much pleasure. It was from his old battalion Padre, Vincent Castle who had officiated at their wedding, fulfilling a promise he made to Reg in the Desert. Padre Castle wrote in his card "no granny knot I tied but a really good binding one".

**Les May and his wife** who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently.

**Ruby Wedding:-** Colonel and Mrs W E McConnell who celebrated their Ruby wedding on 20th February 1994.

### Can You Help?

Are there any veterans who served with 2 Queen's in the Western Desert who knew Private John Rosam who was killed. If you can help with any information please contact Mrs K Sherriff 16 Lawson House, Nightingale Place, Woolwich SE18 4HD. Tele No. 081-855-0620.

(Mrs Sherriff has been in contact with Tommy Atkins, George Deacon and Tom Best and is very grateful to them for their help).

### Bert Thompson writes:-

Nov 54 Newsletter. Yes, Sir! I can identify both the photographs for which you are seeking information.

The view portrays the British Legation Square, plus Legation Building and Headquarters, in Tientsin, North China.

The Battalion is the 1st Queens, shortly after arrival in Tientsin, from Malta.

## Formation Signs - Part II

The cessation of hostilities in 1918 signalled the demise of the "battle patches" or formation signs. As the Corps Divisions, etc., were broken up, the need for tactical recognition faded and this remained so until the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1939, security was foremost in the minds of the War Office and the only distinguishing sign allowed on the battle-dress was the coloured strip, worn on the arm, just below the shoulder strap, denoting the arm-of-service, in the case of our regiments, red, which denoted the wearer was in the Infantry.

As the war progressed, it became clear that, due to the highly mobile form of warfare that was evolving, formation signs were essential in keeping touch with troop movements. Formation signs were finally approved for wear on uniforms under ACI 1118 in September 1941.

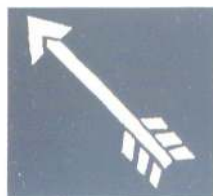
The ACI had first been authorised on 18th September 1940, but many changes and alterations had been made to the instructions that it took approximately a year before being finalised.

As in the 1914 - 1918 War, the signs took the form of "Heraldic", "Symbolic", "Animal", or the rather sober "Geometric", as before the choice of design was left to the Corps, or Divisional Commander. The signs were worn on the battle-dress sleeve, or, in the case of Khaki-Drill, on the shirt, either as a "slip-on" for the shoulder strap, or on the sleeve and attached at the shoulder.

In contrast to the Great War, most units based in the U.K. wore formation signs.

'The following examples were worn by battalions of The Queen's Royal and East Surrey Regiments.

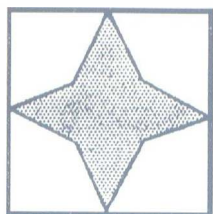
**1st Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment 33rd Brigade, 7th Indian Division. Known as the "Golden Arrow Division".**



**The sign,** a yellow arrow on a black circle. This formation was involved in the hard fighting in the Arakan, which finally stopped the Japanese advance towards India.

**2nd Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment 16th Brigade, 6th Division, later re-designated the 70th Division.**

A Regular Division, it saw action in the Western Desert, Syria and garrisoned Tobruk. On the 10th October, 1941, it was redesignated the 70th Division and later moved to India Command, where it was reorganised to form the British element of the 3rd Indian Division (The Chindits). The 70th Division retained the 6th Division's sign when it was renumbered - a red four-pointed star on a white background.



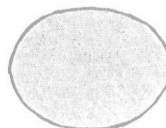
**1st/5th, 1st/6th and 1st/7th Battalions, Queen's Royal Regiment (Territorial Army). 131 Brigade, 44th (Home Counties) Division.**

A first-line T.A. Division, the 44th formed part of the B.E.F., in 1940 and after the evacuation from Dunkirk, was sent to the Middle East, in 1942. In the Western Desert, it took part in the battle at El Alamein, but was later disbanded, The Queen's Battalion going to the 7th Armoured Division, still as 131 (Queen's) Brigade. The Division was closely involved in the pursuit to Tobruk, the

capture of Tripoli, the Mareth Line and the capture of Tunis. In September 1943, 131 Brigade left Tripoli and sailed for Salerno, where they relieved The Queen's Brigade of 56th (London) Division, surely a notable first in the British Army's history, for two brigades of the same regiment to relieve each other. The 131 Brigade fought with 7th Armoured Division up through Italy, until November 1943, when it was recalled to the U.K., to participate in the invasion of Europe, with 21st Army Group and landed in Normandy in June, 1944. The Division took part in most of the major battles in North-West Europe, finishing up in Hamburg, when V.E. Day was proclaimed.



**The sign,** a jerboa (the desert rat), in red on a white circle on a red square. This form was later changed to a red rat on a black background.



The 44th (Home Counties) Division's sign was, firstly, a blue oval patch, later changed to red. It was said to represent the Oval cricket ground.

**2nd/5th, 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th Battalions, Queen's Royal Regiment (Territorial Army). 169 Brigade, 56th (London) Division.**

This division formed part of the Home Forces until 1942, when it was sent to the Middle East and served in Palestine, & Iraq. In 1943, it took part in the landings at Salerno and Anzio and fought its way through Italy, crossing the Garigliano, the Po Valley battles, to the liberation of Venice at the end of the campaign in Northern Italy.



**The sign** of the 56th (London) Division was a black cat set on a red background. It was said to be a lucky black cat and also "Dick Whittington's cat".

**1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.**

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the battalion formed part of 11th Brigade, 4th (Regular) Division, arriving in France in October, 1939 and later during the evacuation in 1940, held the west flank of the Dunkirk perimeter. The Surrey's were later transferred to 78th Division, still as part of 11 Brigade. The division landed with "Black Force" at Algiers on 8th November, 1942.

As part of the First Army, the division saw much hard fighting at Medize el Bab, Fort MacGregor and Long Stop Hill. It then landed in Sicily on 25th July, 1943 and fought its way across the island until the operations were concluded. The division landed in Italy in September, 1943 and was involved in nearly every major battle in the campaign, culminating in the round-up of the German Army in Austria.

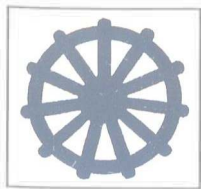


**The sign** was a yellow battle-axe on a black square or circular background.

**2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.**

In February, 1941, the battalion joined the 6th Indian Brigade in the 11th Indian Division in Malaya and following the Japanese invasion of the country, fought their way down the length of Malaya until reaching





Singapore, where, on the 14th February, 1942, the British and Indian Forces were compelled to surrender.

The Divisional sign was an eleven-spoked wheel on a yellow or gold background.

#### 1st/6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment (Territorial Army).

In October, 1939, the battalion joined the 132 Brigade, 44 Division and proceeded to France in April, 1940, where, in May, it transferred to the 10th Brigade, 4th Division, in which it was to serve for the rest of the war. Evacuated from Dunkirk, the division remained in the U.K., until March, 1943, when it sailed for North Africa, to fight in Tunisia with the First Army.

After the collapse of the German Army in Africa, it journeyed to Egypt, where it remained until February, 1944, when the division was sent to Italy. In that theatre of the war, the division fought at Monte Cassino, the River Rapido crossing, the advance towards Arezzo and the assault of the Gothic Line.

In November, 1944, the division left Italy and moved to Greece, to deal with the ELAS Forces, where they remained until the end of the war in Europe.



The Divisional sign was firstly the fourth quadrant of a circle in red, later

changed to a red circle with one quadrant displaced, set in a white square.



JW

#### The Battle of Tebourba

Mention the North African campaign to any ex-Surrey and the name 'Tebourba' is bound to crop up, sooner rather than later. Like most of those who were there during those six frenetic days, I have vivid memories which remained undimmed by the passage of time. On the night 26/27 November 1942, the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment arrived at the small town of Tebourba on the banks of the River Medjerds. We began digging slit trenches in a wood separated from the town by a railway line which ran eastward into Tunis, some 15 miles away.

The following morning, Captain Harold Payne, the Adjutant, decided to make a recon into the town, and called for volunteers. He looked hard at me, and I in turn looked round to see if anyone was behind me. There wasn't; and eventually Sergeant Gooch, the intelligence sergeant, Private Compton of the 'I' section and I crossed the railway line and cautiously entered the town. Without warning there was a burst of light machine gun fire, and we all dived into an Arab baker's shop. As we waited in the shop, we heard plane engines overhead, and soon the screaming wail of Stuka dive-bombers as they proceeded to bomb the town. Small arms fire also seemed to be coming from the olive groves which surrounded the wood where the Battalion was entrenched. From a window in the shop we espied a German sniper firing from a minaret into the wood. The only way we could return the fire was by standing on a pile of round Arab loaves, and loosing off a shot or two through the window before the pile of bread subsided and we sank to the floor.

Eventually it began to grow dark and Captain Payne ordered us to rejoin the Battalion crossing the railway one by one. This we achieved successfully. I was greeted by the RSM's

batman, Private Barry, with the bad news that Lance Corporal Bill Greenhalgh my colleague of the Orderly Room staff had been killed by a sniper. Eventually we evacuated this sinister wood and retired to a farm a few hundred yards back, where Battalion Headquarters was established. We managed to get a little sleep, but the dive-bombers returned next day and plastered the area. We had dug slit trenches inside the large barn which we occupied, and spent a lively time jumping in and out as we were now being shelled as well as bombed. Over the field radio installed in the barn came reports of German armoured units in the area, and matters were beginning to look distinctly unhealthy.

Under cover of darkness we evacuated the barn and took up position behind a large Roman Wall near the river. Here, by way of change, we were heavily mortared and suffered several casualties, including Major Fisher, a Royal Artillery Officer attached to the Battalion as Forward Observation Officer, and his batman. Both were instantly killed when a mortar bomb landed almost on top of them as they were sitting on top of their slit trench. In the short time he was with the Battalion he struck me as a most pleasant and unassuming officer, and we were all saddened by his death. Casualties were steadily mounting and had already passed the 200 mark, the largest proportion of which were men who had been surrounded and taken prisoner. Among them was Private Dennis of the Intelligence Section, famed for his spiked moustache. At the time of his capture Dennis was in possession of about £200 in the 'Mickey Mouse' money issued at the time - this the result of his activities on the SS *Karanja* with his Crown and Anchor board. I often wondered what the Germans thought when they discovered this hoard! Perhaps they converted it into marks for him - who knows?

During this period 27 November to 3 December the Battalion lost roughly half its fighting strength. We held on to our position at the Roman Wall until orders arrived from Brigade Headquarters to retire. We were told to make our way in small parties along the Medjerds river to a rallying point some four miles to the rear, where it was hoped a defensive position could be established. At one point we came under heavy Spandau fire, the tracer bullets whistling over our heads, as we followed the course of the river.

Our party comprised about a dozen men, and at one point, as we were descending to the river bank by way of a track divided from another field by a thick cactus hedge, we heard voices on the other side of the hedge. Suddenly the man in front of me hissed in my ear. 'Germans in the next field - Pass it on.' I did as bidden, and I often wondered if the Germans knew we were there and pursuing a live-and-let-live policy, had gone on their way. Eventually we arrived at our destination, weary, dirty, unshaven and bewildered. For the best part of the day we waited for stragglers to arrive until the late afternoon when a roll call was made and the extent of our casualties made known. This was the only occasion we were forced to give ground to the enemy.

HWS

#### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Subscriptions for this year's Newsletters are now overdue.  
The subscription is currently £2.00 per year.
2. No action is required by:
  - a) Those who have already paid in advance;
  - b) Members of the Officers Club whose club subscription covers the cost of the Newsletter;
  - c) Those who pay by Bankers Order, but please check you are paying the correct amount.
3. If you would like the Newsletter sent to a friend, please send his name and address, and enclose £2.00 for a year's subscription (2 Editions)

KEEP IN TOUCH

IF IN DOUBT-PAY!

## So There We Were

**1664** In July Colonel Fitzgerald arrived at Tangiers and reported finding the "Garrison (The Tangier Regiment) in good condition, the soldiers cheerful and the work progressing". He was followed by Sir Arthur Bassett with 120 men and who advised "that 200 others are following immediately".

**1684** Not for the last time in their history "Kirke's Lambs" (The Queen's) were ordered in April to reduce their numbers from two battalions to one. In May the Regiment arrived back in England after garrisoning Tangier where "for twenty-two years they heroically held the town under the greatest difficulties and against overwhelming odds".

**1694** The Queen's, fighting in Flanders, went into quarters, apparently at Ghent, and arrangements were made that officers going on leave were to do recruiting duties in England. During the winter months recruits were sent out from the home country, *HMS Centurion* being one of the ships engaged on transport duties.

**1704** The Queen's were part of a force of troops who escorted the Duke of Schomberg (commanding English and Dutch forces) from the Hague to Lisbon during the war against France and Spain. Other Queen's men were in Bermuda and were having trouble with a certain Lieutenant Henley who had been engaged in corruption and who was understood to have threatened to kill the Lieutenant Governor. (After a term of imprisonment Henley, with his wife and family, was sent to Virginia but the vessel in which they sailed was lost and all were drowned). Luttrell's Marines (predecessors of The East Surrey Regiment) took part in the successful capture of Gibraltar - a station that was to become well known to both of the Surrey Regiments in later years.

**1714** The Queen's were at Hull and Tynemouth in this the year that saw the demise of Queen Anne and the accession of George I. As the latter had no consort the appellation of the Regiment was changed to "Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment of Foot" - a title which, in a slightly different form, was to be repeated in 1992. In the light of activities of the Jacobites in the country at that time the strength of the Army was increased and Goring's Regiment of Marines (formerly Luttrell's), who had ceased their sea service, became the 31st Foot.

**1774** The 31st and 70th Regiments, after arduous service against Carib rebels at St Vincent, returned to the United Kingdom and were quartered at Glasgow where they concentrated on recruiting to fill their ranks which had been seriously depleted during foreign service. The Queen's, at Gibraltar, were subject of an order for recruiting and it is possible that their ranks were being decreased by a number of deaths as it was ordered that the wives and children of any soldiers who died were to be given passage home at regimental expense.

**1794** A British force, which included The Queen's and the 31st and 70th Regiments, successfully took the island of Martinique after bitter fighting in which the British troops made effective use of the bayonet. At sea the Queen's men, fighting on board H.M. ships in a Marine capacity, took part in the Battle of the Glorious First of June when, under the command of Admiral Lord Howe, a heavy defeat was inflicted on the French and The Queen's gained a battle honour.

**1804** The 31st were in England where the strength of the Army was being increased due to the threat of invasion by Napoleon. The Queen's were at Gibraltar where, in April, it was reported that "the men were of good size, able and fit for any service". In August, however, at Malaga, the

Regiment was stricken by fever and fatalities, including women and children, numbered 55.

**1824** The Queen's were at Chatham where the third colour (found at Kilmainham) was restored to them at a brilliant ceremony when Lady Torrens, the wife of Major-General Sir Henry Torrens K.C.B., Colonel of the Regiment, presented them. The Surreys were in Ireland in January but later in the year they moved to Gosport.

**1844** The Queen's were in India at Bombay and Poona, the latter station apparently having such good facilities for obtaining liquor that there was an increase in crime resulting in 83 Courts Martial. The 31st were also in India where war with the Sikhs was generally expected. The Punjab was in a state of anarchy after the murder of Maharaja Shere Singh.

**1854** The 31st, serving in the Crimean War, were at Sebastapol. Some of their members' medals, bearing the relevant clasp, are on display in the Regimental Museum at Clandon. The Depot Headquarters of The Queen's in Ireland seems to have been somewhat mobile - moving from Templemore to Athlone in February, from Athlone to Dublin in July, and from Dublin to Waterford after Christmas.

**1864** The Queen's left Gibraltar in June for Bermuda where they arrived in the following month. Shortly afterwards an epidemic of yellow fever broke out, in the course of which the Regiment lost 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 1 Assistant Surgeon, 7 Sergeants and 101 Privates. Far away, the 70th were in New Zealand suppressing Maori uprisings. In a bitterly contested action at Okea, Lieutenant Henry Bally and 3 Privates were killed.

**1884** The East Surreys were on the move, being stationed at Aldershot in January, transferring to Gibraltar in February and leaving Gibraltar for India in December. The Queen's were in India where they took up quarters in the British Infantry Barracks at Cawnpore after moving from hill stations.

**1904** The Queen's, newly home from South Africa, took up station at Shorncliffe in June. In October the occasion of the unveiling of war memorials at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford was used by the people of West Surrey to accord a splendid welcome and reception to the Regiment on its return from service. A loyal telegram was sent by the Regiment to Queen Alexandra who made suitable reply. Church service was also prominent at Kingston-upon-Thames where the old colours of the 31st (1st Bn. East Surrey) Regiment were laid up in the Parish Church. On leaving Kingston after the ceremony the detachment of the Regiment from Aldershot were the recipients of great cordiality and enthusiasm from the townspeople.

**1914** Both The East Surreys and The Queen's were quickly in France after the declaration of war. Both were in the retreat from Mons and casualties were heavy. Lieutenant Morrill of the East Surrey Regiment, twice wounded and lying on the ground, was deliberately fired at by a German soldier but fortunately the shot hit his sword, breaking it in half. Lieutenant Pain of The Queen's was mistaken for a German spy and shot in the arm by a Frenchman when leading transport. Both regiments were in the thick of the fighting in the closing months of 1914 in areas which were later to become part of history, such as the Marne, the Aisne and Ypres but wherever they were their regimental reputations and honour were fully upheld.

**1924** The year, was one of activity for The Queen's who were at Aldershot. On 10th June they took part in a Royal Review before King George V. Later in the same month



they marched to Thursley camp for a fortnight's training in fine weather, "with daily bathing in Elstead ponds". Manoeuvres which had been planned for the New Forest were cancelled due to a widespread outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. In Hong Kong The East Surreys were engaged in serious training and also had to carry out guard duties during a general strike. Maintenance of essential services included the popular duty of running the tramways.

**1944** The Queen's, freshly embarked from Italy, arrived in typically cold and rainy weather in the Clyde in January to prepare for the long awaited Second Front. After intensive training they landed in France with the Allied Invasion Force. Repeating their ancient "marine" role, the 4th Queen's served on board the Headquarters ship, *HMS Despatch*, in an anti-aircraft capacity manning Bofors guns. The East Surreys continued fighting in Italy, in atrocious conditions of climate and terrain, where as well as experiencing heavy battle they encountered great supply difficulties. In some areas stores, including water, had to be taken forward by jeeps, then by mules and finally by Basuto bearers.

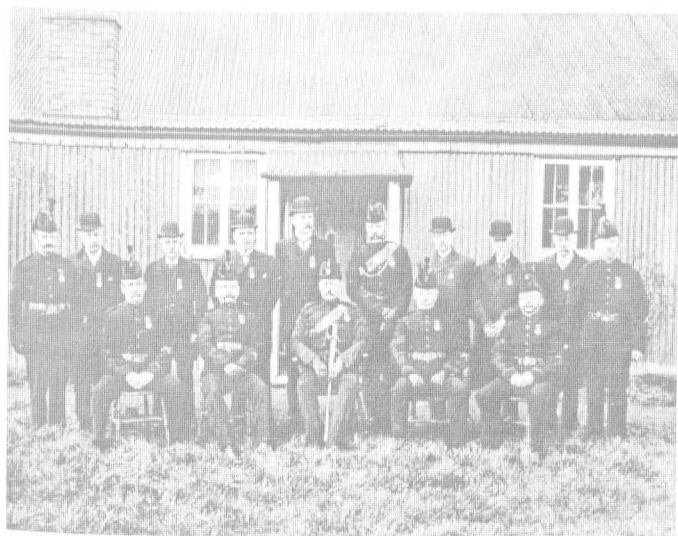
**1954** Anti-terrorist duties were to the fore during the year. Six members of The East Surreys were serving with the 4th (Uganda) Bn. King's African Rifles in operations in Kenya against the Mau Mau. Similarly engaged in Malaya, The Queen's were joined by some four footed allies in the shape of the newly formed Dog Platoon.

In various operations casualties were inflicted on the opposing bandits but regrettably some casualties were experienced in the Regiment itself.

But largely unsuspected and unanticipated whole regiments of the British Army were, in the not too distant future, to become casualties, not to terrorists or an enemy, but to policies of military reorganisation and amalgamations. Both The Queen's and The East Surreys were to be affected.

### Chertsey Volunteers

Photograph By Courtesy Of Chertsey Museum



*Chertsey Detachment 6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment.*

This photograph of the Chertsey Detachment, 6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment was handed in to Chertsey Museum in 1993. Date of the photograph is not known but it would appear to have been taken around the turn of the Century. It records those members of the detachment who had been awarded the Volunteer Long Service Medal. Two of them were obviously very long serving as in 1906 the

"Rawling's Year Book" reported that Colour Sergeant F.H. Cartwright and Pte F. Hammett were placed on the Reserve with 33 and 37 years service respectively. In 1900, at the time of the South African War, about 80 per cent of the detachment volunteered for garrison duty if required. One officer, Lt. W.R. Parr, retired to enter Oxford University "in preparation for the Church".

RF

### Home Front Bravery

Pictured here is a gallant Queen's Home Guard member, Roy Thomas Harris, whose bravery earned him a George Cross during the Second World War.

Employed at the time as a Chief Combustion Officer with Croydon Corporation, and also being a member of the Croydon Air Raid Precautions Engineers Service, Mr Harris was often engaged in dealing with explosive devices, an activity in which he showed considerable courage. He was awarded the George Cross for his gallantry in dismantling an unexploded bomb at Langdale Road School, Thornton Heath on September 18th, 1940.

He later joined the Royal Engineers and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



### Copy of a letter from a bank to The Association

Dear Sir,

Account: Queen's Surreys Regimental Association Main.  
Your account was recently credited with £4.00 from I.A.M Gone(deceased).

The originating Bank has asked that this payment be returned and, therefore, your account has been debited accordingly. Your statement, will show both the original credit and the debit for the refund, which will be described as "Contra Entry".

If you are unsure why this has happened, you will need to contact I.A.M Gone(deceased).

Yours faithfully,

(The Editors comments are unprintable!)

*N.B. For obvious reasons the name has been changed*

# Regimental Deaths

**Bermingham** - On 14th March 1994, Company Sergeant Major E. J. Bermingham, aged 68 years, The East Surrey Regiment, The Middlesex Regiment, and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. "Paddy" Bermingham was posted to the Middlesex Regiment during the Korean War and on completing his tour of duty with them, returned to the "Surreys".

**Bohm** - On 4th January 1993, Company Sergeant Major Frank L. Bohm, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Bridgewater** - On 21st January 1994, Tom Bridgewater, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Briggs** - On 11th December 1993, Captain D M Briggs, The East Surrey Regiment in Australia.

**Bullen** - On 29th December 1993, Sergeant Roy Bullen, 2nd/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Burns** - On 9th February 1994, Major Brian Stanley Burns MC, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment, Trucial Oman Scouts and 6th Gurkha Rifles.

**Chappell** - On 26th December 1993, Private Leslie Chappell, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Dale** - On 31st March 1994, Cpl Bill Dale, aged 72 years, 2/6th Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Davidson** - On 19th December 1993, Captain Douglas Davidson, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Deayton-Groom** - On 20th February 1994, Major C W (Bill) Deayton-Groom MBE, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Dickason** - On 25th February 1994, Ken Dickason, The East Surrey Regiment, aged 59 years. Ken died suddenly at the House of Commons where he had been employed in the Sergeant at Arms Department for a considerable number of years. He was the son of Company Sergeant Major Sam Dickason, The East Surrey Regiment, who is an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

**Doolan** - On 6th February 1994, Private Robert Doolan in Adelaide, Australia.

**Dudney** - On 26th January 1994, Private Stanley L. Dudney, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Edgar** - Recently, Captain D. P. Edgar, 1/5th Queens. Captain Edgar was a solicitor who lived in Farnham and was a Pre-War Territorial.

**Edwards** - On 27th February 1994, Private Albert Edwards, aged 72 years, 2nd/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Flavell** - In December 1993, Brigadier Edwin Flavell DSO MC, aged 95. Commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1915, he served in the Machine Gun Corps. Recalled to the Surreys in 1939, he commanded the 1st Parachute Brigade in 1942 and the 6th Air Landing Brigade in 1943. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ 1st Airborne Army.

**Foster** - On 24th August 1993, Private John Henry Foster, aged 72 years, 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Foster was captured in France and remained a P.O.W. for the remainder of the war.

**Freeth** - In December 1993, A E Freeth, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Fuller** - On 5th February 1994, Captain Dennis Charles Fuller, aged 76 years, 1st/6th Bn The East Surrey

Regiment. Severely wounded in 1944 he had a silver plate in his head for the remainder of his life.

**Griggs** - On 24th May 1993, C. A. John Griggs, 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

**Hamilton** - On 30th December 1993, Captain John Hamilton MC, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Hannan** - In November 1993, Private Horace Edward 'Sid' Hannan, aged 93 years, 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (The Gallants). He died in the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. 'Sid', served in the 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment - The Gallants. He saw action at Loos in 1915 and at Ypres. He was wounded in the fierce fighting at Guillemont in August 1916 he regularly attended Regimental Reunions wearing his medals of the 1914-18 War.

**Homersham** - On 23rd January 1994, Company Sergeant Major John Burgess (Jack) Homersham, MBE, aged 77 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Jones** - On 12th November 1993, Sergeant Bertram Harold Jones MM, aged 94 years, 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (The Gallants).

**Lemon** - On 1st April 1994, Private A. V. (Bert) Lemon, 1/5th Queens.

**Lilley** - Recently, Lieutenant Colonel C V Lilley MC, OMM, CD. The Canadian Army. He served with 1st/5th and 1st/6th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Long** - On 3rd August 1993, Private Clifford Herbert Ford Long aged 79 years, 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment Long was captured in June 1940 and remained a POW for the remainder of the war.

**Martin** - On 6th January 1994, Private Douglas Horace (Rosie) Martin, 2nd/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the carrier platoon.

**Mountjoy** - On 27th April 1992, Captain Cyril R. Mountjoy MM, aged 80 years, The Baluch Regiment and 1st and 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Owen** - In January 1994, Colonel Brian C. Owen TD, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Palmer** - On 27th November 1993, Company Sergeant Major Henry (Pedlar) Palmer, aged 88 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was Drum Major before the war. He served for 33 years.

**Phillips** - Recently, Ernest Phillips, aged 97 years, The East Surrey Regiment, in Canada. Ernest Phillips joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1912 and served with the 2nd battalion on the Western Front and in the Salonika Expeditionary Force. He was 97 on 1st January 1993, and was the father of the late Len Phillips, also 2nd battalion The East Surrey Regiment the author of 'The Drummer Boy'.

**Pratten** - On 6th February 1994, Regimental Sergeant Major Sidney Bertram Pratten MM, aged 75 years, 2nd/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Proud** - On 20th December 1993, Colour Sergeant Ronald Proud, aged 65 years, The Buffs, East Surrey Regiment, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

**Richardson** - On 19th March 1994, Brigadier Phillip Herbert Richardson DSO, OBE, aged 84 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Military Police.

**Richardson** - On 29th December 1993, Drum Sergeant Stanley W. Richardson, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.



*Rothery* - Recently, Major S Rothery OBE, MC The Queen's Royal Regiment. Obit to follow in Nov edition.

*Sanger* - On 14th January 1994, Private C. Sanger, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Sibley* - On 26th September 1993, Private Phillip Sibley, aged 66 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Sleight* - On 3rd November 1993, Corporal Henry George Sleight, aged 78 years, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Corporal Sleight was a POW of the Japanese following the fall of Singapore.

*Smith* - On 28th September 1993, Private George Smith, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Stafford* - On 19th April 1994, Brigadier Frank Edmund Stafford CMG, CBE, aged 98 years, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Steer* - On 1st October 1993, Sidney Steer, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Tebbenham* - On 23rd January 1994, Fred Tebbenham, aged 90, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Tucker* - Recently, Private W. F. Tucker, 1/6th Queens. He was driver to Colonel Pickering.

*Wagstaff* - On 5th March 1994, Private George David Wagstaff, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Warwick* - In December 1993, Private Stanley Frank Warwick, The Royal Hampshire Regiment and 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Wright* - On 2nd May 1994, Major John Stanley Duffett Wright TD, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and North Staffordshire Regiment.

## Regimental Families

*Armstrong* - On 10th February 1994, Mrs Sylvia Armstrong, widow of Brigadier C. D. Armstrong CBE DSO MC, The East Surrey Regiment. Mrs Armstrong, accompanied by her daughter Jacqueline Mayo, was a loyal supporter of The East Surrey Regiment Reunions. Mrs Mayo MBE, who died in May 1993 was the families advice correspondent in the Army magazine 'Soldier' for 17 years.

*Barrow* - On 13th November 1993, Mrs J Barrow, wife of Lt Col P de S Barrow.

*East* - On 18th March 1994, Mrs Joan East, widow of the late Colonel L C East DSO, OBE.

*Palmer* - On 27th March 1994, Mrs Marjorie Vaughan (nee Drysdale) Palmer, widow of Brigadier Godfrey (Reggie) Palmer CBE.

*Ray* - On 6th May 1994, Mrs Mary Ray, beloved wife of Lt Col J B Ray MBE.

## Obituaries

### Major D Davidson

Major Douglas Davidson served in the London Scottish before the war and was commissioned into The Queens Royal Regiment in September 1941. He was posted to the 13th Bn and remained with the Bn until 1944 serving as adjutant from June 1943. He went to France in 1944 and served with the 1st Bn The Hertfordshire Regiment in the 11th Armoured Division until being appointed a staff captain in January 1945. He served in various staff

appointments reaching the rank of Major until his release in 1946. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

N.B. His wife has been ill for some years suffering from Alzheimers disease and will not even know of his death - very sad!

CAJN

### Captain C R Mountjoy MM

It is with sadness that I must report the passing of a fellow Queensman, C R Mountjoy of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Members of the 1st Queen's who served in Pekin, Tientsin China will remember him as the Signal Sergeant. Later in Palestine he will be recalled as a senior NCO who proved his worth time and time again.

From Palestine at the outbreak of war to the desert, the battalions first big engagement, Sidi Barrani. Halfaya Pass. On our entry into Syria in 1941, where as a platoon commander he showed his true worth when going to the summit of a point high in the mountains to join up with some Australian troops. Unfortunately they were surrounded and captured by the French forces and held for sometime. After negotiations for a cease fire, Sgt Mountjoy and his platoon were returned to the Regiment. For his fine leadership at this time he was awarded the MM.

Leaving Syria, he experienced all the usual excitement going on at that time. Crete, and the bombing of *HMS Glenroy*, the Bn endured Tobruk and departed eventually for training to Ceylon. During the latter half of 1942 Cyril Mountjoy was granted a commission and departed the Regiment to attend OTC at Belgum, Central India. I was able to resume our friendship again when on completion of his course at Belgum, he arrived at the training depot of the 10/10 Bn The Baluch Regt in Karachi. He was posted to a unit in the Imphal area, where within a short while he transferred to the India Corps of Signals. His retirement was devoted to enjoying his hobby of being a radio ham, having a call sign of his own.

PWB

### Captain J A Hamilton MC

John Hamilton was born in 1919, educated at Bradfield College, and commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1938.

He served in Allahabad Razmak on the North West Frontier province of India and Datta Khel operations; Ambala, Peshawar and with the XIV Army in Arakan. Together with other companies of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment John Hamilton took part in the large scale operation against the Japanese on 1st December 1943. He commanded 'C' Company and took out a two platoon fighting patrol to establish the strength and positions of the enemy on a ridge about 1000 yards away. After a long hard fight and having established the positions and considerable strength of the Japanese, he withdrew according to the plan. During the withdrawal he was faced with having to make a fighting retreat across 1000 yards of open paddy swept by Japanese fire. During this action for which he was subsequently awarded the MC, he was very badly wounded, and remained lying in the open for several hours before being brought in. He was very lucky to survive his wounds, the exposure, and the fact that a Japanese pursuit party passed him by, but left him untouched, presumably thinking he was dead. He was ultimately evacuated to England to face many operations over a long time. On release from the Army he became a housemaster at a Borstal in Suffolk, and then went out to

the Gold Coast to start a similar school system there. On his return to England he worked for a short time in industry and then went on holiday to Tresco with his family to work out his future. Tresco had a strong hold on his affections from his memories of past family holidays.

After a short time, when in his early 40's he became ill with heart trouble. His doctor told him that if he was working in commerce he should retire. During his convalescence he turned to painting and on recovery became a full time painter, and in time became acknowledged as one of the world's leading painters of the Second World War at Sea.

Having completed a number of paintings of Royal Naval Actions in the Second World War, all of which he had extensively researched, he held an exhibition of these paintings at the Guildhall in the City of London. This received such acclaim that the whole collection was bought by a group of businessmen and given to the Nation. This collection is now on permanent exhibition in HMS Belfast in the Pool of London.

He followed this with a book "War at Sea", which included 176 of his paintings and accompanying text which had been painstakingly researched. He then went to America and painted a number of paintings of the US Navy entitled "War in the Pacific" and these were put on exhibition in the pentagon. More recently he had painted a series of Antarctic paintings.

He set up a UK arm of the Antarctic Heritage Trust, and when I last saw him in 1992 he had just come back from Antarctica, having visited the South Pole and all the places made famous in Antarctic exploration. He was then 73 years of age and said he was getting a bit old for leaping out of helicopters onto the ice - not bad for a man who had been so badly wounded and then told by his doctor in middle age that he was a retirement case.

John frequently said that he felt he was living on borrowed time, and his interests were very wide. He had a most enquiring and intelligent mind and tremendous sources of application. He lived every minute to the full. At 6 feet 8½ inches high he was a commanding figure. He had a great sense of fun. It was always a delight to be in his company and he was a friend one could rely on in any circumstance.

To his wife Betty and to his son and daughter and grandchildren we send our deepest sympathy.

RFK

#### **Brigadier P H Richardson DSO OBE**

Educated at Charterhouse he joined the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment in Dover in 1930. He had the unusual experience during his service of commanding Battalions of three different Regiments as well as two Regimental Brigades and the Corps of Royal Military Police.

In 1931 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in North China - Tientsin and Peking - and served there until the Battalion was moved to India. In 1934 he spent a month travelling in Japan and Manchuria, which had first been occupied by the Japanese. He was with the Battalion at the time of the Quetta earthquake and later in Allahabad. He represented the Regiment at hockey, cricket, athletics and polo. During his long leave in 1935 he travelled overland from Quetta to the U.K.

In 1937 he was posted to the Depot at Guildford and during the Munich crisis in 1938 he served for a short time on the staff of Sir John Anderson at Scotland Yard. He was at the

Depot at the outbreak of war and became adjutant when it was transformed into an Infantry Training Centre.

He graduated at the Staff College, Camberley in 1941 and after a short period as Brigade Major he served as second in command of the 2nd/5th Battalion in Iraq and North Africa. At the end of the North Africa campaign he was posted to command the 7th Battalion The Green Howards in Sicily. After the Sicily campaign his Battalion returned to the U.K. and took part in the "D" day landing in Normandy as part of one of the Assault Brigades.

He was later wounded in a counter attack and taken prisoner. He escaped with three others by sawing open the door of a cattle truck and jumping from the train when in transit. He got back to the U.K. after a month of cross country night walking.

After a very short period on the staff at G.H.Q. Cairo as A.A.G. he took command of the 2nd/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in Italy prior to the crossing of the River Senio and later commanded 169 Queen's Brigade in Italy and Pola until the Brigade was disbanded in 1946.

After a period on the staff at the War Office as G.S.O.1. (MI) and at G.H.Q. Middle East, Fayid, as A.Q.M.G. (Ops) he was given command of the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment in Aquaba and Suez. He served for a short period as the Army Instructor at the Royal Navy's Senior Officers War Course at Greenwich before becoming Director of Amphibious Warfare Training at the Ministry of Defence.

He was next appointed to command a T.A. Brigade of The Welsh Regiment and finally served for three years as Provost Marshal of the Army. He retired in 1961 and served for many years on Local Councils in Somerset and as a Tax Commissioner.

He was awarded the O.B.E. for his escapes as a P.O.W. and his D.S.O. when commanding the 2nd/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in Italy.

#### **RSM S B Pratten MM**

Sid Pratten, who died in February was one of a small band of stalwarts who served with 2/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment throughout its existence from 1939 to 1946. He was promoted sergeant while with the battalion in France in 1940. He went overseas again in August 1942 on what he described as a "Workman's Return" via Iraq, Palestine, the Western Desert, Tunisia and Italy.

At the Salerno landings he was Anti-Tank Sergeant Major and did sterling work with the Platoon until he was seriously wounded in October 1943 after crossing the River Volturno. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Taylor recalls, "I was commanding D Company advancing through an olive grove, and the Anti-Tank Platoon were moving up a track alongside to deploy a defensive screen against a subjected armoured counter-attack. Sid had already led five guns forward and was sitting on the barrel of the sixth gun, to train it to the tow bar, when the jeep hit a teller mine. The occupants were killed and Sid was hurled several yards by the explosion.

But he was back with the battalion by December in time for the Queen's Brigade attack on the 3000 ft Monte Camino. By now CSM of a rifle company he was awarded the MM in January 1944 during the assault crossing of the river Garigliano.

After withdrawal from the Anzio bridgehead in March the severely depleted division was given four months respite



for rest and refit, and it was at this time that Sid returned home from Trieste for demob in February 1946 just before 2/6th Queen's was disbanded.

Sid had married in 1941. Now, after a fine war record, he and Edith were able to begin life together and bring up two daughters. He got a job with Tate and Lyle at Silvertown in the London Docks and remained with the firm until retirement in 1984. He had the distinction of being a JP in the Newham district for 20 years, and in 1982 he took over the 2/6th Queen's OCA from Frank Peart.

A modest man with a strong sense of duty he was held in great esteem by those of us who had served in the Battalion. Happily he and Edith, who helped him so much with the OCA, went to Salerno last September for the 50th anniversary of the landings, and he laid a wreath at the war cemetery in memory of our fallen comrades. He will be greatly missed not only by his devoted family but also by his many friends in The Queen's.

GBC

#### **Major C W Deayton-Groom MBE**

Bill D.G. was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment from the world of advertising and posted to the 1/6th Battalion in 1941 joining D Company as a platoon commander. He fought through the Tunisian campaign but shortly after the victory he was one of fifteen officers sent to reinforce the 1st Division.

Bill joined the 2nd North Staffs and took part in the Anzio battles of January and February 1944 until he was wounded. Recovering at the B.R.C.S. at Sorrento he met some Surrey Officers' and it was arranged for him to return to the 1/6 Surreys. As 2i/c A Company he fought through several actions as the Battalion advanced up the spine of Italy. Just before the attack on Cosina he was sent to Palestine on the advance party as the Battalion were due for a rest. When trouble flared up in Greece he rejoined the Battalion in Athens serving as 2 i/c and then Company Commander of B and A Company. He was made MBE for his services in North Africa and Italy.

A commercial artist by profession he was a skilled caricaturist with a delightful aptitude for humorous prose. He also had a deep knowledge of military history and contributed several articles to the British Army Review and illustrations for the museum at Clandon. His witty sketches and pithy descriptions were much in demand during the war and he was always prepared to use his craft for the benefit of others.

After the war he returned to commercial advertising. He is survived by his wife and their married daughters.

AWFP

#### **CSM Jack Homersham MBE**

Jack Homersham joined the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment Territorial Army in 1933 or 34, but I did not meet him until after Dunkirk, when he was posted to train recruits of the 50th Queen's. It was a wartime Battalion formed by Colonel Alan Block at Caterham, which subsequently became the 15th Queen's, stationed in Roedean, Newhaven and Dover. He was a Platoon Sergeant in my Company, and was a pillar of strength to us inexperienced wartime soldiers.

Sometime after I went overseas, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Ceylon, and we met again, although he was not in the same Company as me. He went with the 2nd Battalion to Burma as a Chindit.

I met him for the third time when I joined the 5th Queen's as a Territorial in 1950. He was one of those devoted soldiers who kept the Battalion in being when the Territorial Army was at a low ebb. He could always be relied upon to be on parade when he was needed, and with his experience of both Territorial and wartime soldiering he was most helpful to newly posted Permanent Staff Instructors, trying to make sense of a bewildering situation.

When he could no longer be an active Territorial, he joined the Committee of the Old Comrades Association, and helped organise the Annual Reunions. He also served for many years with Surrey Army Cadet Force.

Jack was a man who devoted his life to the service of his Country and his Regiment. It was fitting that he should be awarded the rare distinction of the MBE.

He is survived by his wife Edna, whom he married before the War, and who supported him throughout his life, and also by his three children.

HMWH

#### **R E Bullen**

Roy Bullen will be remembered as the author of the "History of the 2/7th Battalion The Queens Royal Regiment" which was published in 1958 and reprinted in 1988. In telling the achievement of the Battalion the book brings out the friendliness within it which was the foundation of its always high morale through the traumas of the War. In his preface Roy Bullen wrote that he had "tried to convey some of the atmosphere, some of the excitement, some of the humour, some of the boredom, and perhaps a little of the fear". As a record of what it was like the book will remain a memorial and of interest for a long time.

Roy Bullen was a Guildford man and joined the 5th Battalion in 1939 being in action with 2/5th Queens in France in 1940. Later that summer he transferred to the 2/7th to work in the Orderly Room soon becoming a Sergeant and No.2 to Harry Neale, the Orderly Room Sergeant. From then for more than 5 years Roy played a splendid and essential role in the organisation and administration of the Battalion, and was Mentioned in Despatches at the end of the War.

After the War in civil life he worked for a good many years for the Westminster Hospital, and made a particular contribution to Surrey life as, for 25 years, Parish Clerk to Windlesham Parish. He was to, for much of his life, a prolific writer of short stories and serials under a number of different names. He was a friendly and helpful man with a ready wit who was very popular in the Sergeant's Mess, and since always at Re-Unions with which he was much involved as a member of the Battalion Association Committee.

JWS

#### **Major J Schofield MBE., TD.**

Jack Schofield came to the Queens Royal Regt TA in 1960 in the rank of Captain, on moving South to the London area. He had taken a post as teacher at the Watford Clarendon School. He had served in Korea.

He joined the 5th Bn commanded by Lt Col H M W Harris, in time to attend the House of Commons dinner in Jan 1960. In 1962 he was appointed OC HQ Coy under CO Lt Col J Llewelyn and was present at the amalgamation parade of 5 Queens and 6 Queens Royal Regts, and 565 LAA RA, which became 3 Queens Surreys. In 1964 he

took over command of 'D' Coy (Bermondsey and Sutton) under CO Lt Col J Pullen.

Jack was a great character, with a sense of humour, very forthright in the Yorkshire manner - able to describe a shovel in a more picturesque down to earth manner. Jack was awarded the MBE for services to Army Boxing, where he held the appointment of secretary for many years.

During the last ten years of his life he was teaching at Parmiters School, Garston, near Watford. The Chairman of the Governors, the Headmaster and several members of the staff were present at the funeral. The Chairman spoke highly of Jack's services to the school.

He soldiered for the fun of it, the hell of it and the challenge it gave. He will be missed.  
He is survived by two sons, one of whom lives in Australia.

DGW

#### Donation

The Trustees acknowledge with grateful thanks the following donations received: Col A C Miéville OBE, Maj P C Aitkens, R A Gates Esq. Donations in lieu of flowers to the memory of the late CSM Jack Homersham MBE, were received from:- 5th OMA The Queen's Royal Regiment, Lt Cols J Burgess, H M W Harris, A H le Q Clayton and M A Lowry, Maj J Attenborough, Messrs E Shackleton, G Deacon, L Turner, G Fairfax, M Jenkins, D Monger.

To the memory of the late Brig P H Richardson DSO OBE, Maj Gen F J C Piggot, R S N Mans, F A H Ling, Brig T Hart-Dyke, Maj F H S D Bruner, Lt Col P M A Taylor, Mrs M F Kirkpatrick, M W Allday, Lady M R Kyle, J Bourne, C E Masterman, H L Evans, Mrs D M Jay, Mrs R C G Sheldon, T H P Wilson, Maj Gen & Mrs D L Lloyd Owen, Mrs M J Bosanquet and Miss P K Ryan, D Stuart Todd, C T C Woodall, Mrs N Kealy, Brig G H W Goode, Doctor R M Griffiths and Doctor S M Griffiths, M H Richardson, Mr C A G Simpkins Liverpool Council of Social Service.

#### Benevolence

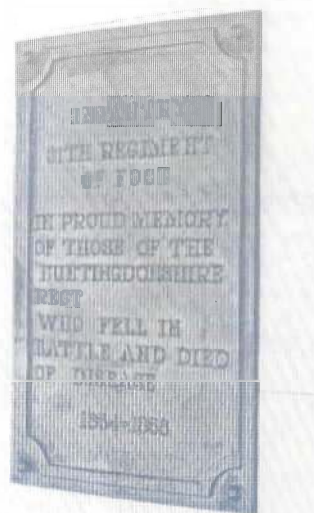


John Lydell enjoying the air in his new wheelchair

#### Crimean War Memorial

On 7 September 1993 the Defence Attache in Kiev, Captain I A M Parrish OBE RN, organized a very fitting, simple, dignified and moving unveiling ceremony at the Memorial. The Ukraine President's Representative and the

Ambassador to the Ukraine made speeches before the Ambassador unveiled the obelisk. Wreaths were laid on behalf on the British people and British Servicemen and by the local dignitaries and local children. The traditional reading (They shall not grow old) was given. A British Royal Marine played the Last Post and Reveille. The Ukrainian and Black Sea Fleets provided a guard of honour and fired a salute. The British Press were represented and you may have read reports of the event in the national newspapers.



Memorial to the 31st (Later East Surrey) Regiment at the new British Military Cemetery on Cathcart's Hill, Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine.

The new memorial consists of a central obelisk, set in a forty metre square enclosure, with the walls in cream Inkerman stone, embellished with cast iron plaques commemorating all the Regiments, Corps and Naval Ships which took part in the War.

The aim was to build a suitable and lasting Memorial on the site of the British cemetery on Cathcart's Hill to those British Servicemen who died during the Crimean War. This' thanks to your generous support, has been achieved.



New British Military Cemetery Memorial, Cathcart's Hill, Sevastopol, Crimean War 1854-56.

Picture: HMS Excellent top of second column on facing page is referred to in the ceremony described in article on page 12



## HMS Excellent 1924

### The Regiment & HMS Excellent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Excellent Band then trooped the March through the ranks of the Band and Drums of the Regiment.

## HMS Excellent 1994



*Commissioning Cake being cut by Mrs Sutermeister and youngest member of the ships company.*

## Museum Open Day



*Left to Right, Jimmy Dell, Sid Barker MM, Harry Smith, Col Durrant, Tom Best*

## 1/7th Queen's, Yorkshire 1945



*Sgt 'Topper' Brown sent this photo of senior NCOs of 1/7th Queen's just prior to the disbandment of the battalion. Left to Right, Sgt J Ring MM, C/Sgt E Sapp, CSM T Thomas, Sgt Andrews DCM, Sgt ?.....Where are they now? Sadly we know that Sgt Andrews has since died.*





## Barrack Room Ballads By Rudyard Kipling

### THE LADIES

I've taken my fun where I've found it:  
I've rogued an' I've ranged in my time;  
I've 'ad my pickin' o' sweethearts,  
An' four o' the lot was prime.  
One was an 'arf-caste widow,

One was a woman at Prome,  
One was the wife of a  
jemadar-sais,  
An' one is a girl at 'ome.

Now I aren't no 'and with the  
ladies,  
For, takin' 'em all along,  
You never can say till you've  
tried 'em,  
An' then you are like to be wrong.  
There's times when you'll think  
that you mightn't,  
There's times when you'll know  
that you might;  
But the things you will learn  
from the 'Yellow an' 'Brown,  
They'll 'elp you a lot with the  
white!

I was a young un at 'Oogli,  
Shy as a girl to begin;  
Aggie de Castrer she made me,  
An' Aggie was clever as sin;  
Older than me, but my first un-  
More like a mother she were-  
Showed me the way to promotion  
an' pay,  
An' I learned about women from  
'er!

Then I was ordered to Burma,  
Actin' in charge o' Bazar,  
An' I got me a tiddy live 'eathen  
Through buyin' supplies off 'er pa.  
Funny an' yellow an' faithful-  
Doll in a teacup she were-  
But we lived on the square, like a  
true-married pair,  
An' I learned about women from  
'er!

Then we was shifted to Neemuch  
(Or I might ha' been keepin' 'er now),  
An' I took with a shiny she-devil,  
The wife of a nigger at Mhow;  
Taught me the gipsy-folks' bolee;

Kind o' volcano she were,  
For she knifed me one night  
'cause I wished she was white,  
And I learned about women from 'er!

Then I come 'ome in a trooper,  
'Long of a kid o' sixteen-  
Girl from a convent at Meerut,  
The straightest I ever 'ave seen.  
Love at first sight was 'er  
trouble,  
She didn't know what it were;  
An' I wouldn't do such, 'cause I  
liked 'er too much,  
But-I learned about women from 'er!

I've taken my fun where I've  
found it,  
An' now I must pay for my fun,  
For the more you 'ave known o'  
the others  
The less will you settle to one;  
An' the end of it's sittin' and  
thinkin',  
An' dreamin' Hell-fires to see;  
So be warned by my lot (which I  
know you will not),  
An' learn about women from me!

What did the Colonel's Lady  
think?  
Nobody never knew.  
Somebody asked the Sergeant's  
wife,  
An' she told 'em true!  
When you get to a man in the  
case,  
They're like as a row of pins-  
For the Colonel's Lady an' Judy  
O'Grady  
Are sisters under their skins!



Corporal, The East Surrey Regiment c 1895

The Association is most grateful to the artist Bryan Fosten for allowing us to reproduce this watercolour

#### Bull's Eye

An escaped bullock which ran amok in Guildford recently and caused general consternation before being shot was not the first of its kind to do so. In 1885 when the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia were marching out of the town behind their band an escaped and enraged bull charged among them, injuring the bass drummer and scattering the column. It seems that the old Army requirement of "bags of bull" was a bit overdone on this occasion.

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson

