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THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER



Drummer, The Queen's Royal Regiment



Regimental And Association Events



20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

1994

1995

10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846)
4th February	Museum Trustees Meeting, Clandon
17th February	Queen's Surreys Regimental Council Meeting - Clandon
4th March	The Queen's Regiment Association Reunion, Victory Services Club, London
11th March	Territorial Trustees meeting, Clandon
25th March	Association Trustees and Committee meetings, Clandon
25th March	2/7th Queens Annual Reunion Ebury Arms, Pimlico
27th March	PWRR Exercise the Freedom of Marching through Hove
28th March	PWRR Exercise the Freedom of Marching through Barnet
30th March	PWRR Exercise the Freedom of Marching through Southampton
31st March	PWRR Exercise the Freedom of Marching through Reigate and Banstead
23rd April	YPRES DAY (1915)
23rd April	Annual St Georges Day lunch, details from Major D Conran, 5 Cherwell Lodge, Water Eaton Road, Oxford, OX2 7QH, (0865-53587)
29th April	Museum Open Day Clandon
8th May	VE Day - will be marked nationally by Services on Sunday 7th May followed by Bank Holiday on 8th May.
11th May	Golf Society Spring Meeting, Sudbrook Park, Richmond
13th May	5 OMA Annual Dinner, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from D Mitchell, 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, GU3 5JE
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811)
20th May	Presentation of New Colours to 2nd Bn PWRR - Canterbury
24th May	Golf Society versus Royal Marines match, Fleet, by invitation
26th May	Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors, Clandon (TBC)
1st June	The BATTLE of the GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE 1794
9th June	PWRR officers' club cocktail party, Haberdashers Hall, London
11th June	Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral 1100 for 1115 hrs
1st July	WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Bassingbourn, Details May 95 Newsletter
1st August	MINDEN DAY (1759)
15th August	VJ Day - will be commemorated mainly on Saturday 19th August and with Religious Services on Sunday 20th August
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943)
4th October	Golf Society Autumn meeting, Woking Golf club
6th October	Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon, Clandon
4th November	Queen's Surreys Annual Reunion, Union Jack Club
10th November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 10:30am
13th November	Remembrance Day

Editorial

The President refers in his notes that it has been a steady six months, it has been a very busy period, coinciding as it did with many anniversary parades and reunions. A wonderful turnout at the Cathedral for our annual church service followed by the march past, which I know stirred the memories of past church parades. Sadly, I think it is possibly the last time we shall have the exclusive use of a band for this occasion.

Benevolence work continues, there has been an increase in the number of our old comrades requiring wheelchairs. Fortunately we have been able to assist all those who were recommended to us by the welfare organisations.

Work is now in full swing at Stoughton Barracks, or as it will be known in the future Cardwells Keep. I had hoped to write you all a full report for this edition, but there are a number of proposals which have not yet been approved.

I have included some photos which will tear at the hearts of our old Queensmen, especially those who were stationed at the Depot.

It must be emphasised that the Association has been given a fair hearing by Countryside Properties plc and Guildford Borough Council have been most supportive to our wishes for the naming of some of the roads.

The Freedom of Guildford parade will have been held by the time you read these notes, it is most appropriate that this march should take place fifty years on from when the Freedom was granted to The Queen's Royal Regiment, and in Kingston to The East Surrey Regiment. This editorial will be brief as there are many articles and pictures to try and get into this edition, thanks to you, the readers. Keep the articles and letters coming in.

With best wishes to you all

Les Wilson

Acknowledgement: The Front cover depicts a drummer outside Stoughton Barracks, Guildford. It is reproduced with the permission of the artist Charles C. Stadden and we are most grateful to him.

President's Notes

It has been a steady six months since the publication of the last Newsletter with much work being done by our Association Secretary on benevolence. I am sure that all members would like me to thank Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson once more for what he achieves in this field and realise how much he assists our ex members of our regiments. Limited Regimental funds are available for this work and it is good to know they are benefiting those in need. Please let him know if you are aware of anyone eligible who might perhaps be in need of our assistance, for I consider this to be the most Important use of our Association's funds. We are all grateful to Les for all the help he is able to arrange.

Readers will be interested to know of the current rebuilding of Stoughton Barracks in Guildford into a housing estate, it is hoped that when completed most of

the roads will be named after distinguished former members of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and that a suitable memorial to commemorate it once being the home of the Regiment will be erected. Similarly it is hoped that some form of memorial or plaque will be placed at The Barracks at Kingston on Thames, now used for MOD married quarters, to record its previous occupation by The East Surrey Regiment.

I look forward to meeting many members of our Association at our annual reunion at the Union Jack Club on 4th November, although it will have taken place by the time you read these notes. It is most encouraging how the numbers increase at this gathering each year, in spite of us all growing older, our memories of past regimental service together seem to grow stronger.

With best wishes.

Mike Doyle



The Princess Of Wales's Royal Regiment

The Battalions

The 1st Battalion is now well into its tour in Omagh. Lisanelly Barracks, where they are stationed, has excellent facilities to compensate for life behind barbed wire. The battalion has had several operational successes, won the Northern Ireland Football Competition and the Infantry Cricket Championships, and regularly gets parties of soldiers away to Bavaria on ten-day Adventurous training exercises. A small party also joined one of our affiliated ships, HMS *Chatham*, in Sardinia in April for its return trip from the Mediterranean to UK.

The 2nd Battalion came back to Howe Barracks, Canterbury, at the end of April after a six month tour in Fermanagh. The highlight for them in Northern Ireland was the visit by our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess of Wales, on 23 April, St George's Day. Subsequently the whole battalion provided the administrative support for the Royal Tournament in July and went to Canada for training in September and October. A group of 35 served in Bosnia with 2 R Anglian throughout the summer and a similar number was despatched to Rwanda. Meanwhile the 5th Battalion had their Annual Camp in Otterburn in September and the 6th/7th were fortunate to have theirs in Cyprus in June.

More Headline News

The Regimental Free-Fall team, 'The Tigers' represented the British Army in Berlin on 18 June at an Allied sky-diving display to mark the departure of the Allies from the City. Subsequently they dropped into Dover Castle on 6 July for the start of the Tour de France with the appropriate coloured jerseys for the leading cyclists and trailing smoke in matching colours. Also for this event the Regiment provided ceremonial Fanfare Trumpeters, and, at both Dover Castle and in Canterbury, a Corps of Drums. The Kohima TA Band played later at the Lord Mayor's Garden Party.

Regimental Grand Reunion

The Regimental Grand Reunion returned to Canterbury 'Home of the Regiment' on 20th June. There seemed to be more members of our affiliated Associations than ever and the majority agreed that Howe Barracks provided a much more agreeable atmosphere for this occasion than the windswept expanses of Bassingbourn.

Honorary Freedoms

Much attention is now placed on fostering the Regiment's Honorary Freedoms granted by 30 cities, boroughs and towns. Each year a number of the Freedoms are exercised

and this autumn a contingent from the 2nd Battalion will be on parade in Brighton (26 October), Winchester (27 October), Guildford (28 October) and Canterbury (29 October). The 5th Battalion will march through Maidstone on 15 October. Next year Freedom Parades are planned for Hove (27 March), Barnet (28 March), Southampton (30 March) and Reigate and Banstead (31 March). We very much hope that all these occasions will be strongly supported by our affiliated Regimental Associations.

All but four of the Lord Mayors or Mayors of our Freedom cities, boroughs or towns are visiting either the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland for two days or our 2nd Battalion in Canterbury for one day in October, November and December. This is an excellent way for these civic dignitaries to get to know and appreciate 'their' Regiment.

Also this year for the first time the Regiment is planning for a serving officer in uniform to lay a Regimental wreath on Remembrance Sunday in all 30 Freedom places. This too will help to establish the name of the Regiment across our recruiting area.

Dover Castle Museum

Association members who have not visited the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle recently (admission free on showing a membership card) are strongly advised to try out the new Second World War Inter-Active Video which was installed there this summer after considerable hard work by Lt Col Les Wilson MBE and others. This new facility places this excellent museum among the best in the country and it should not be missed.

Northern Ireland Memorial

Plans are being made for the construction and dedication for a Memorial to all ranks of The Queen's Regiment who were killed in Northern Ireland during the recent campaign. The Memorial will be sited at the entrance of Howe Barracks, Canterbury. It will feature a cartouche of the Royal Arms of King George III which was originally on the Officers' Mess of Wemyss Barracks (now demolished) in Canterbury, placed above a memorial plate bearing the particulars of all those killed.

Silver And Bands

Major Mike Aylward MBE has been burning the midnight oil in Regimental Headquarters organising the auction of surplus Regimental silver and the disposal of instruments, equipment and music which previously belonged to our Regimental bands, which were disbanded this summer. The two new Queen's Division bands, the Minden Band at Colchester and the Normandy Band at Catterick are both now fully operational and have a busy programme of engagements extending far into the future.

JW

5 Queens OMA

Many single Regiment Associations are born to die, and I am quite sure that when 5 Queens OMA was formed at the end of the last War, it was envisaged that we would be no more by the end of the century.

Nothing could be further from the truth, 5 Queens OMA is going from strength to strength. Each year at our functions we see new faces, many are those who have attended no re-unions since the War but as they grow older feel the need to re-establish contact with old friends with whom they shared wartime experiences., The other new faces are the young Territorials whose membership of our association will carry us forward into the 21st century.

5 Queens OMA has always been proud of the lead it has taken in the Regiment and our membership is now open to all from the founding Regiment, 5 Queens, 3 Queens Surreys, A Coy 5 Queens, A Coy 5 PWRR, all ex Regular and Territorials in West Surrey who belonged to the former and present Regiment.



Reunion Dinner

Colonel A C Mieville, a Deputy Colonel PWRR.
Major M G Whelan, OC "A" Coy, Major Derrick Watson
with OMA members.

We are extremely fortunate to have the backing of Major Mark Whelan, the officer currently commanding A Coy at Sandfield Terrace, Guildford which is the traditional home of the Association.

Our dinner this year, held on 14 May, was attended by 170 members. We were delighted to welcome Col A C Miéville, Deputy Colonel Surrey, who was able to give the assembled company a resume of the Regular battalions' present activities. Clarrie Jarman, now 98, who joined the Regiment in 1913 was also able to be with us. Tudor Davis, who joined the Regiment in Hunstanton in 1944 and had not previously attended a reunion, travelled from Sunderland, and I am glad to say met many old friends. We were delighted to welcome some 40 serving and ex Territorials who like our older members were able to enjoy the spirit of the evening. One of the pleasures of the dinner is always the display of regimental silver on the tables, which Capt Brian Scripps the PSAO at Guildford prepares so well for us.

On 5 June many of our members attended the Service at Guildford Cathedral which was followed by a buffet lunch at Sandfield Terrace attended by 120 old members and their wives. The lunch, the brain child of our Secretary Doug Mitchell was to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of D Day and 200th Anniversary of the Glorious 1st June. We were all delighted to see Gen Fergus Ling, Lt Col Peter Swanson who now commands the London Regiment, the ladies and the Kohima Band who had delighted us with

their music at the Cathedral. The following month 30 members and their ladies attended the Regimental Grand Reunion at Canterbury, and a party led by Major Watson were guests of the city of Lille to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation. We are all looking forward to seeing the Regiment Exercise the Freedom of the City of Guildford on 28 October, when members will be lining the High Street watching with pride a ceremony which many of us have performed in the past.

This year A Coy 5 PWRR will be on parade at Guildford on Remembrance Sunday, 13 November and we hope to have a large contingent of OMA on parade as well.

As we draw to the end of yet another busy year of activities organised by the OMA, our thanks are extended to a dedicated band without whom there would be no 5 Queens OMA - your Committee:- Secretary Doug Mitchell; aided by Ian Chatfield; Ron May; Paul Phelan; Dick Saunders; Jimmy Patterson; Ernie Clamp; Geoff Register and Arthur Dunipace. Our thanks are also extended to Lt Col Les Wilson for the benevolent work he carries out on behalf of our members and their families.

FBIH

Grand Reunion, Canterbury



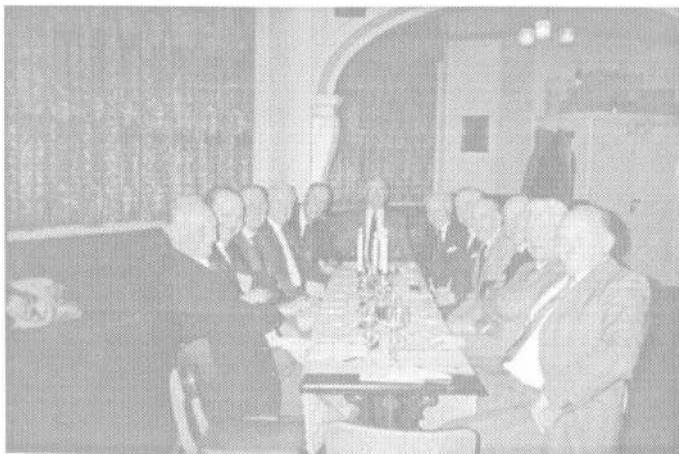
Bert Collison, Stan Blay, Eric Lockwood, Bill Roadnight,
Reg Race, Fred Holder.



Our In-Pensioners hold court

2/7th Queen's Reunion

2/7th Queens held their 48th Annual Reunion Dinner on 26th March 1994 at the usual venue The Ebury Arms Pimlico. Brigadier MacWilliam was in the chair and 59 members attended, making it an enjoyable evening.



Included in this photo are Sid Latter, Alf Morris, Ron Field, Gus Leahey, Graham Swain, Sid Messinger, Eric Cator, Stan Triffit, Peter Bruscam and Sandy Hudson.

Harry Neale, who had been the Hon Secretary since the first reunion, resigned during the year. David Blum, as chairman of the committee, presented him with a suitably inscribed crystal tankard bearing the regimental crest as a token of the appreciation of all the members. Sid Messenger has taken over from Harry and the committee looks forward confidently to the future success of this annual get together. The next reunion has been fixed for Saturday 25th March 1995 at the Ebury Arms, but at lunch time rather than in the evening to meet the overwhelming wish of the members.

DH

Queen's (Southwark) O.C.A. Belgium 1994

Liberation Day Sept 1944 has been commemorated annually by a grand celebration in the City of Sint Niklaas attended by members of the Association. Thus it was that a party of 45 members and families travelled to Sint Niklaas to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Liberation Day.

As usual the party was received with open arms by various official organisations and ceremoniously welcomed by the Burgomaster and Aldermen at the City Hall. Next day the party joined a large parade in the Market Square and led by the Bands of the Polish Army and Royal Harmony de Kristvreiden they marched to a number of memorials including one dedicated to The Queen's Royal Regiment. Wreaths were laid at each site. The members were then invited to a lunch organised by The Secret Army. The following morning Mrs Griffiths was the guest at the opening ceremony of a street named after Lt Col W D Griffiths DSO MC who commanded 1/7th Queen's at Sint Niklaas 1944.

These official duties were interspersed with various receptions hosted by the Burgomaster and City Council. At the dinner given by the City a medallion and scroll commemorating the 50th Anniversary were presented to all members attending the ceremony. A presentation to the Patriotic Committee was then made by Joe Rowe MM and Dave Smith of a beautiful carved wooden Queen's badge. The gift was much appreciated. Finally a day visit to Brussels for sightseeing was arranged and followed by a dinner in Sint Niklaas organised by the Patriotic Committee. As always the old comrades were deeply impressed with the sincere welcome by the citizens and thank them for their friendship, generosity and comradeship spread over many years and look forward to many more visits in the future.

The Sint Niklaas Standard

In September 1944 the 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was ordered to liberate the city of Sint Niklaas in Belgium. When the Battalion moved in they received a tumultuous welcome. The whole population was mad with joy and anxious to express its gratitude for liberation after four years of occupation by an enemy power. We who have never been occupied in that way cannot know the joy of liberation and the desire to give thanks to those who made it possible.



Photo of Standard and our Standard Bearer K Issom.

Since the war a very friendly relationship has developed between the people of Sint Niklaas and the Old Comrades Association. Regular visits have been made and then in 1969 came an unexpected honour. In order to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Liberation Day and to officially record the thanks of the city, the Burgomaster and Council presented the standard to the Regiment.

It is a typical example of a European standard in shape, composition and manufacture bearing the crest of the city and the Queen's badge in colour together with gold lettering on a blue background. It is therefore a unique, public symbol of the grateful thanks of the city of Sint Niklaas to all ranks of the 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment who are justifiably proud of this distinction.

This then is the story of the Standard carried on all parades by the Old Comrades Association and which serves to remind us of the valued friendship of the people of Sint Niklaas. This special relationship continues to the present day and will be especially celebrated on the 50th Anniversary of Liberation Day 1994.

ASP



What are these two cooking up now?

A Sunday in June

The annual Regimental Service in Guildford Cathedral had added poignancy this year as it coincided with the nation's commemoration of the Normandy landings and the Regimental anniversary of the Glorious First of June, 1794. As a number of our members may not have had the opportunity of visiting the Cathedral a brief description follows:- Guildford Cathedral stands high above the town on the summit of Stag Hill which was presented by the late Lord Onslow, of Clandon Park, now the home of our Regimental Museum. The surrounding farm land was given by the late Viscount Bennett in memory of the thousands of Canadian soldiers who had been billeted and trained in the area in both World Wars. This has enabled the building to stay apart from the encroaching housing estates and the University.



Lt Col Peter Swanson with wife and son, Major and Mrs Ron Morris, and 'Big D' alias Jennifer Davidson.

The foundation stone was laid in 1936 by Dr Cosmo Lang, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The progress was slow due to the 1939-45 War. The Cathedral, the first to be built in the south of England since the Reformation was finally consecrated in 1961 in the presence of HM The Queen and members of the Royal Family. The congregation are seated on chairs on which hang blue hand worked tapestry kneelers. Blue predominates, as in the middle ages Guildford was noted for blue cloth and woolpacks. There is a great sense of restfulness and peace as you enter the Nave.

The interior is beautiful. The lightness and simplicity of design with the wide soaring elegance of the aisles gives a feeling of great spaciousness. Without interruption one can look towards the High Altar, above which hangs the Dorsal curtain, 45ft high, made of gold lurex damask below a round window.

The tall windows in the North and South aisles are of clear glass, the badges and motifs seen were given by different professions including the Services. A new stained glass window has recently been given by the Women's Royal Army Corps, displaying the former badges of the Corps since its formation. This is the only National memorial to all those who served in these Women's Corps between 1917-1992.

The Chapel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment is situated in the North Transept. The Chapel was originally dedicated in memory of those who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment. The money required to furnish the chapel was raised by that Regiment. These grilles separate the Chapel from the transept from which can be seen the stained glass memorial window presented by The East Surrey Regiment. The centre badge is that of The East Surrey Regiment, flanked by the badges of its forebears, The 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment and The 70th

(Surrey) Regiment. The wall lights are in the shape of the bows of a ship, and the Chapel ceiling is shaped like an upturned boat. Thus the Regimental association with the sea is preserved. On the amalgamation of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment in 1959 the Chapel became that of the new Regiment. The badge of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment can be seen on the west gate. The last Colours of the 1st Battalions of the two former Regiments are laid up on the north wall, and were joined in 1975 by the Colours of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

There are four grilles (gates), made of wrought iron, painted blue and gold, which portray the following items of Regimental insignia:
The Naval Crown, superscribed '1 June 1794',
The Paschal Lamb,
The Sphinx, superscribed 'Egypt'
The Cypher of Queen Catherine within the Garter.

The 5th June was a clear, windy, sunny day after the downpour of rain on the Saturday. As you come up the slope to the Cathedral, you see the Regimental Association flag on the centre pole, and very fine it looks - the Star of the East and the Lamb of the West. The Refectory building is on the left, which apart from providing the usual facilities, can offer tea, coffee or snacks, and after the Service something a little stronger.

The service was especially well attended this year by our old soldiers wearing their campaign medals and it was a particular pleasure to have the Kohima Band of The 5th Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, resplendent in scarlet jackets and blue helmets to play for us.



Arthur Scriven casts a critical eye on the proceedings!

It is an occasion which renews comradeship, and in the quiet surroundings of the Cathedral those who died in action and those who have died since are remembered.

The first hymn was 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', followed by singing on the part of the choir. The Lesson was read by Brigadier M J Doyle, MBE, the President of the Regimental Association., The reading from Luke 7, 1-10, was the familiar story of the Centurion, with its emphasis on discipline. In a newspaper that week-end Richard Todd, the well-known actor, who had landed at Pegasus Bridge with 7 Para, was asked what he had learnt from his service. His reply was, 'Discipline'.

Then followed the hymn 'Christ is made the sure foundation'. The address was given by the Revd Dr K W Stevenson, the Rector of Holy Trinity, Guildford, in whose church the splendid chapel of The Queen's Royal Regiment is to be found. The Rector told of his mother, then aged 18 and living in Denmark, who heard the news of the Normandy landings on a hidden wireless set.

On that day, 50 years ago, 131 (Queen's) Brigade had embarked and were waiting to cross the channel. Only then could the soldiers be briefed for their part in the battles to come.

The roof was then raised with the familiar hymn 'For all the Saints who from their labours rest' The Regimental Collects followed with the blessings.

The moving hymn, the last verse of 'Eternal Father', sung kneeling closed the service. Then up stiff as ramrods, finding the trouser seam for the National Anthem.



The March Past

Members who were going to parade formed up alongside the Cathedral for the march past under Brigadier R W Acworth CBE. As there were at least two Regular Regimental Sergeant Majors to sort everyone out, this was performed with precision. Then, headed by the Regimental Association standard, carried by Tony Ramsey MM, with Tommy Atkins as left marker, the marvellous strains of 'Braganza' greeted the onlookers as the Band, led by Drum Major Geoff Fairfax, swung round the corner towards the saluting base. The music changed to 'Lass o' Gowrie', 'A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky' and finally the new arrangement of 'The Farmer's Boy' (Royal Hampshire) and 'Soldiers of the Queen' (Queen's), being the new Regimental March.

Then, file after file, at least 200 veterans (the fashionable name for us) passed the President standing in the sunshine on the Cathedral steps, flanked by In-Pensioners Dickason, Kershaw and Henderson MM from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.



Colonel John Davidson with his long suffering storeman A Lefevre.

Their parade duties over, the Kohima Band gave us a pleasant concert outside the Cathedral on the grass. Some

members went to the Refectory for a quick one before going their separate ways, a good number went down to Sandfield Terrace, the TA centre in Guildford where 5 Queen's OMA had laid on a buffet lunch while others went to Clandon Park. The Regimental Service was over for another year.

Then home to watch the wonderful TV coverage of the events in Normandy 'Lest we forget' is engraved on many memorials. This June it had been made abundantly clear that we and the Nation do not forget our comrades lying in some corner of a foreign field, be it Normandy, Africa, Italy, Burma, Siam or Malaya.

DH

Queen Alexandra Hospital Home

One of the most satisfying aspects of being a Trustee of our Association Funds lies in the opportunities it affords to help those of our members in need, particularly those who suffer severe incapacity or disablement. Benevolence being our principal objective, the Trustees make grants and donations not only to individuals to relieve poverty, suffering, disability and hardship, but also to several institutions who provide our members in need with longer term care than we are able to supply or finance.

Amongst those institutions to whom the Trustees have made donations during my Chairmanship, one of the most worthy is the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home for Ex-servicemen. As its name implies it is both a Hospital providing first class medical services with access to first class surgery, and a Nursing Home. It opened at Roehampton shortly after the end of World War 1, and moved to its present location at Gifford House Worthing in 1933. It is a registered Charity and its President is Her Majesty the Queen Mother.



The Chairman, Colonel W E McConnell handing over the Association's cheque to Major General Sir Philip Ward.

Since opening it has cared for more of our old comrades than we can account for (though we can account for some 14 of them in the last 5 years) some of them for holidays or convalescence and some on a permanent basis. Moreover, I was informed, they have never refused admission to any of our members who have been recommended by our Association! I was therefore curious to see the Hospital for myself and that curiosity was satisfied earlier this summer when accompanied by our Honorary Secretary I was privileged to see over Gifford House and hand to the Chairman of Governors, Major General Sir Philip Ward a donation from this Association.

The Hospital is well and professionally managed and staffed by people who quite obviously care for those in their charge. Their stated aims are:-

1. To provide a real and happy permanent home for fifty disabled ex-servicemen, and
2. To give a holiday, with nursing and medical treatment to two hundred disabled ex-servicemen each year."

I was impressed that instead of institutional type Wards, the beds are grouped in twos and threes in separate rooms all of very comfortable appearance. We visited a Leisure Activities Department providing facilities for every type of hobby and handicraft, a well equipped and well organised Library, a Bar to which patients may invite guests, an attractive and peaceful garden, a well equipped Physiotherapy Department and a Hydro-therapy pool. I was particularly impressed by the "garage" for wheelchairs where patients leave their electric ones on trickle charge overnight and change steeds for the manually operated ones in which they get around the Hospital; I was amused by the Matrons account of the traffic jams that ensue when sixty odd electric chairs arrive more or less simultaneously at mealtimes! Above all, however, I was able to judge from the smiles and the cheerful responses of the patients to whom I spoke just how well the Hospital succeeds in achieving its aims.



'Clarrie' Jarman receives a little extra TLC during his recent stay at Gifford House.

I would urge any member of the Association who is, or who knows of any old comrade in the Regiment who is disabled and in need of the services provided by Gifford House to contact our Honorary Secretary.

Recollections of Normandy

The following reminiscences have been contributed by members of 131 (Queen's) Brigade who took part in the Normandy Landings.

Major D A Grant MC, OC HQ Company, 1/5th Queen's writes,

'We sailed in some comfort in a Dutch boat and passed through the Straits of Dover. My party, which included the Provost Corporal, disembarked into a landing craft skippered by a young American. We were supposed to land on Gold Beach, but I was not surprised to find that we were some way east of our destination. We grounded hard on a sandbank some way from the shore. The Provost Corporal was about 6'2" tall, and as I am only 5'8", prudence dictated that this was an occasion when I should not lead from the front. The corporal obliged me by jumping into the water. As it came up only to his waist, I was happy to follow. I was not so happy when I saw that the first few strides brought the water up to his shoulders. Beyond the sandbank the water was much deeper. Fortunately it did not rise above my chin, but I was pleased that I had had the foresight to carry a spare pair of socks under my helmet. We left our heavy packs under guard, and marched

westwards to find the rest of our Battalion who did not seem to have noticed our absence'.

Major J T Peasley, OC 'B Company, 1/5th Queen's recalls they went on to land further up the coast and had a perfectly dry and unopposed landing. In the mix-up of the landings, the Quartermaster and his staff had landed two days before the Battalion. This was very much to the Battalion's advantage as a hot meal was awaiting them at the assembly point. The cooks themselves had had an unnerving experience when confronted with men approaching to attack them, thinking they were the enemy, but it turned out to be their own Battalion.

Captain C H Nice, the Mortar Officer of 1/6th Queen's has the following recollection of the landing.

'We climbed down the scramble net into a landing craft. I was part of HQ Company, commanded by Major J H Mason, who topped the six foot mark easily. My own chaps, however, were much less than that, so I gathered them all aft, thinking that as the first few lots got off the boat would rise. The theory was excellent' but that's as far as it went! The ramp went down and Major Mason gallantly disappeared into about seven feet of wet. Just as the last of the Signal Platoon followed him, a German aircraft, just one, flew over. The skipper (not British) upped with his ramp immediately, and out into the bay he ran. From inquiry on my part, he said he had to go into the bay in the event of an air raid. I pointed out the difference between one aircraft and an air raid, explaining that I had a fairly urgent appointment ashore. We had just reached the 'I'll put you in irons' and 'I have 30 men anxious to chuck you overboard' stage when we bumped into a home-going craft, this time with a proper skipper. Hastily I explained the difficulty to him and we were bundled over, and the dear chap gave us a dry landing. But where were we? For security's sake JHM had the map and I had the trace. So we marched across the beach to where a Military Police sergeant was guarding a very promising exit. 'Can't go up there, Sir,' he said, 'It's dangerous.' I hesitated to point out that other dangers existed, including this beach, when he went on, 'The route's been changed to that one there, and he pointed to a very small track some 50 yards off. Anxious to get off the beach we followed the small track which eventually led into a wood. This got thicker as we went in and it was difficult to see where we were going, so I called a halt. Next morning, back to our earlier track, we marched along, feeling better for the rest. After about an hour we heard voices coming from a wider converging path. We recognised them as C Company, and after a few minutes marched behind as if we had been there all along. We had landed!'

The 1/7th Queen's disembarked from landing craft at La Rivière at about 1600 hrs on 8th June. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel D S Gordon, got ashore by clinging to the roof of a 3-ton vehicle. The men waded ashore through three feet of water, clutching their ration boxes and moved off to the concentration area. The Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant P Hoggarth, landed at Le Hamel where the beach and hinterland had been cleared. He found a farm for his party where the owner insisted on drinks all round a toast to the Allies and damnation to the Boche!

The Adjutant of the 1/7th, Captain G H Courchee, travelled independently of the Battalion, commanding a group of four HQ Company vehicles, including the Battalion Command vehicle, an armoured half-track white. It took some time to unload and de-waterproof the vehicles, and it was not until 12th June that 131 Brigade was ashore and fully operational.



Between the Wars



The proposed new entrance

The barracks today is a sad place, the demolition men are knocking down buildings and cutting new roads. Its new name will be Cardwells Keep and it is possible that the roads will be named after regimental personalities.

Cardwells Keep is to be a luxury housing complex and work will continue for some time into the future. It is hoped too that a memorial will be erected within the old Depot area.

When more details are known we shall publish a full report in this Newsletter. Shown above is the keep and entrance to the Depot as many of us recall it. The photos below show some of the work currently in hand.

A fond memory

*Red brick barracks, on the hill,
Now deserted, silent, still,
The walls all crumbling, gashed and torn,
The empty flag-pole stands forlorn.*

*The gates, once polished shiny bright,
Are red with rust, and locked up tight,
This place, once a Regiment's womb,
Now stands silent as a tomb.*

*Nothing left to tell the story
Of the Regiment's fame and glory,
Not an echo of the bugle calls,
Which once rang round the barrack walls.*

*T'was here men came to learn to fight
For all the things they thought were right.
From village and city here they came,
To learn to play the soldiering game.*

*For some it was heaven, for some it was hell,
But when they left, they could play it well,
And through the gates they marched with precision,
To add to their Regiment's finest tradition.*

*Rich men, poor men, villains and cranks,
All could be found in those disciplined ranks.
From here to India, China, Iraq,
There were many of them, who would never come back.*

*But those who returned
Are proud men still,
To have served in those barracks,
Up on the hill.*



The Keep from the new main entrance



The Square, or what is left of it!

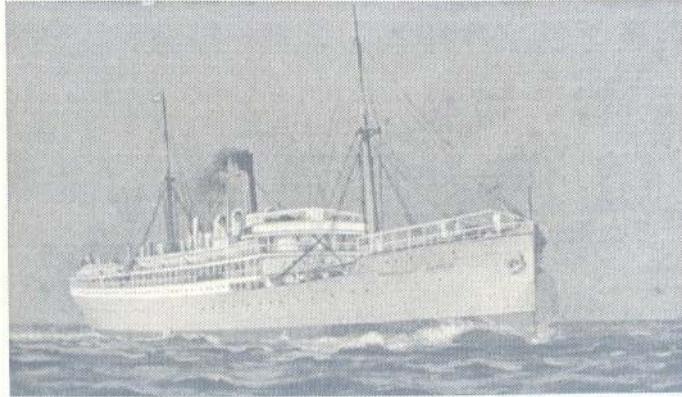


The accommodation blocks

For the Record

A most interesting diary has been received recently, written by Alan Robson Smith formerly of the 6th East Surrey Regiment, it tells of adventurous travels and soldiering during the First World War.

Enlisting at Kingston-upon-Thames in August, 1914, doubtless as one of the initial rush of volunteers of the time, the writer maintains a beautifully written chronicle of events. Following some rather hurried training in Kent, he and his compatriots from the Home Counties Division left Canterbury West Station en route to India via Southampton.



Grantully Castle

Embarked on 30th October, 1914, in the troopship "Grantully Castle", part of a convoy, he watched the shores of England disappear and was soon on the high seas. The still raw semi-recruits underwent all the usual novel experiences of ship-board life such as hammock slinging, food spillage on heaving decks and seasickness. A particularly rough passage through the Bay of Biscay only accentuated matters and all were relieved when the Rock of Gibraltar came in sight. Passage through the Straits not only gave the troops interesting views of the Rock and the opposing North African coast but, with pleasurable relief, introduced them to the brighter weather and calmer waters of the Mediterranean sea.

Entry was made into Malta Harbour for the purpose of landing two sick soldiers for hospital treatment but otherwise no shore leave was given. Allied naval vessels, including submarines and the French battleship *Charlmange*, were much in evidence as were the usual crowd of boatmen plying their various trades and skills.

At Port Said the ship took on coal, a noisy business which, continuing into the night, prevented the troops getting much sleep, and entry was then made into the Suez Canal, passing the statue of Ferdinand-de-Lesseps on the way. During the passage through the Canal other troops were seen on the shores, including the Highland Light Infantry and the Camel Corps. Heat was by now becoming a problem in the close confines of the troopship and many men were sleeping on deck when opportunity presented itself. War news was now being received by wireless including an erroneous report that the *Grantully Castle* herself had been sunk by a Turkish cruiser. A correction report was hastily dispatched. At Port Said and Port Tewfik some shore leave was allowed but was marred by bad weather. Turbulent waters made passage to and from the shore difficult and sometimes impossible, while on land sandstorms produced misery and discomfort.

By the time the Red Sea was entered life on board ship was becoming almost unbearable for the troops. Excessive heat, cramped conditions and the poor food all contributed to their discontent. All were heartily sick of the voyage

and wished for its end. If their bodily welfare was suffering, some effort was obviously being made to maintain their spiritual well being as Divine Service was conducted by the Colonel accompanied by the Regimental Band. Efforts to organise sporting events were made but were not a success due to lack of interest by the NCO's.

At Aden the Australian cruiser HMAS *Sydney*, fresh from her victorious action with the German cruiser *Emden*, was seen, as were ships carrying contingents of Australian troops to Egypt.

Continuing the voyage across the Indian Ocean, the spirits of the troops rose as the end of their long journey was envisaged. They landed at Bombay, "The Gate of India" on 2nd December, 1914. To the now well seasoned soldiers of The East Surrey Regiment it was to be a "Gate to Adventures", all thankfully to be recorded in "The Diary". From "The Gate of India" the writer and his companions commenced their journey across the country by rail, following a route that was doubtless familiar to their forefathers. Sunrises, sunsets, moonlight nights and surrounding scenery were all entrancing to the new arrivals as the train continued on its way.

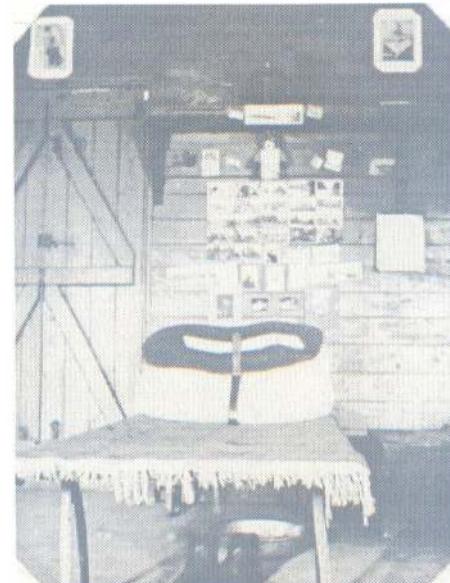
During a halt at Shansi, recently vacated by the 2nd East Surreys enroute to France, some members of the Battalion rearguard were encountered who imparted much information to the newcomers. (How much of the information was old soldiers' yarns is doubtless open to speculation.)

Passing through Cawnpore and Lucknow (both of Indian Mutiny notoriety) journey's end was eventually reached at Fyzabad where the travel weary troops de-trained at the military rail siding. From there, headed by the band of a Brahmin Regiment, they marched to barracks with their baggage being transported on mule and bullock wagons. On arrival in the new quarters their first meal was goat stew which, although hungry, the troops did not particularly welcome. (Poor food seems to have been a recurring complaint). Beds were rudimentary, consisting merely of sheets of corrugated iron. A point of justifiable importance in army life in India was the periodic reading to the troops of the Indian Rifle Act, emphasising the need for security of weapons. Loss of same, by any means, was a very serious offence.

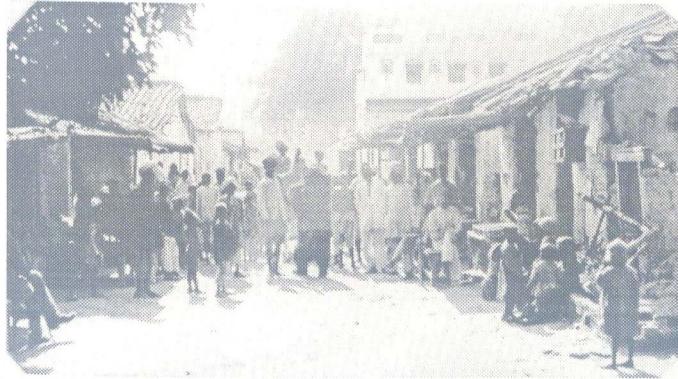
Attempts were soon made to brighten up the barracks, probably with the forthcoming Xmas in mind, and prizes were offered for the three best decorated bungalows. First prize was won by B Company. Christmas Day 1914, in

Atmosphere of the barracks, the sun shone
seemed more
like English
mid-summer to
the troops sit-
ting on their
verandahs after
breakfast. Xmas
dinner was the
traditional
turkey and
pudding. The
Colonel and
members of his
staff visited the
mess rooms to
wish compli-
ments of the

*Typical
Bed space*



season and many toasts were proposed including one to "Comrades in France". New Year's Day, 1915, as was the practice in India, was set aside for large scale demonstrative parades for proclamation of the reigning sovereign as King Emperor of India. The darker side of Indian life was made apparent some nights later when thieves or "loose wallahs" as they were known, ransacked a bungalow and stabbed a British soldier with a knife. The battalion later moved to Kotwa, 150 miles South of Fyzabad. The regimental police, of whom the writer was one, were left behind to guard the bungalows and personal equipment. As is frequently shown in the diary, the writer took full advantage of opportunities to visit the surrounding countryside and places of interest, one such being the monkey temple near the River Gogra. The monkeys, in the eyes of the Hindus, were apparently regarded as sacred, but the crocodiles in the nearby river were not granted such reverence. An interesting relic seen in a village near Fyzabad was a memorial tablet erected to commemorate a victory gained by the sepoys over British troops during the Indian Mutiny. (Surprisingly, the British seem to have allowed it to remain there).



Regimental Bazaar Fyzabad

The Museum at Fyzabad excited interest, containing among other things the skeletons of different wild animals found in the country. The remains of crocodiles were adorned with brass plates showing when and where shot.

At about this time (1915) the writer did not confine his thoughts to the entries in his diary but wrote a very fulsome and descriptive letter to a lady called "Ciss", presumably back in England.

The importance of animals in draught work is shown by the fact that elephants could be hired for such purposes. Much Army transport was carried out by means of mules and bullocks, either by pulling wagons or carrying pack loads. On one occasion, as mentioned in the letter to "Ciss", a mule which bolted when carrying Battalion ammunition had to be shot, presumably to prevent its load falling into the wrong hands.

The magnificence of the King's Tomb and Begum's Tomb at Fyzabad were truly appreciated but found to be in stark contrast to the poverty of the lower class natives and numerous beggars to be found in the vicinity.

After a month's absence the main body of the battalion returned to Fyzabad after a strenuous period of training. One member was tragically absent, having been drowned while bathing in a pool at Kotwa. Another member, a close friend of the writer, died shortly after the battalion's return and was buried with full military honours. (One more honourable example of "the price of Empire").

The stay at Fyzabad was short as the battalion was soon moved to Rawalpindi, arriving there on March 17th, 1915. Their train journey was not without incident as fifteen

stowaways were found in the carriages of the accompanying menial followers.

As was his habit the writer took full notice of points of interest on his journey and during a stop at Lahore he took a trip into the city by tonga. On the continuing journey he was much impressed by the increasing beauty of the scenery and by the fine structure of the bridges and viaducts crossing the various rivers and waterways. Arrival at Rawalpindi was in the early hours of a very chilly morning, so chilly in fact that an issue of hot milk was made to the troops on detraining. They were soon installed in barracks and once more emphasis was laid on the security of rifles. Rawalpindi was apparently known as the "Aldershot of India", many regiments being garrisoned there so as to be readily available for dispatch to any frontier disturbance. The garrison was an interesting mix of infantry, cavalry, mountain artillery, camel corps and mule transport.



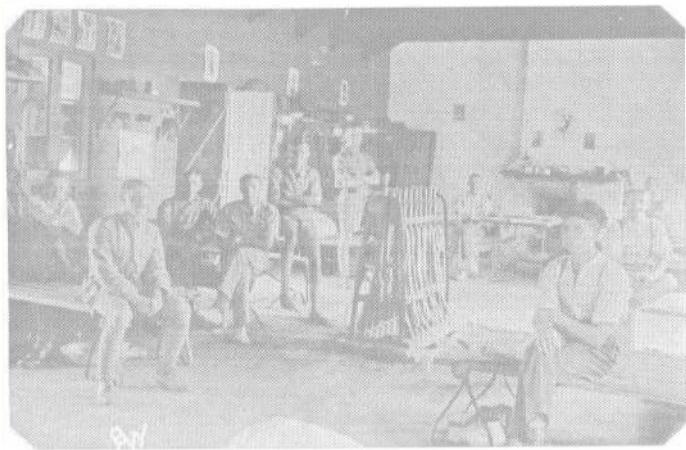
English Church Murree 1915

The writer's sightseeing activities were somewhat curtailed when an outbreak of fever caused the native quarter of the city and surrounding villages to be put out of bounds. The European quarter was still open to access although presence of troops was not always welcome there as was shown by the notices displayed at the entrances to some parks and public gardens stating "Soldiers and dogs not admitted". A club was provided for the use of officers and civilians and this served a dual purpose by being designated and equipped for use as an armed fortress in case of emergency. Such emergency would be proclaimed by three booms from the arsenal guns, all of which were trained in readiness on to the native parts of the city. Some troubles on the frontier resulted in dispatch of mountain artillery and native troops, some of whom incur casualties. Frontier warfare is reported as being particularly barbarous, mutilation of dead and wounded by natives being commonplace.

The month of May saw departure of the Battalion to Kuldana in the Murree Hills. The journey to Kuldana was accomplished without serious mishap, movement being by way of route march accompanied by a string of baggage bearing animal transport. Due to excessive day time heat travel was by night by the light of the moon. An unusual health protection measure was the fact that personnel were allowed to smoke when passing a leper hospital, the idea being that the smoke would ward off the germs.

When the final and apparently steep, climb to the hills began some of the baggage was off loaded from the mules and placed on spare camels of which the writer had to take charge of four. Something of a traffic jam occurred when a number of ascending camels met a descending column in a narrow part of the track. Other difficulties encountered were the passage of bullock carts with native

drivers asleep and their bovine charges wandering on an erratic course. When the writer unwisely tried to prod a driver into wakefulness with his rifle butt, the bullock, with commendable loyalty to his master, charged and nearly took the assailant over a cliff.

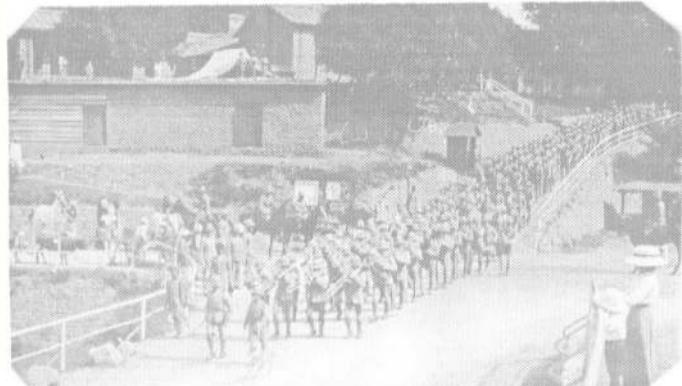


No. 3 Bungalow, Kuldana Hill

Again the subject of rifle security was shown to be an absolute priority. Elaborate precautions were taken at any halts or rest camps and a camel which bolted with a load of rifles was summarily shot before it could reach any potentially hostile territory. By the time the Battalion arrived at Kuldana the men were pretty well exhausted but their first night's sleep was very much disturbed by the presence of insect life in their mattresses.

At Kuldana and nearby Murree a variety of people were to be seen on the roads, including pilgrims, priests and beggars. A native harem in the area was understandably out of bounds to troops. After a hard day's work trench digging on the hillside followed by a dinner described as "absolutely untouchable", the writer and his comrades were obviously somewhat depressed and, in their own words, wishing they had never seen India.

A reminder that the war in Europe was still continuing was the fact that an intercession service was held in the church on August 4th, the anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict. The monsoon season caused more discomfort, not to mention the presence of various pests such as lizards, centipedes, scorpions, rats, spiders and flying bugs. After a comparatively trouble free stay at Kuldana the Battalion were looking forward to departure when disaster struck. Two of their men on transport duties with camels were ambushed by tribesmen, one being killed and the other seriously wounded. One complete rifle and the bolt and magazine of another were carried off. With the advent of cold weather, animal life like humans, started moving down the hills. Monkeys and a bear were seen and a panther which was preying upon cattle was shot. Described as a fine specimen, its photo was published in the weekly edition of the Times of India.



6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, Murree, India July 1915

The Battalion made an early start on its downward trek from the hills. Departure was at 8.30am so presumably the cooler weather allowed day time travel. The writer, weakened by a recent spell in hospital, was allowed the luxury of conveyance in a bullock cart. On the way back to the lowlands a double company was diverted to Fort Attock in Frontier Country, a recognised hostile area. Malaria bearing mosquitoes made the station even more unpleasant as did a water shortage which resulted in the precious liquid waiting to be transported by mules from the insanitary river Indus. Heavy sickness lists followed, several men being put in hospital.

A bridge over the river Indus was undoubtedly of supreme communications and supplies value as a permanent guard was maintained on it. It was without any regrets that the writer and his colleagues left the Fort and returned to the more civilised domains of Rawalpindi where he later spent an unhappy Xmas in hospital suffering from fever. As well as studying the countryside in which he lived and travelled the writer also obviously studied the people, for he gives a very comprehensive description in the closing pages of his diary of the various tribes and castes and their religions and practices. The caste distinctions even had to be maintained among native troops.

On the 15th May 1917 the writer left India en route for South Africa, arriving there on 17th June. Here ends his beautifully written interesting and informative diary which, in itself, is a valuable historic document recording the life and times of the ordinary soldier in India in the early part of the 20th century. One hopes that in South Africa he wrote another diary which one day may surface and come into regimental possession.

RF

"Glorious 1st of June" - 1944



El Alamein Ground, Cairo

The Queen's side v Royal Navy,
Queen's won by 88 runs

Left to Right Back Row: Lt Col D C Baynes (2/7th) Umpire, Major R Wynn (2/7th), Major R D Sunderland (2/7th), Captain C T Reichwald (2/7th) (Capt), Major General R A M Bassett (Comdg British Troops Egypt), Lt P Stooke (HQ 169 Bde), Captain V J W Sewell (2/7th) "The Chief" - Umpire.
Front Row: Sgt Hervey 2/5th), Pte D Street (2/7th), Cpl Lofting (2/7th), Lt E T Clark (HQ 169 Bde), Cpl Avery and Cpl Smith (both HQ 169 Bde).

Treachery at Sobraon

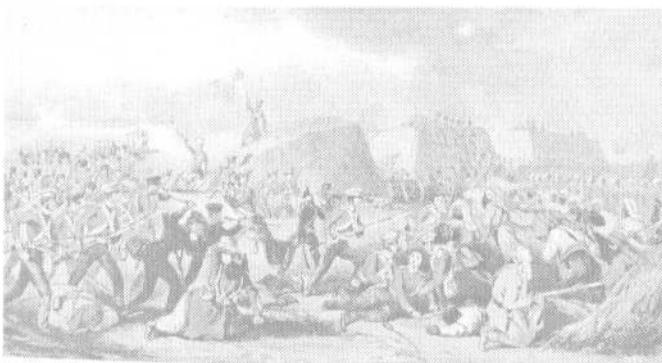
Richard Owen wrote the article below from Manali, Himaehar, Pradesh, India. Richard was until recently a serving officer in the Regiment.

Thank you for all your help and efforts. I would not have been able to start without you. I have to say, I have enjoyed the research enormously, reading articles from the Times, courtesy of the British Council, New Delhi and talking to many Sikhs on the matter. They have no ill feeling towards us just the treachery of their own. I took this note because in no English account could I find any mention of it.

The monument to the British is in Ferozashah, in Sobraon there is a Sikh temple. When I explained who I was there was much excitement culminating in lunch!

But to be honest, it is difficult now to think of war. I'm sitting right underneath the white capped Himalayas on a glorious sunny day - my mind drifts off towards peace and tranquillity more readily! I have taken some photo's but the film is still in the camera. But I fear they aren't too impressive and it'll be six weeks before I can get an opportunity to print them. So I've sent you the script to keep you going otherwise I'd never write it.

I do hope there aren't too many mistakes - I don't write essays too often these days. I would welcome your readers comments on the article, it's certainly not the be all and end all. Back in New Delhi and then Bangkok! Life's hell out here!



Sobraon now lies dormant, rice paddy fields and small earth walled villages basking under the bright Indian sun. But on February 10th 1846 it saw the culmination of the Anglo/Sikh war and the successful completion of an underhanded British foreign policy.

Britain had long desired the rich fertile land that lay north of its existing border now Pakistan and the Punjab. It also feared its neighbours mighty and disciplined army, the Khalsa. The Khalsa was trained by French officers, ex Napoleonic wars and was set up along western lines with equipment and artillery superior to the British. Their soldiers, to a man would die for their cause.

The authorities had developed initial ties with the Sikhs during the Afghan wars in the early 1800s, when Sikh units and equipment helped British forces enter Kabul. It was at this time that influential Sikhs approached the British offering their support in return for the destruction

of the Khalsa, who had grown restless, disillusioned and too powerful. So with the consent of the British, the Khalsa were encouraged to invade British India by crossing the Sutlej River. The invasion was doomed from the start, the Commander-in-Chief, Tej Singh and his fellow general Lal Singh were both conspirators.

On December 11th 1845 70,000 troops of the Khalsa crossed the Sutlej. Ahead of them lay 2 small garrisons of British and native regiments. At Ferozore there were 7000 troops and at Ludiana, 80 miles to the east, were another 5000 troops. The nearest reserves, which included the 31st Foot, were 80 miles south of Ludiana at Umballa where 10,000 troops were stationed. The Sikh task should have been simple if their invasion had been for real: destroy the division at Ferozore, then turn east and attack as instructed by the British, the Ludiana and Umballa divisions. Instead, Tej Singh split his army into two, sending 40,000 men under Lal Singh east while he encircled Ferozore, without attacking.

The two armies met at Moodkee on December 18th 1845. By now the Umballa and Ludiana Divisions had united, numbering 15,000 men - they faced 40,000 Sikhs under Lal Singh.

The battle started at 4.00pm, with ferocious cannonade and cavalry charges. Our infantry fought hand to hand in dense forest suffering the devastating effect of grape shot fired at point blank range from hidden guns. The 31st excelled themselves, with repeated charges on enemy positions capturing several guns, before the battle was won at midnight. It cost them nine officers and 155 men dead and wounded while in full the British lost 215 killed, 657 wounded.

During the 19th the British regrouped, once completed they marched west in pursuit of the defeated Sikh army. They met again on December 21st at the village of Ferozshah, 20 miles east of Ferozore. There the Sikhs had built a heavily entrenched position. The attack was delayed, the British chose to await the arrival of the Ferozore division, who had been allowed to escape by Tej Singh - accounts that they 'slipped through' are absurd.

It was the Ferozore division that led the initial assault but was repulsed with appalling casualties. The following two divisions advanced over the dead and wounded of the first, and both were able to breach the entrenchments. As night fell, confusion reigned with brigades and regiments spread round the field. Skirmishes continued throughout the night, during which the Sikh commander fled the field with the pay chest. In the morning the British troops were able to push home the final assault on the leaderless Sikh army, expending their final ammunition.

While the British regrouped on the position, Tej Singh's army of 35,000 men arrived. At this point, the war could have been won with ease and the route to Delhi open. The exhausted British army lay at his mercy, But Tej Singh remained loyal to his paymaster. His artillery engaged our position for several hours before lumbering up and withdrawing north to the Sutlej river. The total cost to the British was high, 694 killed, 1721 wounded. The 31st left the field with only 327 officers and men.

Both armies needed time to regroup. The battles of Aliwal and Buddowal took place, but it was not until Sobraon that the two armies met in full force. The British reinforced once more attacked the most heavily fortified position of the war at 7.00 am. The defences were $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, ramparts deep backing onto the the Sutlej river. But once again the treachery of the Sikh leaders put paid to their brave but futile efforts. The plans of the defences were leaked to the British 2 days before the attack. Also once the

attack commenced the Sikh commander fled across the Sutlej destroying the bridge behind him trapping his troops.

But General Gough, for some unknown reason, chose to ignore the information given to him and planned his main assault on the left. Also he failed to realise that so far the Sikh artillery had outgunned his own army at each battle. So after a 2 hour artillery duel, the Sikh positions were still intact and well defended when the infantry attacked. The first assault on the left immediately failed. Therefore the feint attack on the right became the major assault allowing the 31st Foot to play their vital and deciding role in the battle.

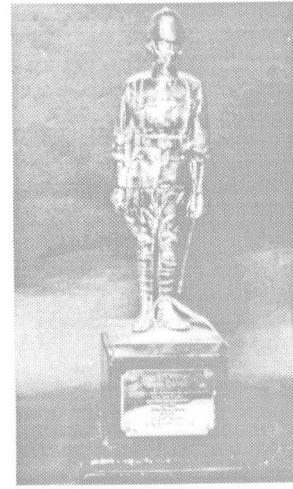
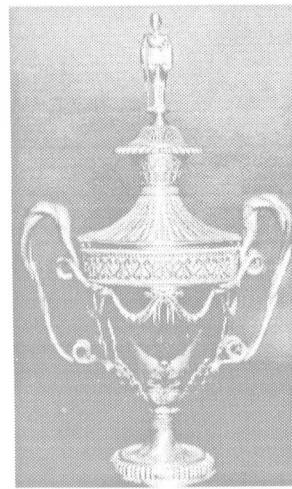
The 31st's division made 2 assaults but failed under withering artillery fire to breach the ramparts. It was during the regrouping after the second assault that the colour party was killed and Sgt McCabe grabbed the regimental colour and rushed the Sikh positions. This single act of bravery raised such passion in the weary 31st and fellow regiments, that their charge took the Sikhs by surprise, falling back against the ferocity of the assault allowing the British to gain their vital breach. Once inside the ramparts the slaughter began. The leaderless Sikhs with nowhere to withdraw, fought to the last man. The river was blocked with the corpses of the dead Sikhs, drowned while attempting to swim across, over 10,000 Sikhs died - killed or drowned.

The Khalsa was broken. The way to Lahore open, the British advanced with their terms of surrender - the Punjab. British foreign policy a success, but foreign policy at a cost. Of the 844 officers and soldiers of the 31st Foot who started the campaign 219 remain in graves at Ferozshah, not to mention those who died later of their wounds. We should also remember the bravery of the Sikh soldiers, who gave their lives for their cause. Lord Lawrence said of them "*the Sikh troops betrayed by their leaders...fought like heroes*". The British Commander-in-Chief gave similar accolades.

However, it is fact, that without the treachery of the Sikh leadership Britain would never have succeeded. We came all too close to losing at Ferozshah and Sobraon. But for the bravery and courage of the British and native soldiers, the history of India would have been very different. The way to Delhi lay open too many times. Final praise must go to the 31st Foot, who distinguished themselves through 8½ weeks of the bloodiest campaign in Indian History, with Sgt Bernard McCabe showing uncommon valour, gallantry and heroism. In the words of their divisional commander "*The Bulldogs of the Thirty First stood up like men*". It is a fitting gesture that the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Hardinge (of Albuhera fame) chose to stand amongst the 31st during those darkest hours, acknowledging their courage and strength.

Ninety Years Ago

On holiday reading recently, I came across an event in regimental history that seemed to merit a brief article here. The 1905 Army in India Infantry Efficiency Competition, won by 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment then stationed at Sialkot, The Battalion was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (later Brigadier General) F.J. Pink.

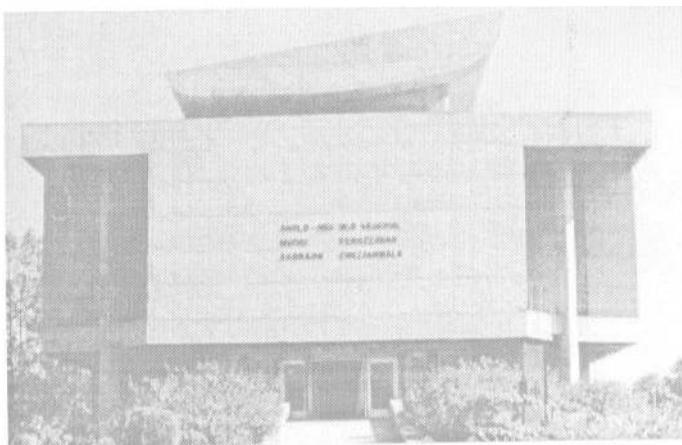


The competition was instituted by Lord Kitchener, when he was Commander-in-Chief in India. He presented a trophy, the Kitchener Cup, and directed that all Infantry battalions in India should compete. There were at that time some 50 British Army battalions and 120 Indian Army battalions that formed the Infantry element of the Empire's garrison in India. The training requirements were simpler though no less demanding physically than nowadays, the poacher gamekeeper skills of the modern infantryman were not needed for '*duties in aid of the civil power*'. The priorities then were shooting and marching; these were the days before motor transport and units had to be capable of marching quickly to any scene of trouble, if necessary over long distances.

The competition required all soldiers of a battalion other than those actually in hospital, to compete. According to an account provided by a soldier serving in another unit, each soldier was issued with a number of rounds of live ammunition together with square lead weights to fill other pouches, making a total weight equivalent to 150 pounds. Each man was also issued with four army biscuits, a tin of compressed soup and three blocks of chocolate. The first part of the competition was a fifteen mile march. This was followed by an advance for a mile in skirmishing order, firing at targets positioned around in the jungle. Soldiers had to spot targets and estimate ranges for themselves as they advanced in short sharp rushes; this phase concluded with a charge. There followed a rest for an hour, in which the soup was boiled and biscuits and chocolate eaten, after which there was a second fifteen mile march back to the start point. Some units had up to three miles additional marching from and to their barracks, all in Indian heat.

In the lines, debate would have centred on whether peak efficiency was attained by the 'bun-punchers' or teetotallers, or those who imbibed 'neck oil, or purge', the terms used for canteen beer. Figures are not available for the 1st Queens, but in the runner-up battalion the 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, the five soldiers who dropped out on the march, a serious offence, were all teetotallers.

The competition was assessed as being too severe as there were a large number of casualties, some fatal and it was not repeated. The 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment were allowed to retain the Kitchener Trophy. This is in three parts a silver cup and statuette that are currently held in the Officers' Mess, and a bronze statuette held in the



Anglo-Sikh War Memorial Museum, Ferozeshah

Barrack Life

The British Army started building barracks for the accommodation of its soldiers just over 200 years ago. Before this it had been the practice to billet troops in private houses. Not surprisingly this was unpopular with the civilians thus affected. The 'rough and licentious soldiery' were not considered to be a social asset in any household or neighbourhood. The provision of barracks was therefore welcomed by many, though not by people whose homes were near the barracks.

By the end of the 18th Century 49 barracks were in occupation in the British Isles and by 1805 the number of barracks had risen to more than 200 with accommodation for around 150,000 troops. But conditions in these buildings were far from good. There was severe overcrowding and very little consideration was given to provisions for personal hygiene. After 1860, more new barracks were built in the main garrison areas such as Aldershot and Colchester and were a big improvement.

Barrack room accommodation was also provided in defensive garrison establishments built in the latter half of the 19th century. In these, living conditions were generally better than in the ordinary barracks, with less tendency to overcrowding. Although the later Victorian barracks at Aldershot and Colchester were a vast improvement over earlier barracks, they made only very modest provisions for soldiers to keep their kit and personal effects. Very few barrack rooms had storage lockers or cupboards, the usual arrangement was for a shelf above the bed head, supplemented by two or three pegs.

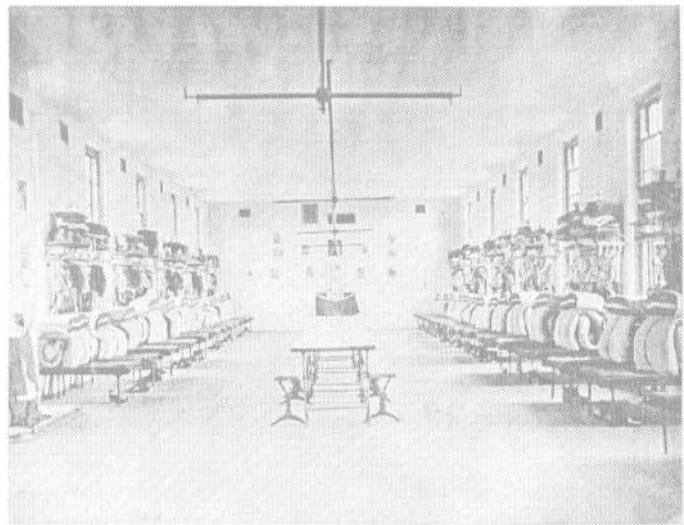
Beds were arranged along the sides of the room and tables were placed in the centre gangway with wooden benches for seats. These tables served for a variety of purposes, from writing letters to cleaning equipment. Heating was supplied by a heavy iron stove burning coal, coke or - in times of fuel shortage - anything combustible that the room inmates could lay their hands on. There was always a competitive interest in getting a bed near the stove in winter, whereas in the summer it was the bed positions near the windows which were most sought after. This basic arrangement will seem familiar to veterans of World War 2, because this style of barrack room layout persisted to the late 1940s and until modern barracks were built in the post war period.

Inspections

It has always been an inflexible rule that barrack rooms received regular inspections. The inspecting group usually comprised the orderly officer and the orderly sergeant of the day, augmented occasionally by the company sergeant major. The inspection ritual of the army of Queen Victoria arrived in World War 2 without much change from the Victorian Army.

The daily inspection would normally be made after the inmates of a room had left it to go on parade or duties. Before leaving, they would leave their beds and displayed items of kit in the specified arrangement. This arrangement varied from barracks to barracks, camp to camp and regiment to regiment.

A more comprehensive inspection would take place weekly, sometimes with the added weight of the O.C.s presence, in which case his sergeant major would also be on hand. These weekly inspections covered the same general ground as the daily checkover, but were also



concerned with the men themselves. All items of kit would be laid out on the bed, not only for examination of their condition but also to detect any missing items. A look-out, positioned by the door would give the signal of approach of the inspecting group and the room corporal would then give the time honoured order:

"Stand by your beds!"

First into the room would be the sergeant major, calling the room to attention. The OC or whichever officer was inspecting would then enter and give the order to "Stand at ease!" As the group approached each bed, the soldier standing by it would spring to attention and remain that way while two or three pairs of questing eyes roved over the display on the bed and also over his person. He could be at the receiving end of a wide range of admonishments: kit layout wrong, clothing not properly cleaned or folded, item of kit missing, needing a haircut, improperly dressed and so on.

In the 1914-18 war only a minority of soldiers had any experience of barrack life. The majority lived through the short period of their initial training in tent camps before being shipped over to France. Those who did spend any time in barracks found themselves in barrack rooms almost unchanged from the Victorian days.

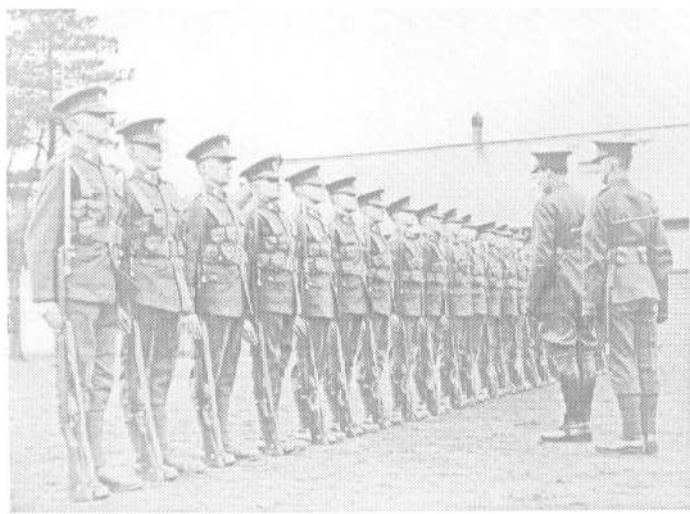
After World War 1, improvements were made and such things as lockers and cupboards appeared in barrack rooms. In some garrisons there were 'soldiers boxes'. These were metal storage trunks, rather like ammunition boxes, in which the troops could keep those items of their kit and uniform not placed in formal display above the bed head.

As World War 2 progressed, the build up of armed forces in Britain created a tremendous need for barrack accommodation. Existing permanent establishments fulfilled only a tiny part of the need and there was a huge programme of building to provide new camps. Most of this new building was in the temporary or semi-permanent style. One design was the traditional hut type, with upright walls and a pitched roof, constructed with laminated wood panels on solid wood or metal frameworks. The other type was constructed from prefabricated corrugated metal sections, assembled so that the sides and roof formed a continuous arc. Known as the Nissen Hut this structure appeared in thousands in every region of the United Kingdom.

A larger version of the Nissen was known as the 'Iris Hut', used mainly for storage or indoor training activities. But whatever the type of structure, the well established traditional barrack room interior layout was retained.

Another Victorian tradition which survived was that a junior NCO (a corporal or lance corporal) was in charge

of the barrack room. The room or hut corporal was responsible for discipline and enjoyed the privilege of first choice of bed position.



The NCO in charge of a room of new recruits adopted a role of fatherly adviser giving useful tips and guidance in such important matters as lessening the agony of wearing new Army boots or obtaining a weekend leave pass on compassionate grounds. In return it was expected that the grateful beneficiaries of the advice would do the corporal a few favours, such as fetching mugs of tea from the NAAFI canteen or offering a cigarette occasionally!!

Leisure Time

Barrack rooms had to remain on 'inspection order' for at least the whole of the morning and usually until after the last parade of the day. Then there was relaxation and the laid-out kit could be disturbed, beds could be sat on or laid on and the tables could be used.

Radio sets became an almost essential part of barrack room life in World War 2 and the amazing variety of reading matter that could be seen was evidence of the complete spectrum of intellectual tastes and educational attainments which existed among 'other ranks' in 1939-45. Pin-up magazines lay alongside copies of 'The Literary Review'. Card 'schools' specialising in 'Solo' and 'Rummy' went cheek by jowl with silent but intense encounters across chessboards.

In World War 2, as in the Victorian era, quite a lot of the soldiers evening leisure time was taken up with attention to clothing and equipment. This was particularly so with new recruits who had not learned the short cuts practiced by experienced soldiers. So 'spit and polish' was prominent among the evening barrack room activities.

The 1939-45 soldier was faced with more tempting spare time activities than the Victorian soldier. Even in the most remotely situated army camps there was usually some sort of diversion, either in the NAAFI or in the nearest town or village. There was no television of course, but camps which were a long way from public cinemas were visited by army mobile cinema units. So the World War 2 soldier found it harder to accept the imposition of 'bullshine' which would keep him in the barrack room or camp hut during the evening hours.

Why the Bull?

Men and women who entered the armed forces of the Crown in World War 2 found it hard to understand the reason for all the attention to "bull" which was expected of them.

Many were the protests of "Are highly polished boots necessary for killing enemies" and similarly disgruntled

observations. A very understandable reaction, of course, and it is true that in some units the "bull" requirements exceeded what was reasonable.

But, apart from the odd exceptions, there was some very good reasoning behind 'Bull'. Soldiers who experienced violent action realised that discipline based on complete attention to detail and utmost care of equipment is an essential ingredient of military success.

And what about these funny old barrack rooms and those draughty huts, with their odd rules and regulations and restrictions? Well, they were important in producing among their inmates a sense of comradeship, of pulling together and giving mutual help. It used to be said that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. What is much more a certainty is that many of the battles and engagements of World War 2 were won in the old barrack rooms and huts of Britain.

Old Soldier

Presidents reception

The President held his annual reception for the Freedom Town Mayors and their wives in the regimental museum at Clandon in May. This year we were delighted that the Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Lt Gen Anthony Denison-Smith and his wife were able to be with us.



Amongst the many other distinguished guests was Lt Cdr Brian Wiggs from HMS *Excellent*, Mr & Mrs George Harris our printers and Mr & Mrs Charles Stadden.

The Kindly Drum Major!



Cassino

What does "Cassino" mean to you? It will of course depend on your age. If you are under 70 it possibly conjures up images of Monte Carlo, Calais or somewhere else on the continent where you could gamble, roulette, blackjack etc. If you are over 70 it may bring back memories of a bigger gamble - the battles for Cassino in central Italy. Just over 50 years ago it was a very big gamble for the Allied armies in Europe.

In early September 1943 the Allies tackled the "soft underbelly" of Europe. A joint force of British and Canadian troops from Montgomery's Eighth Army landed at Reggio in the tip of the toe of Italy, and a newly formed Fifth Army, a mixed British and American force under Mark Clark landed at Salerno near Naples. At times the position at Salerno was very precarious but the Eighth Army made relatively good progress.

Having retreated steadily before the U.S.5th and British 8th Army during the Autumn of 1943 the Germans elected to stand for the winter on the general line ORTONA-MINJURNO. This was known as the GUSTAV line.

A better position suited naturally to defence could not have been chosen. Here the Italian peninsular fines down to its narrowest, giving the shortest possible line.

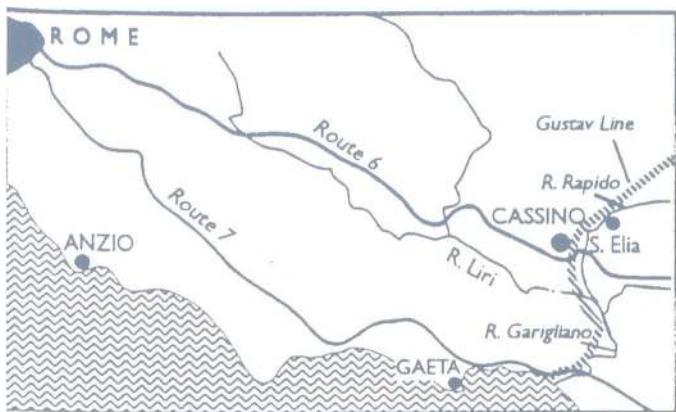
From the Allies point of view, communications were poor; there were a lack of lateral and axial roads. Here the rugged Appenines spread almost across the peninsula forming a formidable and almost unbroken barrier. There were only three routes through this barrier, which were possible in winter.

1. The East Coast route through Pescara. This is a very narrow coastal route along which it was impossible to pass any force of a decisive size.

2. Route 7 which runs along the narrow coastal plain between the ARUNCI mountains and the sea and this had been demolished beyond rapid repair.

3. The LIRI Valley and Route 6.

Here the Liri Valley was some 8-10 miles wide between the APPENINES at CASSINO and the ARUNCI mountains to the south.



The Liri Valley and Route 6 offered the only opportunity of deploying considerable forces in attack but it also formed an ideal defensive position. To the north lie the southern fringes of the Appenines - the two main features being Monte Cairo 5400ft which dominates all approaches into the mountains and to the south east the famous Benedictine Monastery standing on Monte Cassino 1700ft giving unrivalled observation on all approaches from the

East and the South. The River Rapido rushes down the mountains through the town of Cassino and joins the River Gari and together race pell mell to join the River Liri and becomes the River Garigliano.

The battle for Cassino really consisted of four battles. First Battle 17 Jan 1944 to 11 Feb 1944.

This was not a set piece battle but a continuation of the general advance up Italy by the 5th U.S.Army with the 10th British Corps and the French Expeditionary Force.

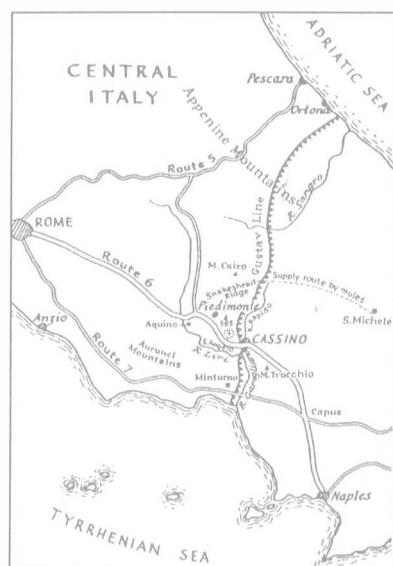
The British secured a bridgehead over the Garigliano and the French captured and held Mt Trochino. The Americans crossed the Rapido and hoped to capture S. Angelo. They ran into trouble and were savagely attacked. By noon on the 22 Jan they were almost out of ammunition and that night the remnants that could swim came back. In 48 hours the Division had lost 681 men. Having failed to the South of Cassino the U.S.Corps were ordered to attack from the North. There was very heavy fighting and the infantry battled into the mountains and captured the village of Cairo to their north; the French captured and held Monte Belvedere.

During the next ten days the Americans made 3 major attempts to break through to Route 6. Firstly Monte Masola and Castellone were captured and they reached what became known as "The BOWL" - a long feature some half mile N.W of the Monastery but this was overshadowed by the enemy held PT 593 Monte Calverio. The Germans had well sited machine gun positions mounted in steel capsules. Between 8th and 11th Feb the Americans made their final attempt to storm Monastery Hill and Cassino Town but they were not successful. They had made splendid efforts but the enemy defensive positions were too good and when finally relieved many of the Americans were numbed with cold and exhaustion. They were relieved by 2 N.Z.Division and 4 Indian Division which had been formed into the Second New Zealand Corps. The New Zealanders took over the front opposite Cassino and the Indian Division took over in the mountains.

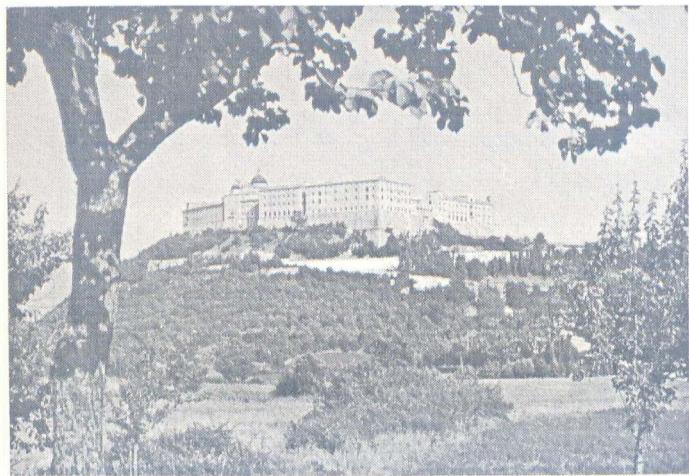
2nd Battle 15-18 Feb 1944

The position at Anzio was grim and so in an endeavour to relieve the pressure 2 N.Z.Corps were to attack and open up Route 6. The Allies considered that the key to the defence was the Monastery itself. They assumed that the Monastery was occupied by the Germans and manned as a vital strong point; this was in spite of the assurance given to the Vatican by the Germans that their troops would not

occupy the Abbey. So on the morning of Tuesday 15 Feb, 254 B17s of 96 Bombardment group (U.S.) attacked the Monastery. The morning bombardment comprised 257 tons of 500lb bombs and 59 tons of 1001b incendiaries. The afternoon formation dropped 283 bombs each weighing 1000 lbs. All observers agree that it was a remarkable feat of precision bombing.



The monastery was in ruins. The west wall had totally collapsed and the whole side of the building along a length of about 100 yds had simply caved in. But when the bombing stopped the Germans made defensive positions in the rubble.



At the time there was much argument as to whether the Monastery had been occupied or not. It now seems certain that it was not. But the Germans had strong positions just outside the walls. It is reported that in at least one instance an ammunition dump was created in a cave which extended right underneath the walls.

Units of 4 Indian Div attacked Pt 593 but were not successful. Meanwhile a Maori battalion of the N.Z.Div attacked and captured Cassino Station in spite of heavy flooding and no tank support. They were forced to withdraw from the station but remained in possession of a small bridge over the Rapido.

The 3rd Battle of Cassino 15-20 March 1944

At Anzio the final German thrust was halted and then the British and American mounted a very successful counter attack. The Anzio beachhead was secure. The Germans had suffered over 5,000 casualties. So it was decided to concentrate on Cassino and Monastery Hill. The New Zealanders would attack Cassino town from the north and also take Castle Hill, which when captured would be handed over to the 4th Indian Division. From here 4 Indian Div would attack Monastery Hill and the Monastery itself. 78 British Div and an American Tank Brigade would be in reserve and ready to exploit. The whole infantry attack would be preceded by a heavy air attack on Cassino.

The weather was not in the Allies favour and the air attack was postponed daily. On 15 March the weather cleared, the bombers took off and dropped about 1,000 tons of HE on Cassino town. At mid-day the New Zealanders supported by tanks advanced from the north into the town.

Gradually the Germans emerged from the ruins and firing on the New Zealanders took toll of the infantry; the tanks were held up by the rubble. The opposition increased and so the advance slowed and was finally held up and down came the rain filling the ditches and bomb craters.

Castle Hill had been captured and with great difficulty handed over to 4 Indian Div who then moved on to Hangmans Hill. By Friday 17th March part of Cassino town and the station were held by the New Zealanders and the Indians held Castle Hill and Hangmans Hill. But things were very difficult especially supplies to the Indians. By night the 4th Indian Div was re-inforced with the object of attacking and capturing Monastery Hill on Sunday 19th March. They were all ready for the attack when the Germans put in a very strong attack from Monastery Hill.

There was very heavy close quarter fighting. The Germans reformed and re-attacked a couple of times but without success. There were heavy casualties on both sides and the attack on Monastery Hill was postponed.

The Gurkhas of 4 Indian Div withdrew from Hangmans Hill to re-inforce Castle Hill and then handed over to 78 British Div who also took over some of the mountain positions, including the Bowl. It was during this period that 1 Surreys in 11 Bde of 78 British Div held an area round the "Bowl".

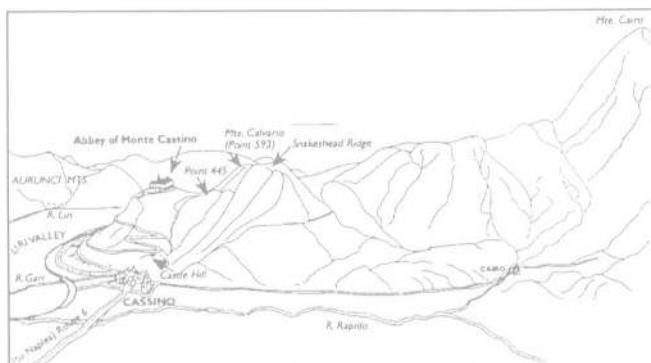
BHQ and S Coy HQ were actually in the Bowl, but the rifle companies were on the exposed rocky ridges known as the Snakes Head and Phantom Ridge. Movement outside the "Bowl" was impossible except at dark and the journey to and from the "Bowl" was very tricky except at night and all supplies were made by mules mainly at night, but even places out of sight of the enemy were stonked both by night and day.

1 Surreys were on the Cassino front from 22 Feb to 18 May. Initially they were on the banks of the Rapido opposite San Angelo during the second battle of Cassino. They were relieved on 23 March. On 27 March they moved to the Bowl area and on 27 April they were relieved by the Poles after 28 days of extremely dangerous discomfort. 15 May saw the 1 Surreys ready to participate in the final Cassino battle.

4th and Final Battle of Cassino 11-15 May 1944



Weather had been an important factor in the previous battles. With the coming of spring the ground began to dry, rivers and streams shrunk to constant flow and on roads and tracks the mud began to disappear; aircraft and tanks would no longer be bogged down. The overall plan for the May offensive was for the Polish Corps to by-pass Cassino and Monastery Hill to the north and to sweep down on Route 6 from behind Cassino to the south. The French Expeditionary Corps were to thrust through the mountains to the south of the River Liri.



In the centre 13 Corps would breach the Gustav line between Cassino and the junction of the rivers Gari and Liri. 13 Corps consisted of 4th British Division (which included 1/6 Surreys in 10 Brigade), 8th Indian Division, 78 Division (which included 1 Surreys in 11 Brigade), 6 Armoured Division and 12th Canadian Armoured Brigade. The plan was to assault the River Gari (Rapido) on a two Divisional front -

Right 4 British Division. Left 8 Indian Division.

When the bridgehead was formed 78 Division would pass through directed towards Aquino (some 7 miles up Route 6 beyond Cassino). The Armour was sub-allotted to assist these three infantry divisions. The two assaulting Divisions were to cross the Gari each on a two Brigade front - the inter divisional boundary running some 1,000 yards to the north of San Angelo.

The plan for 4 Div was for 10 Bde to make a crossing at a point 1½ miles below Cassino to be known as the Rhine Crossing and for 28 Bde to make one under a quarter further down.

The first task was to cross the River Gari (sometimes called the Rapido). This was sixty feet wide, very deep and fast flowing with banks varying from 3' to 7' high.

After several weeks of "normal" activity suddenly at 2300 hrs on 11 May 1944, 1600 guns opened up on the unsuspecting Germans for a softening up period of 45 minutes.

The leading battalions launched their boats at 2345 hrs. There was a river mist and the Germans thickened this up with smoke. On the 8 Indian Division front all four battalions got across. Although suffering casualties and meeting heavy resistance they made some progress.

On the 4 British Division front 28 Brigade initially did not get across and suffered heavy casualties. 10 Bde commanded by Brigadier (later Major General) S. N. Shoesmith crossed on a one battalion front, (1/6 Surreys). The Brigade had 42 eighteen man assault boats and it was to establish three ferries in its sector operated by cable way.

The assault of the Rhine crossing was made by 1/6 Surreys to be followed by 2nd Beds and Herts and when both battalions were across they would be followed by the 2nd D.C.L.I

A Coy (Major Smart) and D Coy (Major Byrne) launched their boats. A Coy crossed amid appalling difficulties, the first two boats being sunk by mortar fire and others being swept downstream by the rapid current. All were across by midnight although very scattered and harassed by heavy M.G and mortar fire. D Coy were also harassed by enemy fire and empty boats returning were swept downstream. Reserve boats were launched and the remainder of the company got across. They too were very scattered; they struck a minefield and sustained very heavy casualties.

Thick mist mixed with drifting smoke added to the incredible difficulties of keeping contact, A Coy were struggling towards Pt 36. Meanwhile A Coy (Major Maggs MC) were crossing the ferry. The CO (Lt Col R. O. V. Thompson) ordered D Coy to help A Coy in the capture of Pt 36. C Coy (Major A. H. Newton) were now crossing the river (Time about 0200 hrs) but under very heavy MG fire.

A, B and D Companies were on Pt 36 and fighting their way to the top, and by 0380 hrs were in possession in spite of very heavy casualties. Bn Tac HQ was by now over the river and the situation was beginning to clarify.

At 0430 hrs A Coy were dug in on Pt 36
B Coy was moving forward to Pt 63
C Coy were trying to contact B Coy
D Coy were with A Coy

But there were still strong pockets of enemy on parts of the feature. Majors Byrne and Newton then led a composite force against these enemy pockets and by 0630 hrs the feature was completely clear of the Germans except dead ones. The carrier platoon was called forward, dismounted and took up defensive positions.

Late afternoon of 12 May tanks had crossed the river on the 8 Ind Div front and some were sent to support 1/6 Surreys.

The night of 12 May was quiet although counter attacks were expected. Next day was comparatively quiet and late afternoon a bridge was constructed on the 1/6 Surrey front and more tanks came across and the battalions A/Tk platoon.

The other battalions of 10 Bde were across and extended the bridgehead and 1/6 Surreys also increased its bridgehead but D Coy owing to heavy casualties sustained was split up among the other companies.

Meanwhile on the left the Americans made no progress the first night but on their right the French Corps made a rapid initial advance and their motorised divisions were forcing the Germans to withdraw.

The Polish Corps in the mountains on the right of the monastery made their attacks on the mountain strong points held by the Germans. On the morning of 12 May they had a tenuous hold on PT 593 after a night of very heavy fighting but their positions were entirely exposed and enemy machine gun and mortar fire took their toll on the Poles throughout the day. But their great effort and sacrifice had taken a lot of fire off 13 Corps assaulting across to Rapido. On 17 May the Poles made new attacks in the mountains captured Pt 593 and moved on to the Monastery and hoisted their flag over it.

At 0900 hrs on the morning of 18 May 1/6 Surreys attacked Cassino Town. Little opposition was encountered but there were many mines and booby traps and these caused casualties including 3 officers killed. By 1030 hrs the companies had reached their objectives. A company moved on towards the Monastery and met the Poles.

Meanwhile 1 Surreys in 11 Bde of 78 Div attacked the Gustav Line but the Germans had withdrawn and so they moved on towards Aquin.

The Battle for Cassino was over.

Those grim 3 or 4 days when 1/6 Surreys desperately held on to Pt 36 really won the battle. Everything hinged on Pt 36. Had the Battalion broken, the major plan might have collapsed, but they held and the road to Rome was opened giving the Allies that great political victory which heralded the opening of the Second Front.

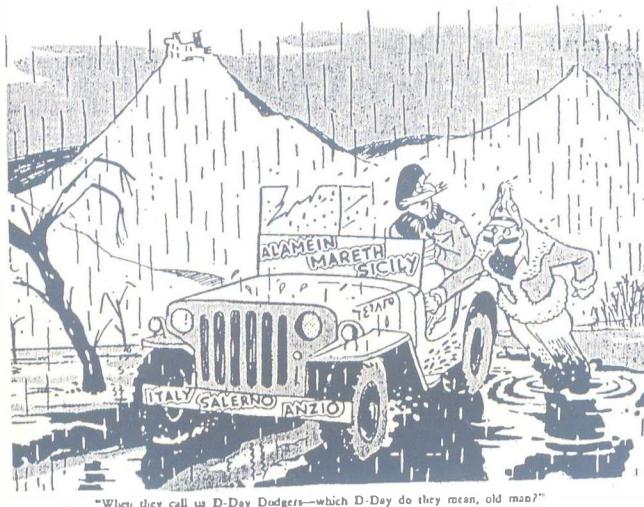
Some Personal Comment.

1. There are very many books written about Cassino. The last one I read had the title "Cassino. The Hollow Victory". It was written by John Ellis who was not born until 1960. Although I did not serve with the Surreys at Cassino I am very proud of our Regimental Battle Honour "Cassino".

2. During 1944 an M.P. referred to the Eighth Army as the D Day Dodgers. Someone in The 8th Army composed a verse to be sung to the tune of Lili Marlene and the last

line is "We are The D Day Dodgers, the Boys of the 8th Army".

3. Reeds the paper manufacturers have built a factory on Point 36.



"When they call us D-Day Dodgers—which D-Day do they mean, old man?"

4. The Autostrada del Sol which runs the length of Italy crosses the River Rapido (Gari) more or less on the boundary line between 4th British Division and 8th Indian Division.

5. In the Cassino Town Hall there is a photograph of a patrol of 1/6 Surreys going through the ruins of the Town.

"Since writing the above article I was chatting to General Mike Reynolds about Cassino and he told me the following story".

In 1982 I was due to attend a Nato conference in Naples and having been to Cassino I decided to arrive a day early so that I could do so. A very nice and knowledgeable young British SAS major guided me on a fascinating study of the Cassino battles and the surrounding area, including the war cemeteries.

The following day at lunch I was sitting next to the General von Senger und Etterling, the German Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Central Europe, and knowing that his father had been the German commander at Cassino I mentioned my visit. He smiled and said, "you know that story that there were no Germans in the monastery before it was bombed?" "Yes" I replied. "Well it's not true - my father went to Mass there every day!"

TAB

Cassino Patrol

Cassino Patrol survivors met again for the first time in over 50 years.

On the night of 23 March 1944, a five man patrol, from 16 Platoon, D Coy 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment was ambushed at Cassino.

Just over fifty years later, three of the four survivors met up again in London, at a reunion, on June 11th. The fourth survivor of the patrol, Bruce Hart of Hayle in Cornwall was not able to travel up to London. The other three are Col John Woodhouse MC (then Lt John Woodhouse MC), John was on his first patrol with his new company, D Company. He had the misfortune of being taken prisoner thus spending the remainder of the War in Europe as a POW, so too did Private Vic James. Vic was also wounded

during the ambush he was at the front of the patrol. Private Bruce Hart and Lance Corporal Tony Moody were able to get away. The Company commander of "D" Company Major E Harvey, was killed in the ambush. Major Harvey, was a good company Commander, he was well thought of and respected by the men of D Coy.

At the reunion there were three other veterans. Two from the Battle Patrol, Len Wood MM and Frank Gage, a stretcher bearer from B Coy and Tony Ramsey MM, now all past seventy but still about, here is the traditional photograph, taken by Vic James.



Back Row L to R: Vic James, Tony Ramsey MM, Tony Moody, Frank Gage.

Front Row L to R: Len Wood MM, Col John Woodhouse MC.

Needless to say, yarns were swapped and as is usual, a good time was had by all. All look forward to meeting up again at the reunion of The East Surreys at Clapham Junction, London in October.

TM

Italy Revisited, May '94

Ray Roberts and Larry Fish headed for Italy, in early May, to attend the 50th anniversary of the battles (4) of Monte Cassino, the site of the fortress-like Benedictine abbey which stood in the path of the Allied armies.



In company of some 40 ex-members of their wartime formation, 78 British Battleaxe Division, and their partners, they toured some of the battle areas. 78th Division fought through North Africa, Sicily and the entire length of Italy before reaching Austria at the end of the war.

Departing, at Cassino, from the tour format Ray and Larry headed around the back of the Polish war memorial and found the location of their 1944 line positions on Snakeshead Ridge. It was a haunting experience, evoking the ghosts of past events and the memory of fallen comrades.

They then paid their homage at the Commonwealth cemetery, and unfurled a large Canadian flag which prompted a flurry of shutter clicking as comrades-in-arms from participating nations recorded the moment. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of Lorne Scots, placed the first wreath at the memorial ceremony. Canadian Victoria Cross recipient, Smoky Smith, was encountered as was another member of Lorne Scots whose name, regrettably, disappeared with the loss of a notebook.



The photo shows veterans of 78 Division below the wartime, mountain stronghold at Centuripe in Sicily. L Fish is the only Surrey in the group wearing shorts.

On an initiative by Ray and Larry, a large number of the Battleaxe group continued on to Sicily where the division had broken the hinge of German defences by capturing the mountain fortress of Centuripe in a pitched battle lasting three days, which allowed General Patton in the west and General Montgomery in the east, to surge forward and drive the enemy out of Sicily.

Viewing the formidable heights, again, which were successfully scaled in the face of paratroop defenders 50 odd years before, was heart-stopping in its cavalier audacity. In an assembly for photographs before the imposing heights of Centuripe, a tangible sense of the unique relationship shared by the brotherhood of front line warriors was manifest.

Despite more than 50 intervening years, memories of individual experiences and events surged forth and were retold in crystalline detail. It was a highly moving occasion which was fittingly finalised by the peace and tranquillity of a languorous picnic on the crown of the mountain citadel.

Bronte, on the lower slopes of Mount Etna and another of the towns captured by 78th Division, produced a rare moment of serendipity for the group. It seems that during his legendary career, Admiral Lord Nelson had attacked and dispersed an enemy fleet invading Italy. He was rewarded by the King of Italy with a dukedom; the Duke of Bronte. Nelson's ducal estate, which he and Emma Hamilton periodically occupied and is maintained to this day, was opened up for the group to tour. Preserved in its original appearance, the estate is maintained in excellent condition and proved to be most interesting. Many large paintings of Nelson's famous naval battles decorated the walls along with portraits of he and Emma. A fitting tribute to a great naval hero.

After visiting all 78th Division's sites of combat, the party moved on to the coastal town of Gioiosa Marea where Larry Fish's unit, 1st Bn The East Surreys, trained in the adjacent mountains for the invasion of Italy's mainland.

A little boy, Santino Celi, used to march off to the local church with Larry Fish and Paddy Leddin, each Sunday morning back-then; Paddy would be killed in the Surreys' first major action on the mainland.

Ray and Larry sought out the church and asked some locals if they knew of Santino Celi. There was instant recognition and excitement that a couple of tourists would know one of their own. Unfortunately, and with obvious regret, the locals stated, "Primero due anni, Santino Celi e morto." Santino had died two years ago. With a little

sadness, but a sense of a mission completed, Larry and Ray re-joined the group for the return to Italy and thence home.

Just before leaving Gioiosa Marea, Larry slipped away and purchased a loaf of bread and a couple of bottles of wine. In his earlier letter of persuasion to every member of the group he had pointed out that the extended trip to Sicily could be done on a shoestring if done as in 1943; sleep under an olive tree with a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine for sustenance. A delightful little ceremony was held, therefore, to fulfil this exhortation. Everyone took a small piece of bread, a small glass of wine, and toasted the conclusion of a remarkable odyssey.

On returning to Canada, Larry Fish was asked why he was back ahead of D-Day, since that must be why he went to Europe. With some embarrassment he had to confess that his formation had been in action for a year and a half sweeping through Africa, Sicily and half way up Italy to capture Rome before the D-Day invasion fleet even set sail.

LF

Italy Star Association

Our annual pilgrimage commenced on April 10th and we visited the Commonwealth cemeteries at Anzio, Minturno, Caserta, Salerno, Cassino, River Sangro, Coriano, Montechio, and Gradara. The whole trip of some 3400 miles was quite strenuous, but thanks to our excellent drivers, the legs of each journey were manageable.

We were initially based in the Hotel L'Approdo in Terracina, where the proprietor's wife is Scottish and who always makes us welcome.

At Anzio on arrival at the Beachhead Cemetery (2312 burials) we found our visit coincided with a visit by a coach from our North Scotland branch and a party of the Sherwood Foresters, who were to re-dedicate their memorial which had been moved, regrettably because of wilful damage. Their padre conducted a service of commemoration and remembrance. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. Brigadier Boyte, the Military Attaché from Rome was present. We all then moved to Anzio town where we found the Mayor and Sindicato, and many hundreds of local citizens waiting to welcome us. The Italian TV was there. We were then formally welcomed back to the town by the Mayor and reminded that many of us were there 50 years ago and as a mark of gratitude all veterans were presented with a Commemorative medal recording the 50th Anniversary of the landings at Anzio. We then visited the museum and presented a number of 56 (London Division) shoulder signs, (The Back Cats) which had been specially asked for.

In the afternoon we visited Peter Beach where some of our members had landed in the initial assault and then to the small memorial to the Gordon Highlanders, and Anzio War Cemetery (1056 graves). Again a very moving place.

The next day was quite strenuous, leaving by the coast road and calling firstly at Minturno Cemetery (2029 graves) and then on to Caserta (759 graves). It was here that we noticed several comrades had died in 1941/2/3 before the main landings in Italy and we concluded they had been POW'S. On to Salerno (1849 graves). A wreath was laid at the Cross of Remembrance and several personal tributes were paid to comrades we had known. Those mountains overlooking the beachhead were still as ominous as they were on the days of the landings.

En route to our next hotel on the Adriatic we stopped at Cassino Cemetery (4267 burials) and this was again most

moving. Several members of the party had taken part in the battles for the monastery. One member, a Coldstream Guardsman saw his brother's resting place for the first time in 50 years. Our piper was fully occupied at several gravesides. At our next hotel at Vasto S. Marino there was a party of schoolchildren from Florence. They were well behaved and disciplined and had been told by their teachers, who we were and what we were doing in their country. They showed us every respect and a pleasant evening was spent in their company.

The next day saw our visit to the River Sangro Cemetery (2619 graves). It was my first visit there and the most impressive of all the settings I have seen, set in the side of a valley, in the form of a semi circle, for all the world like an amphitheatre. Not for the first time on this trip there were tears. On to the Moro River Canadian Cemetery (1615 burials) where it was nice to see evidence of recent visits by relatives in the form of fresh flowers and wreaths. In this particular sector the Canadian Forces suffered heavily.

The next day we moved to our permanent base in Italy the Hotel Astoria at Cervia, where we were greeted by the owner and his family as old friends as indeed we are. The first day was spent sightseeing in the local market then on to San Marino for duty free shopping. Scottish whisky at £4.00 a bottle! One of our members from a Scottish regiment entered the town on its liberation and he confirmed that despite claims to the contrary, the Germans were in occupation and using the heights for observation.

Gradara Commonwealth War Cemetery



Pipe Major Eddie McHale, The Black Watch with two members from 2/7th Queen's, Alf Morris and Graham Swain at the grave of Captain G N Prosser (20.9.44).

the opportunity to visit or even see a photograph of the grave and I was pleased to do this and with a small ceremony with the piper playing I was able to give her a whole series of pictures.

It was here that Alf Morris (2/7th Queens) and I came across the graves of Captain G.N. Prosser (20 Sept. 1944) and Captain (QM) A. Manners MC (3rd Sept. 1944) both 2/7th Queens, Alf had sadly been present when Captain Manners was killed and had taken care of him. We jointly paid our respects with the piper playing the lament.

The memories of the ominous Coriano Ridge were revived when we came to that cemetery (1940 graves). Due to unexplained atmospheric conditions many of the graves

were discoloured with a brown appearance. Many Queens men lying there. This cemetery, as was every one we visited was in an immaculate condition and evidence of the care and attention by the Italian gardeners, some of whom over the years have become friends. If relatives of the fallen could see how their loved ones are cared for it would be of immense comfort.

Coming now to the end of our pilgrimage we held our customary parade in Cervia with a small ceremony at the Naval memorial. This year our visit coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of the town and in our honour, their celebration was brought forward to allow us to take part before we left. The British Naval attache from Rome, Captain Reid RN attended and took the salute at the end of the ceremony. We were welcomed by the Mayor and about 5000 townsfolk who turned out to greet us and we were invited to accompany them and the town band to circuit the town and lay wreaths at several sites where Canadian soldiers and Partisans had been killed. The day finished with a celebratory lunch with our Naval friends some 10 courses all with a fish content and accompanying wine!!

Thus ended a most memorable pilgrimage and the next day we were on our way 'back to Blighty' with many friendships made and renewed and the feeling of comradeship which was as strong as ever. There were many lighter moments but this report has of necessity been shortened because of lack of space.

This leads on to our next event in Canterbury on Sunday May 22nd 1994. The Association had long felt that a permanent memorial to the fallen in Italy was needed in the U.K. and Canterbury was chosen as a most appropriate venue, with its long association with pilgrims and of its place in our heritage. We negotiated with the City council and were given permission to erect our memorial on a plot in Westgate Gardens. The memorial was commissioned and the cost raised by subscriptions. All the groundwork, digging the foundations and associated work was done by members of our East Kent branch. No mean feat for men all in their mid 70s. On May 22nd we held our annual luncheon in the Westgate Hall and 310 members sat down to lunch in the presence of our patron Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge GCB the Chief of the Defence Staff and Lady Inge, The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Canterbury and our President Col. W. Pryke MBE. During his speech our patron paid us the compliment of acknowledging the example we had set by our service and dedication and of the comradeship which was so evident at the gathering and he praised the young servicemen and women of today who followed our example. The Lord Mayor also made a most moving and eloquent speech, entirely in keeping with the most solemn event we were about to take part in.

Lunch over we gathered before a crowd of about 1000 members of the public for a moving service of Dedication and Remembrance. The drums of 5th Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, formed the centre piece for the ceremony and the Union Standard and our National Standard were draped over the drums. Our Patron unveiled the memorial and it was dedicated by the Rev. George Glew (Hon C.F.) to our Fallen Comrades.

Headed by Pipes and Drums, we marched proudly through the City of Canterbury where the salute was taken by the Field Marshal. We were joined in the march (some 500 strong) by contingents from The Royal Hampshire Regimental Association, The Burma Star Association, The Buffs Association, The Normandy Veterans Association, the MOTHs (the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, I believe) and many standards from the Royal British Legion.

At the end of the day we were highly complimented by our Patron on our arrangements and turn out and he highlighted the splendid achievement of the Association in keeping the spirit of comradeship alive.

It is of interest to know that buried beneath the memorial, in a lead casket, are photographs and details of the members of our East Kent branch who were responsible for its construction.

The memorial is a splendid tribute to our Fallen comrades which will stand for all time. Do visit it if you can.

GS

Rupert Gets the Pip

Life definitely improved once I had finished my basic training at Stoughton Barracks and furthermore I had impressed those who should have known better at the War Office Selection Board, that I was a suitable candidate for training as an Officer Cadet. I had even managed to get away from the clutches of Sgt Keep in the Cookhouse and became a waiter/batman in the Officers Mess. Life became more relaxed, we were no longer being chased from sunrise to sunset. I was no longer in constant fear of doing something that would earn me three to seven days CB, especially since Sgt Pearson had been posted back to the Battalion in Iserlohn. His final threat had been what would happen to us, who had the privilege of humping all his boxes to the transit stores, if anything should perchance be found to be damaged when he arrived in Germany. I am proud to report that we gave his bags and baggage some very special attention. But life was strangely full.

First my continuing education had to be catered for, with lessons on how to become an officer from Sgt Cager. These lessons were on the correct Commands to be given by a Parade Commander at the Trooping of the Colour. For hours I wheeled the model battalion around the blackboard in Close Column of Companies and other intricate manoeuvres. Sadly Sgt Cager must have had a vision of my future that no one else was to share. I was never to shout out any order more complex than "Duty Drummer! Sound Off,." But I like to think Sgt Cager's attention to detail and zeal had some effect on the way I conducted Guard Mounting. When my Ceremonial training finished it was time to get involved with the Depot Pantomime - 'Alf's Button', which was loosely based on the story of Aladdin and his Lamp. CSM 'Douglas' Fairbanks as the Genie, stole the show. It probably had something to do with his only line. He delivered this as the pyrotechnic smoke which billowed around him began to clear "Master - you rubbed and I came!" At this stage the show would stop for several minutes whilst Captain Bob Johnson and Lt George Redfern tried to stop the tears and compose themselves sufficiently to continue with the dialogue. As I remember it, the show was not renowned for its sophistication.

But all good things come to an end. Nobody had prepared me for ONS Officer Cadet School. A dreary hutt camp in the middle of Aldershot with thousands of cadets and a parade ground that looked about the same size as Malta. There was a veneer of respect from the permanent staff that was somewhat unnerving "I call you Sir and you call me Sir - the only difference is, you mean it!" There were new rules to be learned. A Potential Officer is not allowed out of camp in civilian clothes unless he is wearing a Riding Mac, Hat and gloves (leather - unlined, of course.) At the time I thought it unnecessary that O/Cdt John Foley of the Green Jackets should laugh quite so much when he saw me venturing out for first time in my new hat. But then, he became a General.

My first parade at Mons was an eye opener. It looked like a gathering of the League of Nations. All the cadets wore their own uniform, so the horizon was thick with hackles, tartans, glengarries, green berets, red berets, feathers and bonnets. The trick was not to stand next to anyone wearing any distinctive feature. In the far distance Regimental Sergeant Major Lynch DCM Irish Guards, stood his immense frame on a 6ft table and from this vantage point would bellow "That man! - next to the yellow hackle! - Get Him!" A nearby hovering Drill Sergeant would enquire "This one Sir?" Suddenly I realised that I was subject to a different form of justice when the cry came back - "No! - But He'll do!"

Life at Mons passed in a blur of physical and mental effort. I had thought that basic training was fairly hard going, but this was on a different scale. The saving grace for me was that I did not have to attend drill parades. Two of us had been selected to become the Commandants Stick Orderlies and this meant that we paraded under our own Drill Sergeant Riddick of the Coldstream Guards. It was his duty to bring us up to the standard required for being performers on the Passing Out parades at the end of each intake. But soon thankfully - it was my time to parade with the others of my own intake at our commissioning parade. It was good to see that the Adjutant's horse was now back to its original white colour. Dying it pink for the previous parade had really been in very bad taste.

Before appearing at the Regimental Depot I had purchased my brand new officers cap at a regimental tailors in Aldershot. I was assured that this was exactly the cap that The Colonel of the Regiment would approve and that this esteemed tailor was a holder of the regimental sealed pattern. So, suitably attired I arrived back at Stoughton. With pretend confidence I sauntered into the officers mess. I prepared to flip my cap down nonchalantly amongst the two or three others that were already on the hall table. I then looked at their caps and then at mine - once more a green young officer had been taken to the cleaners. My cap was revoltingly ghastly, it had a peak about three times the required size, when compared with the others. Hastily I snatched it up and disappeared at high speed before anyone could see me with the embarrassing article. That afternoon I made suitable excuses and fled hot foot to Herbert Johnson the regimental hatters in Bond Street. To complete the ensemble I then went to see Messrs Swaine Adeney and Brigg in Piccadilly to purchase a silver topped officer's cane. Whilst waiting for the assistant to find the suitable cane and its embossed Pascal Lamb, an American gentleman entered and asked for a 10ft swivel topped bull whip, which he then tested by cracking down the length of the shop. I felt apprehensive for his wife.

Later, suitably attired this time, I was told that I would be attached to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. To help me with other items that I would require and for which, as a National Service Officer I received no allowance, I was taken into a store room of the officer's mess which had various items of second hand uniform. As I write this some 35 years later I am happy and proud to report that I still have the George boots that had belonged to Capt Terry Mulady who had sadly died in an air crash whilst serving with the Army Air Corps.

Before leaving Stoughton I had to carry out the duties of orderly officer. In my new guise I sallied forth to be a zealous representative of the Commanding Officer. With a slight frisson of anticipation I thought that I would pay a visit to my erstwhile employer, namely Sgt Keep of The Army Catering Corps. On the way to the cookhouse I decided to indulge my new found privilege of being able

to walk across the middle of the Square. Half way across the daunting expanse of tarmac I was greeted by Regimental Sergeant Major 'Tommy' Atkins. He was most welcoming and congratulated me warmly on my promotion. I was still grinning feebly when he finished with the words "Now Sir, get the hell off my Parade Ground!" I entered the cookhouse with the light of vengeance in my eyes. "Sgt Keep! Let's have those drain covers up and I want the tea urn stripped down to its basic parts and I'll trouble you for the cooks health records." It was all wasted. He didn't know me from Adam.

The camp at Bury St Edmunds was buzzing with action. I had never seen so much activity. I approached the Provost Sgt, Sgt Hannigan, who was wearing a motorcycle helmet and one of those armless leather jerkins. He seemed happy to be interrupted from his training of Cpl Harfleet to ride a motorcycle, since Harfleet had just gone through the perimeter fencing on his machine. I was taken immediately to see the Adjutant, Captain Geoffrey Strong. "Do you run?" was his opening remark and he did not take it in the right spirit when I told him that I only ran for buses. Without more ado he lost interest in me and took me straight in to see the Commanding Officer Lt Col Tony White. "Welcome, do you run?" This time I left the bus joke out of my repertoire but at the same time I was beginning to have second thoughts about the East Surreys. Colonel Tony expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that I was not a runner and told me that I was to leave at four o'clock in the morning with a convoy of vehicles bound for Haslar Barracks in Portsmouth and I was to take part in some amphibious exercises. It seemed harsh retribution for making a silly comment to the adjutant.

At a later date the Commanding Officer was to take exception to my Pascal Lamb cap badge. He ordered me to wear the East Surrey badge. As tactfully as I could I pointed out that various other parts of the uniform would not allow this. For instance the No.1 Dress cap of the Queen's had a red band and I could not possibly wear an East Surrey badge with that hat. His compromise left me in a unique situation. By day I wore an East Surrey cap badge and at night in No.1 Dress, I wore my Pascal Lamb. Orderly Sergeants used to get very confused. I notice that the Regimental History makes no mention of this. At this point it would probably be sensible to offer a word of advice to any newly commissioned officer - if asked, always express great interest in running. Your future career is likely to run the smoother. Cap badges are no longer a problem. If the Government has its way there will soon be just one.

Feeling a little dispirited about this unimpressive start to my career of command and leadership I retired to the Officers Mess for tea. 2/Lt Geoffrey Kemp was having tea and toast whilst watching a football match on TV. He spoke little, in fact not at all, and was obviously a keen football fan. Years later I was to see him, bearded now, on television being interviewed as President Carter's Defence Advisor. Whilst in the East Surreys I had never seen him out of a tracksuit so it was intriguing to wonder where he had acquired all this military experience. He was to leave the regiment at the end of his National Service. He was a very good middle distance runner.

I started out for Portsmouth with some twelve vehicles. But sadly by the time I reached Portsmouth many of my erstwhile command, had decided, in ones and twos, to find alternative routes. I arrived in Haslar with the Land Rover and trailer. I was thankful that the trailer had remained attached. It was not until after I had been suitably chastised by my new Company Commander that I found out that the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment were in the

Army athletics final and were looking for any spare track talent, which explained all the questions about my running prowess. I was then shown to my quarters - a space on the concrete floor of a derelict building that had once been a Royal Naval Mental Institution.

It was good to know that I had now arrived.

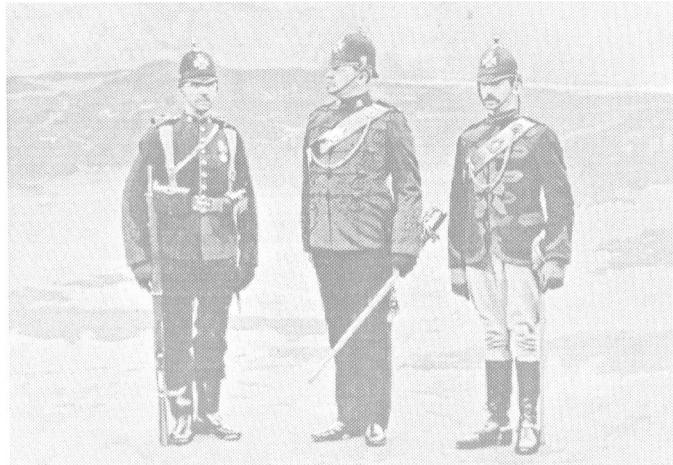
Rupert

The 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment

The unit was raised in Lambeth on 13th March, 1860, as The 19th Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps, having its headquarters at 71, New Street, Kennington Park. A reorganisation of The Rifle Volunteer Corps took place in 1880 and the 19th became the 7th and later the 8th Corps. Finally, it was designated as the 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment, the change being made in March 1883.

The photograph shows a Private, R.S.M., and an officer of the battalion, all wearing dark rifle green tunics, with scarlet facings and dark green trousers, the officer wearing light grey, or buff coloured breeches, with field boots and spurs.

The head-dress worn by all three is the 1878 Home Service pattern helmet, the helmet plate, a black Maltese cross and crown with a silver or white metal lamb in the centre. The officer and R.S.M. both wear a shoulder-Belt with a black metal plate in the form of a wreath, with the lamb in silver. Buttons and collar badges were black.



The private is wearing Slade-Wallace equipment in black leather and appears to be armed with a Martini-Henry rifle. Whilst the exact date of the photograph is not known, from the evidence available, it would appear to have been taken in, approximately, 1895.

In 1900, many members from the battalion served in the Boer War with a Volunteer Company of the City of London Imperial Volunteers.

In April, 1903, the 4th Volunteer Battalion transferred to the Territorial Force as the 24th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (The Queen's). The 1st/24th served throughout the Great War on the Western Front, the 2nd/24th in France, Salonika and the Middle East.

A Victoria Cross was awarded to Lance-Corporal L.J. Keyworth, 1st/24th, for bravery on the night of 25th-26th May 1915, at Givenchy.

In 1937, the 24th became the 7th (Southwark) Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment and both the 1st and 2nd/7th battalions fought in North Africa, Italy and North-West Europe.

Promotion from the ranks in Victoria's time

Considerable odds were against commissioning from the ranks despite the opportunities for promotion thrown up by the constant campaigning of Victoria's Armies. "In nine cases out of ten a bad officer is made out of a good sergeant," said a certain Colonel Mountain in 1841, then commanding the 26th Cameronians. Mountain's views were shared by The Duke of Wellington among others, who though in his 70's in the 1840's still wielded enormous, if sometimes retrograde influence in the Army.

The majority of officers were drawn from the landed and professional classes. It was claimed that ex-rankers created bad feelings among other officers and were not appreciated by the men who disliked being officered by their own kind. The social and financial divides were wide, a private income was desirable to obtain further promotion up to Lieutenant Colonel. It was also an age when most men "knew their place" and generally accepted it, and those rankers who accepted commissions were well aware of the prejudice they might face and the certain financial difficulties they would experience.

There were, however, a few outstanding cases of men who were prepared to risk all for advancement and succeeded in making the transition to commissioned rank successfully. After the abolition of purchase of commissions, Colour Sergeant Hector MacDonald of The 92nd (Gordons), offered the choice of the V.C. or a commission in the 2nd Afghan War, caused surprise when opting for the latter. He was to become the famous Major-General Sir Hector MacDonald, known to all late Victorian schoolboys as "Fighting Mac". Probably the best known case of a soldier who succeeded against all the odds that still pertained in his time is that of William Robertson, who enlisted in The 16th Lancers in 1877 and rose to become Baronet, Field Marshal and CIGS from 1915 to 1918. Earlier Luke O'Connor, an Irishman from County Roscommon, was commissioned for his gallantry at The Alma in the Crimea when a 23 year old sergeant in The 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers. He was one of the first recipients of the V.C. and subsequently commanded his Regiment in the Ashanti War of 1874 and ended his career as Major General, KCB and Colonel of The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

There are other outstanding examples, but no doubt all old Queen's Royal Surreys especially remember with pride their own Bernard McCabe. A sergeant in The Light Company of The 31st at The Battle of Sobraon during The First Sikh War in 1846. McCabe earned undying fame when he seized the Regimental Colour dropped by a mortally wounded Ensign. He scrambled across a ditch under heavy fire, clambered to the top of the earthwork holding the Colour high, and this led to the whole Brigade rushing forward and inside the enemy camp.

Lesser deeds than McCabe's probably earned V.C.'s after the decoration was instituted but that was 10 years away and in 1846 a commission was the only means of rewarding deserving NCO's for acts of great bravery. McCabe was gazetted Ensign in The 18th (Royal Irish) and was soon in action with that Regiment in China in operations on the Canton River. In 1849 he was promoted Lieutenant, without purchase, into The 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment, but for some reason unknown he joined the 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment in India. It is interesting that the Adjutant and Quartermaster of The 32nd were both ex-rankers, and the views of one 32nd soldier, Private Waterfield, seem to confirm the widely-held view that the men disliked such officers. The Adjutant had originally enlisted as a boy drummer, and Waterfield said "... he had childish ways with him - a drummer will be a drummer still" He was apparently

despised as a tale-bearer to the Colonel and was known as "Pimping Billy"!

McCabe escaped Waterfield's waspish pen, and apparently earned his mens' admiration. After his death his C.O.'s wife wrote sorrowfully of his passing, which suggests he also passed muster in the officers' mess. McCabe was promoted Captain on 1st July, 1857, again without purchase, and was a tower of strength during the long siege of Lucknow in The Indian Mutiny of 1857. He was considered "one of the most indefatigable officers of the garrison", and, as a certain Private Metcalfe observed, "*the men thought so much of him that they thought he was as good as twenty men*". McCabe was mortally wounded leading a sortie against the mutineers on 29th September, 1857, and died two days later. (A full description of the Sutlej campaign and of McCabe's career is given in the booklet "More Than Twice a Hero" by Colonel J.W. Sewell, still available at The Regimental Museum at Clandon Park).

The afore-mentioned Colonel Mountain might have claimed that ex-rankers like McCabe and O'Connor were the exceptions that proved the rule about good sergeants making bad officers. He also complained that commissions were too often given for gallantry in the field rather than for proven performance of normal peace time duties. Surely, most would agree that the ultimate test of an officer's worth is how he reacts to the demands of battle rather than how he comports himself in the office, barracks or the officers' mess? Have the chances for a "Good Sergeant" to obtain a commission increased accordingly in the 1990's? I wonder!

(Extensively extracted from an article by Michael Barthorp in The British Army Review, 3 April, 1993 and reproduced with his permission).

DJ

Henry Marten and the First Sikh War

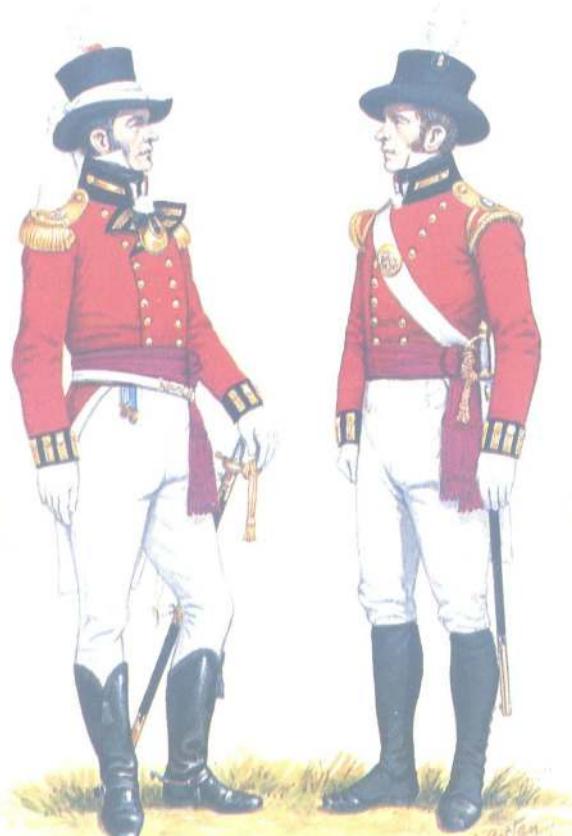
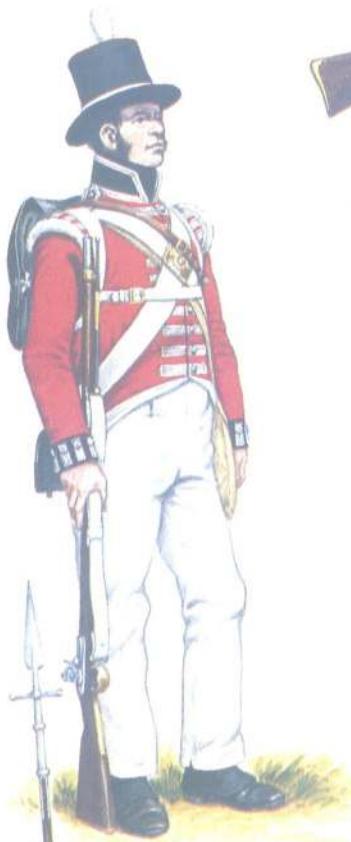
Visitors to the Clandon Park Museum, especially old East Surreys, will remember the four coloured prints by Henry Marten of The 31st Regiment in the Sikh War of 1845 to 1846. The print featuring the gallant Sergeant McCabe's famous action at Sobraon on 10th February, 1846, is of especial interest. Of the originals of these four aquatints by Martens of the First Sikh War the whereabouts of only one is known, that of Ferozeshah (second day), in a private collection.

There is a most interesting article on Marten and The 31st Regiment by Michael Barthorp in the March 1994 issue of the Journal of The Victorian Military Society, the Journal being entitled "Soldiers of The Queen". Martens produced four plates featuring The 31st at Moodkee, Ferozeshah (night and day), and Sobraon. Mr. Barthorp gives a detailed description of how the plates were prepared and how they were based on sketches made by an eye witness, a certain Captain G.F. White of The 31st.

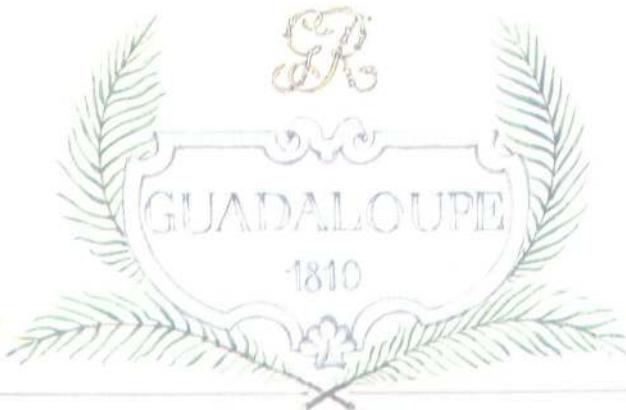
The engraver was J. Harris who apparently had a long association with Marten from 1840 to 1860. There is (inter alia) detailed comment on the dress worn by The 31st in the Sikh Wars-.

The Victorian Military Society is a non-commercial body founded in 1974 whose aim is to foster interest in military aspects of the Victorian period, especially in the Forces of The British Empire. Apart from the quarterly illustrated Journal "Soldiers of The Queen" members receive a regular newsletter, there are special publications at discounted rates and there is an annual Victorian Military Fair Annual subscription is £12 (UK). applications to George Dibley, Hon. Treasurer, Arm Farm Cottage, Blisworth Arm, Northampton NN7 3EF.

DJ



70TH SURREY REGIMENT





Guadeloupe , 1810

Guadeloupe is an island of the Leeward Caribbean group, north of the lesser Antilles and the Windward Islands. Prior to 1810 the island had been captured from and restored to, France no fewer than three times. The island was strategically important and an attacking force commanded by General Sir George Beckwith who had successfully conquered the nearby island of Martinique.

It was not until 1847 that the General Service medal was awarded to survivors of this expedition with a special clasp inscribed with the name of the island. The 70th, Surrey Regiment was one of only five regiments authorised to carry Guadeloupe on their appointments.

The British were formed in two strong Divisions and three subsidiary Brigades together with a reserve Brigade. In the fashion of the time and a popular innovation in the West Indies, the Light Companies of all the regiments then in the area together with the Grenadier Companies were massed in separate Battalions. The short campaign was efficiently carried out with the minimum of casualties. 4 Officers and 31 men were killed and 15 Officers and 23 men were wounded. However, the regiments all suffered from the dreadful conditions.

The West Indies were a graveyard for Europeans decimating both British and French Armies. Between 1794 and 1796 80,000 soldiers died or were invalidated. In 1796 over 40 percent of troops in the Windward and Leeward Islands died. The average death rate between 1796 and 1828 was 13 percent a year. Against fever and infection there was no cure. 21 British officers in the West Indies held an experiment to determine whether wine or water was the most healthy. 10 drank only water and 11 drank wine. All the water drinkers died. All except one of the wine drinkers also died.*

*Quote from The Napoleonic Source Book by P. Haythornthwaite.

Vittoria, 21 June, 1813

This was probably the greatest of all the Duke of Wellington's victories in the Peninsula and by a happy coincidence was fought at 'Vittoria' an appropriate name.

The French Armies were commanded by King Joseph, Napoleon's brother, and Marshal Jourdan. The Allied Armies (British, Portuguese and Spanish) were commanded by the Duke of Wellington.

Wellington's rapid advance in 1813, outflanking the French defence line and causing the abandonment of Madrid, propelled the war in the Peninsula into its final phase. After years of continuous, slogging warfare Wellington pressed home the advantage whilst the French were in retreat. On June the 17th the French discovered they had again been outflanked by the main Allied army, which had turned north to Medina de Pomar, just fifty miles west of Vittoria, while the French were being harried along the main route north by a few hundred irregular Spanish horse. On June 19th Joseph and Jourdan halted in the valley of Vittoria.

Wellington's plan involved dividing the Allied army into four parts. Lord Hill would lead men of the British 2nd Division, Silveira's Portuguese and Morillo's Spanish Divisions. They would drive through the pass over the hills to the west through the Puelbe Pass and attack the French flank. Picton's and Dalhousie's Divisions were to enter the valley from the north west falling on the French right flank and rear. Wellington would lead the Light and 4th Divisions in the frontal attack. The British 1st and 5th Divisions, 2 Portuguese Brigades and the Spanish were to swing to the north bringing them to the north-east corner of the valley to cut the road to Bayonne.

Despite a spirited stand by elements of the French army their collapse was absolute. By cutting the main road it meant that all their carriages and wagons including all but two of their guns, which had been in a vast park, were lost.

The 1st and 2nd Queen's formed part of Silviera's Portuguese Division and the 2nd 31st were part of the 2nd Brigade of General Stewart's Division. All three battalions were part of the right column.

Millions of pounds worth of coin and plate was left in the baggage park just waiting to be looted and the troops could not resist the temptation. They shovelled everything they could carry into their equipment including gold and silver plate and all the baggage of the French Generals and Spanish collaborators. It included the entire wealth of the King and his court. For two days the army was completely overwhelmed by wealth and wine before Wellington restored order and pressed on with his advance into the Pyrenees.

This decisive action practically ended the Peninsula Wars and freed the Spanish/Portuguese peninsula from French domination.

Caption to the Guadeloupe colour plate

British Troops in the West Indies were issued with round hats the style of which, for other ranks, had remained exactly the same for nearly twenty years. Officer's hats, more often, were privately made and followed the fashion of the period. There are contemporary illustrations showing officers wearing wide brimmed straw hats and loose white trousers.

Top; in the centre is an other ranks cross belt plate and an officer's cross belt plate. This was very similar to the 1797 pattern but here the crown has been lowered and the wreath extended to encompass it; a Sergeant's sash, sword and the short version musket issued to Light Infantry company Sergeants.

Top Left; Private of the Grenadier Company. **Top Right;** Private of Battalion Company with rolled blanket. **Bottom Left;** Sergeant of Battalion Company. **Bottom Right;** Private of Light Infantry Company. Light Infantry companies frequently adopted waist belts to hold their equipment together. Quite often they used the slings from their muskets. **Centre;** a Field officer and a Grenadier Company officer.

Caption to the Vittoria colour plate

The illustration gives a representative view of the uniforms worn in the Peninsula. I have used a middle-road approach to give some dignity to the appearance of our famous regiments.

It is well documented that the troops wore whatever clothing could be obtained once their own had fallen to pieces or rotted off their backs. In the later years of the war troops were using any garment, looted, home made or stripped from a corpse to cover their backs. Wellington was more concerned with the supply of ammunition and the quality of arms and equipment than the appearance of his army. Even so, among all the filth and squalor many officers managed to appear in scarlet and gold with crisp white linen. The worst problem was the lack of adequate footwear. Frequently the quality of shoes supplied by contractors were of such poor quality that they fell to pieces within days. By the end of the campaign even officers were reduced to wearing swathes of rags about their feet.

Top in the centre; an other ranks general pattern shako plate; a Flank Officer's sabre; a Centre Company officers 1796 pattern sword; A Light Company Officer's sash and a Battalion Company officer's sash; an officer's hat (worn frequently by officers of all companies); A New Land Pattern musket. **Top Left;** Battalion Company private 31st Foot. **Top Right;** Light Infantry Company corporal wearing a forage cap, 2nd Foot. **Bottom Left;** Sergeant of the Light Infantry Company, 31st Foot. **Centre;** Battalion Company officer of the 2nd Foot and a light Infantry company officer of the 31st Foot.

The Battle of The Glorious First of June

This year the Regiment has celebrated a landmark anniversary of one of our most important battle honours. I do not refer to the event which took place on the sixth of June, after all that was a mere fifty years ago. No, I refer to the event which took place on the First of June two hundred years ago-The Glorious First of June.

Their Lordships of The Admiralty were approached and asked how they intended to commemorate this anniversary. Answer-they intended to do nothing! Apparently they were too busy with matter concerning D Day, and anyway they could not possibly commemorate the 200th anniversaries of all our Naval victories of the Napoleonic wars and Trafalgar would do very nicely! Luckily The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, supported by the Society for Nautical Research, came to the rescue. It was decided to hold a one-day conference and dinner on the bicentenary to celebrate and re-examine this controversial battle. Thus it was that RHQ received an invitation to send a representative to the event and I, being available, was selected. Having studied the participation of The Queens Royal Regiment in the battle I set off feeling equipped to play my part, albeit small in the conference.

As the battle was claimed as a victory by both the English and the French protagonists, it was the intention of the conference to examine the view of both sides in the conflict as well as the importance of the grain convoy the French fleet set out to protect, and the cultural responses to the event. As part of the conference the Museum opened a small exhibition of pictures, artefacts and manuscripts relating to the battle.

Admiral of The Fleet Lord Lewin, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, and Admiral Kessler from France, were joint hosts and with contributions from American, French and English historians the conference generated an interesting academic discussion and, proved to be an exciting celebratory event. The presence of Lord Howe, a direct descendant of the victorious Admiral, made the conference more poignant.

Sadly Professor Laurence Evans who was due to present his paper on "The convoy, the grain, and their influence on the French Revolution" died a few weeks before the event and his paper was read to us by his brother. I learnt that The French Revolution had caused a shortage of food in France and starvation threatened in 1794. A grain convoy of over two hundred ships had been organised in America, and it would appear that Lord Howe's orders were to prevent the convoy reaching France. The French Fleet, intent on preventing this, lured the British out into the Atlantic where battle was eventually joined on 1st June.

Monsieur Andre Delaporte then presented the French view the basis of which was that their fleet, commanded by Admiral Villaret, had achieved it's purpose. Although badly mauled the French fleet had facilitated the safe passage of the grain convoy. Christopher Ware followed on with the English perspective, arguing that Lord Howe was bound to bring the French fleet to battle, the position of which he knew, rather than sail about the Atlantic searching for the convoy when he had no idea of it's position. The fleets were evenly matched, both with twenty-six sail of the line. The result was far from even! The French received a severe battering and broke off the battle leaving behind one ship sunk and six captured while the English lost none. The English casualties were 290 killed and 858 wounded, while the French were reported to have sustained a total loss of 3,000 in killed and wounded, a full half of which were in the six captured ships. In England the battle was hailed as a great victory. The English had a habit of doing rather badly in the early

stages of a war with the French, but here was a refreshing change. The threat of the French exporting their revolution to England and invading our shores had, for the time being at least, been lifted.

Early in 1793 the men of the Queen's Royal Regiment, stationed in Dover Castle, were ordered to march to Portsmouth in order to form marine detachments on board ships of The Channel Fleet, and thus found themselves serving on five ships during the battle. The 100 gun *Queen Charlotte*, Howe's flag ship took 137 all ranks; the 100 gun *Royal George* 105; The *Defence*, *Majestic* and *Russell* all 74 gun ships, embarked about 80 all ranks each. During the battle they would have been used to assist the gun crews, fire musket volleys from the decks and act as sharp shooters. On the *Queen Charlotte*, Lieutenant John Neville was killed and Private Thomas Special died of his wounds two days after the battle. Privates Collier, North, Roberts and Hamilton serving on the *Defence*, were killed. On the *Royal George* only Private John Hunt was killed, although Private William Pearson had been killed in an action on the 29th May. A total of, thirteen were wounded.

Dr Pieter van der Merwe gave a fascinating lecture on the artistic reponse to the battle. He pointed out that public reaction in Britain at the time might appear to have been surprisingly ecstatic, but such an inaugural success had not been seen since the Battle of Lowestoft in 1665, and the Navy had yet to build the legend of Nelsonic invincibility it enjoyed by the time of Trafalgar. The status of the battle was considerably enhanced when on the 26th June the King and Royal Family held a naval levee on board the *Queen Charlotte* in Portsmouth and presented Lord Howe with a diamond hilted sword, valued at 3,000 guineas. Lieutenant Grey, of the Queen's, was appointed senior lieutenant of the guard attending the King.



George III presents a diamond-hilted sword to Lord Howe on board the "Queen Charlotte"

The excitement generated by the victory produced an unprecedented level of response in pictorial and exhibition terms. The very name itself helped to popularise the battle. "The Glorious First" was used in a letter written by a Queen's officer the day after the battle, and since there was no point of land after which to conveniently name the battle, it quickly caught on.

Prints were the prime popular commercial art of the day and artists stood to gain more from publishers commissions than selling paintings to individuals. The 'Glorious First' generated at least 33, far more than any naval battle had done before. The work of most interest to us is, of course, Mather Brown's picture of Lord Howe on the Quarter Deck of the *Queen Charlotte* with the affecting death of Lieutenant Neville. Brown visited the *Queen Charlotte* at Portsmouth and did individual portraits of most of those involved.

Continued on page 50.

LETTERS



Major Domoney writes:-

I was informed that Katherine Foster, daughter of Captain T Foster 1st Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment died on 15 June 1994, she was 87 years old. I must congratulate you on the excellence of the last Newsletter, many more articles from members made interesting reading. Drum Major 'Pedlar' Palmer was well known to me, I recall him joining 2 Queen's in India in 1924. He was at one time my CSM and the last time we met was in Hapi in 1945 when I was at staff college and he was round at the salvage depot.

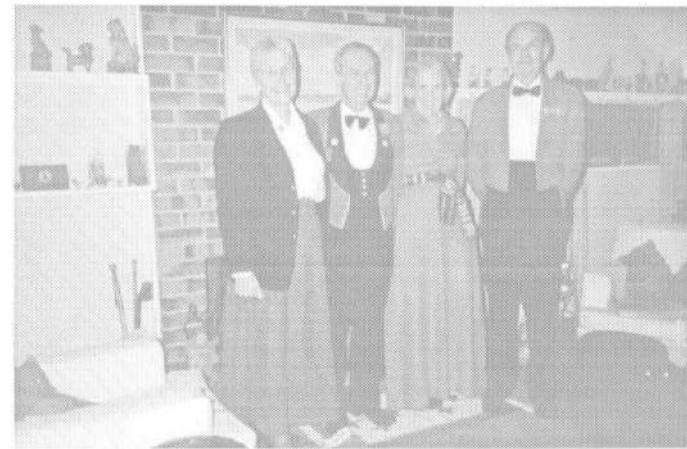
Neville Jackson writes from Queensland, Australia

I am retiring to our farm to grow Cabinet Timbers on a full time basis. This is a new venture for Eileen and I and we look forward to it being a very rewarding experience. As you know we possess 80 acres which backs onto a State Forest. Probably Peter Durrant might have told you how I took him into our forest and was able to show him a wild Koala.

I gather you have been sent a copy of the Church service I held on 1st June. I was able to celebrate 10 years of service in Buderim and I also included a segment in which we celebrated 200 years since the Glorious First of June. It was during this service that I announced I was retiring from the parish to become a farmer.

As I told you last year we celebrated the 1st June with a Regimental Dinner at our farm and we dressed up in our Mess Dress for the occasion. My wife Eileen is quite talented in preparing for such occasions and we had pictures of the Regimental Colours on the wall, a large candle with the Regimental crest, and of course the dinner table set out on our veranda.

Well this year we did the same again only this time in Buderim. Tony Hewitt and his wife Elizabeth were also present together with a couple of retired Colonels from the Australian Corps of Transport who celebrate the Corps birthday on 1st June. As you can see from the enclosed photograph we once again made it a Regimental Dinner and wore Mess Dress. I acted as the Mess President and we completed the dinner with the usual toasts to the Queen and the Regiment. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and intend to do the same again next year.



Neville Jackson with Tony Hewitt and their wives celebrating the Glorious First of June

Last night I had a very pleasant surprise when Ron and Jan Bathgate made a presentation to my wife and I. I had no idea what it was but did in passing say it was wrapped in the regimental colours of The Queens Royal Regiment. The present was given to both of us so I passed it over to Eileen to open. She began to open it and then passed it back and said I had better open it. Well as you know it was the Replica Drum ice bucket of The Queens Royal Regiment. I was delighted with it especially as it came as such a surprise.

I have also been asked to become Chaplain to the 5th Light Horse Memorial Regiment which resides in Gympie about 40 kms from our farm. This will give me an added interest in my new future. They are sending some representatives to my final service in Buderim. At the ending of the service our Bishop who will be present, will Commission me as the 5th Light Horse Chaplain and then to the music "Imperial Echoes" a Guard will escort Eileen and I to our car at the door of the church and we will drive off for the last time. I have included within the service a number of musical items from records you sent me of the Band of The Queen's. The service therefore will have a very distinct military tinge.

Well this is all for now. I look forward to receiving the next Newsletter - and congratulate you personally on its excellent content and quality of production.

Colonel Toby Sewell writes:-

Could I comment on an article and letter in the last quite excellent Newsletter. Firstly - The Glorious First of June by LWG.

There was of course no HMS *Excellent* in the Middle East in 1944: the connection as always was through Royal Navy Gunnery officers, who had been trained at Whale Island, the navy team on 1st June 1944 being captained by Commodore Stevens Chief of Staff to the C-in-C Levant and Eastern Mediterranean. The match was won by the Queen's by 88 runs.

It was not this match that was attended by General Sir Harold Alexander - he would have been too busy then trying to control General Mark Clark of the 5th (US) Army in the days leading to the liberation of Rome on 4th June 1944. As Field Marshal Alexander he attended the 1945 "Glorious First of June" cricket match and other festivities which took place near Vermigliano on the border with Yugoslavia after the war was over - on this occasion the Queen's side (captained by JWS) was defeated by 5 runs.

Secondly - In his letter CWB Mills, who kindly remembers me in Poona, should I think, have referred to Colour

Sergeant Derek Adkins who was with us then in 2nd Queen's. Tommy Atkins had already returned to UK.

JWS

F W Munns writes:-

Thank you for the excellent Newsletter of May. May I be so bold as to point out a small error which, I hope will not be considered too pedantic.

JW says in the article on divisional signs on page 43 that the 4th British Infantry was in Greece until the end of the war in Europe. It was, in fact, there much longer than that - until at least March 1948. I was there until that time in the 1st East Surreys stationed in Sobraon Barracks just outside Salonika town. The camp had been vacated by the HLI. We were there with other British Infantry and support units to back up our British Military Mission which was helping the Royal Greek army while their civil war was in progress.

A memorable event was when the American carrier *Franklin D Roosevelt* visited the harbour and we played them at football. I don't remember who won. I don't think anybody cared - they brought a case of beer with them! January '48 was a rather sticky time as we were severely understrength (at one time my company was down to 14 men and me, a L/Cpl, was acting as a company sergeant!) and doing turn-and-turn about guard and fatigue duties at British installations in the area including the British Military Hospital where we even engaged in navvying work making new approach roads.

I was in "D" company and the coy commander was Capt "Robert" Taylor. We received 179 reinforcements from England later. One close shave we had was on the night of 9th February when the Greek terrorists shelled the town and killed some British troops (Royal Engineers, I believe they were) in the town car park building. We were on guard duty at the town guard room at the time but had been on duty in the town car park shortly before. I sailed for "Blighty" on 23rd February and the lads were still there then, still in the 4th Div. There was also a battalion of the Durham Light Infantry in the area.

Captain Alan White writes:-

You will recall the letter from Pte. George Clark's daughter Mrs Sylvia Rose of Romney, Hants. George Clark served with me in 1/6th Surreys.

I visited Mrs. Rose on Friday 10th December, 1993 taking with me a copy of the Newsletter and two small snapshot albums of pictures taken in Italy and Greece. She was very pleased to see me and I gave her two pictures from my collection, and lent her a book on the final Cassino battle. Mrs Rose also expressed a desire to visit the Clandon Museum, and I left the booklet showing pictures and information. I told her that I would be delighted to show her and her husband round the Museum when she decided to make the trip from Romney.

Finally, when removing a picture of her Father from the album a pencilled inscription on the reverse side read, "This is me on the left, and on my right is Charlie, and on the far right is the Guvnor - he looks as tho' he's got a hangover!". I have no idea who wrote it!

Last Saturday, 6th August 1994, Mr and Mrs Rose visited the Museum, and Peggy and I were there to meet them. I showed them round the exhibits which were of considerable interest to them, and the Curator Mrs. Penny James provided tea and biscuits for us all. Mrs. Rose made several purchases and said they would visit again.

As they were leaving the fire alarms sounded in the house and we all had to vacate the premises - with - the cash box firmly clutched by Peggy. Soon afterwards two fire engines arrived, only to find that a smoke detector in the top flat had activated itself.

Mrs Rose was very pleased to learn a little of her Father's Regiment and its part in the Italian Campaign. I also contacted by telephone Sgt. Len Shakes who remembered George Clark very well because he always finished his cigarette ration quicker than most men!

ACLW

R Chitty Writes:

The "Formation Signs - Pt II" section of May 1994 Newsletter does less than justice to 169 Brigade!

I joined 2/7th Queen's in January 1940, and within 3 months we were in France. Our job was to help build a new B.E.F. base, and to return after a year for further training.

A few weeks later, however, the Germans invaded Belgium and France, and we moved up to join the battle. Our new job was to man road blocks and prevent the enemy reaching Abbeville. This mission being singularly unsuccessful, we retreated back into France, not to Dunkirk, eventually finishing up in the Nantes area. Later we entrained for Cherbourg, and came to Southampton on an Isle of Man steamer, I remember! so action was seen long before 1943.

On a personal note, by early 1943 I had joined 131 Bde HQ, and the 169 Bde relieved us at Enfidaville, while we joined the 1st Army for the push into Tunis. I was able to visit a number of old friends in the 2/7th during this short spell together.

I was at 1/5th Queen's dinner a week or two ago (by invitation!) and if my ears served me correctly, you were there too. Hope you had a good evening.

J A Neal writes from York:-

Congratulations on producing a bumper 55th issue of the Regimental Newsletter filled with nostalgic items of enduring interest. What a truly incredible thing it is that such a fine publication can see the light of day long after the Regiment has virtually ceased to exist and what credit this reflects upon you and your team of helpers !

Thank you for including my two modest contributions which I hope will bring back memories to some of my former colleagues. Thank you, too, for putting me in touch with Mr Geoffrey Oswald, brother of the late Major Nigel Oswald. Geoffrey, who lives only five miles away, is now firmly established among my circle of friends. Verily it is a very small world. Best wishes for the continuation of your excellent work.

Pristinæ Virtutis Memor.

Tony Parkes writes from Newton Abbot:-

Thank you for the May 1994 Newsletter. Also congratulations on producing a bumper edition not only as regards size but also content and interest.

I well remember the visit of the photographer to 1 Queen's at Payabyo in July of 1945 and I can confirm to Dr G Court that the pictures certainly reached the U.K. and have appeared in a number of publications since.

An account of the Sittang Bend Battle appeared in the November 1947 edition of the Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment. Part of this read -

'Once an intrepid photographer came up as far as Battalion headquarters and took some specially-posed photographs of patrols splashing around in the padifields about a hundred yards from Battalion headquarters. Later copies of Illustrated London News were received showing men coming ashore from native craft on a jap-infested island. In the background could be seen a company sign stating that 'B' company were in residence. This caused much amusement and a little bitterness.'

Copies of two of the photographs were reproduced to illustrate this article. They are marked 'Crown Copyright' and they currently form part of the collection of the Imperial War Museum in London.

Dr G Court's 'B' company picture was reproduced in a booklet entitled 'Golden Arrow' after the war had ended. This was a short account of the 7th Indian Division published by the War Department of the Government of India. The photograph is captioned

'Battle of the Sittang Bend. A patrol of The Queen's Royal Regiment during the battle near Waw'.

My copy of this booklet was distributed within the U.K. by Gale and Polden of Aldershot. In 1953 when Volume VIII of the Regimental History was published two of the photographs were included between pages 508 and 509.

More recently another of the series was included in 'Sittang the last battle' by Louis Allen (Macdonald 1973). This depicts a patrol moving along a padi-bund towards what Dr G Court would recognise as the small pagoda at Payabyo village. It is less obviously a specially posed photograph. At the beginning of his book Mr Allen thanks the Imperial War Museum for the use of its library of photographs!

So endeth another stroll down memory lane!

Dr G Court wrote from Watchett in May and in July 94

"Might I ask for a correction? How the printer managed to transcribe the name "Court" as "Glywn" is easily explained but it doesn't help recognition. I was separated from the battalion just after the battle, being sent into dock with suppurating leech-bites, and as they moved on to Bangkok I never saw them again. Still, one likes to renew the happier memories, and I should be grateful for a line of correction."

Editor: Please see page 34.

S G Madge writes from Crediton, Devon:-

The article by LWG on Anzio in the May Newsletter brought back many memories. At the time of which he writes I was a liaison officer at 56 (London) Division HQ and so was aware of how precarious our position was as the number of casualties rose. It was only the most determined resistance that prevented what had seemed a brilliant out-flanking movement from becoming a disaster. When the division was eventually withdrawn it had suffered such heavy losses that it was sent back to Egypt for reinforcement and a complete re-fit.

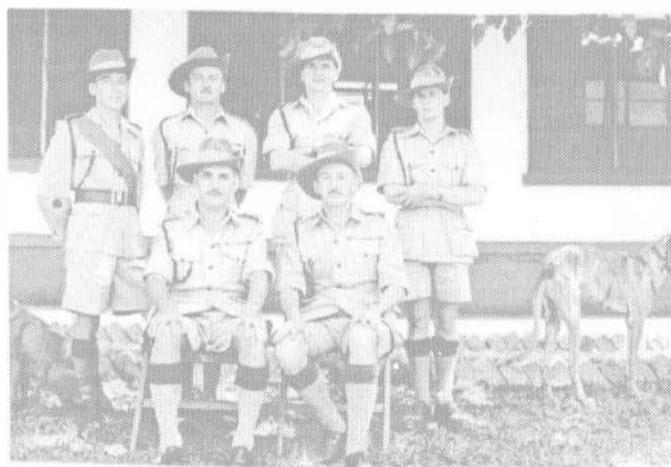
It was at that stage, while we were in camp at Mena, that I returned to regimental duties and took up the appointment of Adjutant, 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. How fortunate I was to have in Lt. Col. (now Major General) F.A.H. Ling DSO, an understanding CO who patiently gave me the guidance and training I needed in taking on a demanding job for which I had had little previous experience; and also to have LWG as a very competent and

always calm and unruffled orderly room sergeant, who was able to cope with the routine administration.

Perhaps I am not alone, now as the years advance, in looking back and wondering how we accomplished what we did in those crucially demanding war years. Speaking for myself I can only say that it was my faith in God and His power ultimately to bring good out of evil, and the prayers of family and friends, which enabled me to keep going and to perform tasks which now seem so far above the aptitudes and capacities with which I had been endowed. I owe much to the army which gave me more than I was able to give in return, and much more again to the strong Christian faith which has guided me on what is now quite a long stretch of life's pathway. In the words of the famous hymn, Lead kindly light, I often say with gratitude.

J H Torry writes:-

In the last edition of our Newsletter you published a small article on members of the Surreys serving with the 4 K.A.R during the Mau Mau campaign. Is this photo of any use to use in your next edition, as a sequel to the article?



*L to R Back Row: WOII J Torry, Bandmaster, H Woolaston
2 Lt? - 2 Lt?. Front Row: Capt Hutchings, Maj D Michell.*

Ex Cpl A Chambers writes:

Another year round and another year older since I last wrote to you to thank you once again for sending me my copy of the Newsletter which I always look forward to.

The newspapers always take second place when I have got that to read and digest which I find so very interesting.

Yesterday my wife and I went on an old folks outing to Skegness and it was a really lovely day until after we got home around eight o'clock in the evening and then it rained. We are lucky in one way that we don't get the monsoons to contend with, and the bullfrogs croaking all night.

I will close now with my kindest regards to you and all ranks as my present day "Sgt Major" is here trying to get round my feet with the hoover.!

Ted Josling writes from Australia:-

I look forward to the Newsletter as it keeps me in touch with all that's happening, I must say how sorry I felt when all this change over took place, when I meet people who ask what Regiment I was with, I was proud to say The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys).

Thank you for the 200th anniversary card of The Battle of The Glorious First of June 1794.

Last year I was in hospital three times with my leg. I had a Knee replacement which had to be opened up twice, its OK now, still being able to get around, next week I go in again for a blockage of the neck of the bladder. In myself other than this I feel OK.

Finally I would like to thank you first for a wonderful and interesting Newsletter and also for the long hours you put in. I will close now, wishing you and all members of The Association the very best, and God Bless you all.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

S. Lea writes:- or last of the summer wine

On a dull grey day in late May 1994, at Telford Station in rural Shropshire, a regimental reunion took place. Ex Sgt Dave Whecker arrived to be greeted by ex Sgts Bob Riley and Sid Lea - Compo, Cleggy and Foggy (ex the last of the summer wine) were together for the first time in seven and a half years to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Glorious First of June. After numerous gin and tonics and rum and cokes, a supper meal was cooked and served by our host and was accompanied by several bottles of wine. Around us were many private items of regalia, momentos and photos which Sid Lea had collected over the years.

After dinner the loyal toast to the Regiment was drunk and many campaigns, exercises and comrades recalled. Just prior to dinner, Eric Lockwood rang out of the blue and Dave and Sid's day was complete, because now the three ex Pl. Sgts of the "Queen's Company", who had served in Cyprus and Libya with 1 East Surreys, were all in contact again.



After two hectic days of catching up on memories and events of years gone by, it was time to return to our various home bases. Foggy (Dave W) to salubrious Leigh-on-Sea and Compo (Bob R) to the Cathedral City of Durham. On saying our farewells, we vowed to celebrate the next centennial anniversary, doubtless in a higher echelon.

Compo

Major General Michael Forrester writes:-

Lieutenant Paddy Toolan, who was killed in Normandy on 17th June 1944 while gallantly leading his platoon in a counter-attack during the defence of Brieuxard by 1/6th Queens, came from staunchly loyalist Belfast stock.

Having joined the 2nd Battalion in the UK prior to the move to Palestine in early 1939, he served with distinction during the Arab Rebellion, being awarded the Military Medal. He continued to serve with the 2nd Battalion in the Western Desert, Syria and Tobruk and, having been selected for OCTU, remained in Egypt when the Battalion sailed for the Far East.

Although commissioned in The Gordon Highlanders, he applied, while awaiting posting from the Reinforcement Camp in Tripoli, to be attached to 1/6th Queens which he joined in August 1943 prior to the Salerno landing. Due to his many qualities, which included an endearing personality, he quickly settled in the Battalion and proved himself an outstanding officer during operations in Italy and again in the fighting in Normandy.

Now, fifty years on, we who remember him express once more our gratitude and heart-felt sympathy to his loving family.

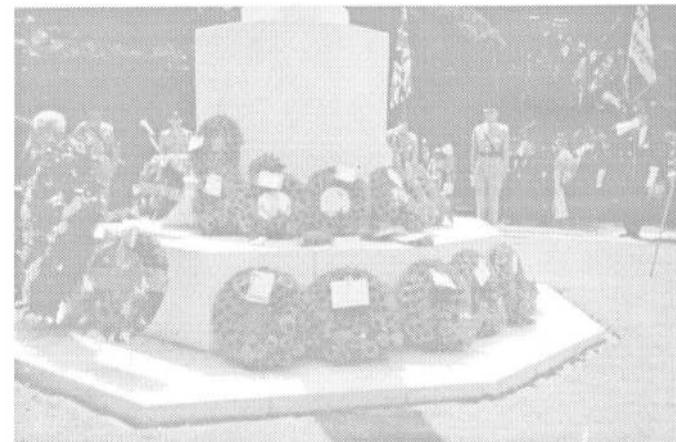
MF

Fred Blackborrow writes:-

I recently went to Italy for the 50th Anniversary of Anzio and Cassino. I was most surprised that in my party of fifty two there were no Queensmen. I did not see any at Anzio or Cassino. At Cassino there must have been two thousand including many Polish veterans who I enjoyed talking to. There was a good attendance at Anzio with a very memorable service, I found it very touching.

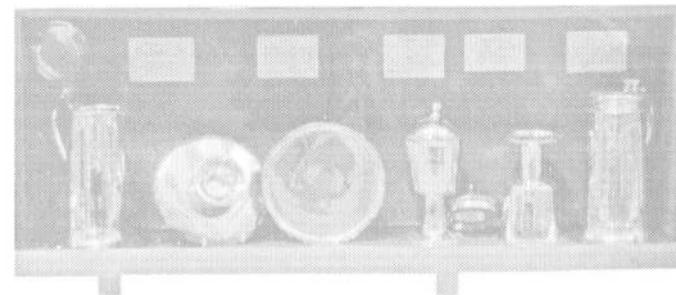
Volturno War Museum is worth a visit, and I was surprised to see four Black Cat badges on display. I also visited Anzio Museum, but there was no Black Cat on display so I sent mine with a few other pieces. Anzio Museum are asking for items for their display. If you can assist please send items to:- Mr Geoffrey Copleston, Centro Di Ricerca E Documentazione, Sullo Sbarco Ela Battaglia Di Anzio, Italy.

Editors Note:- Mr Blackborrow will know from these pages that many of our members returned to Italy this year. Whilst it would be nice for members to help the Anzio Museum don't forget our own museum at Clandon!



Hidden Treasures - The Tangier Plate

Several of our members drew our attention to a Heritage Weekend held recently at Portsmouth. A special display was at Portsmouth Cathedral where the Tangier Plate and Charles II and Catherine's marriage entry and previous designs for the Cathedral were shown. Mr B E Jones the Administrator of Portsmouth Cathedral writes "The exhibition of "Hidden Treasures" was highly successful but perhaps we should have run it for a longer period as we have had so many visitors who had seen it on TV last week. I enclose a photo which I hope will be of interest to your readers".



F Watson writes from Walthamstow

I was sorry to read of the death of Captain Hamilton. It brought memories flooding back as I was one of the draft that joined the battalion just after he was brought in.

I note that Major Lowry as he was in my time is still around. Have you any recollection as to the whereabouts of Captain Taylor (Tickey) Major Lowry's Second in Command. Captain (Religious Joe Mullins) Major Grainger (I saw him outside the Oval cricket ground) 1958-59, 2/Lt Parry Smith, 2/Lt Deakin. 2/Lt Parry Smith ordered his batman to oil the hinges of his map case. When we were on column after Kohima he kicked him out of his bivouac for snoring! 2/Lt Deakin couldn't map read, he took us on a fighting patrol and we came under our own shell fire. 'Happy days'!

Tommy Atkins writes:-

Thank you for the lovely day at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, and the lunch at Clandon afterwards. The turn out was very good wasn't it, did the march past go alright. Not so easy trying to get the old and bold formed up in threes, even when one is saying 'Please', I was tempted to revert to the language one used many years ago, but thought as I was in the presence of Him above and a few hundred irreverent old warriors who might have told me where to go, diplomacy was the order of the day and that operation S A B U (Self Adjusting Balls Up) was the best way. Once again thank you for the lovely lunch and liquid refreshment, all for now.

The Bear in the window

At the traffic lights at Milford, Surrey motorists look daily to see which event is being depicted by the bear in an upstairs window. The owner has received many letters from passers by praising her for the constant update of the bears outfit. When such events as the Cup Final, or the recent 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings it was easy to guess what he was dressed to be. However, the Glorious First saw the bear dressed as a grenadier of the Queen's with suitable flags and regimentalalia, which did cause motorists to think! Several passers by asked and were promptly given a short regimental history lesson!!

The ladys father served with 1/5th Queen's during the First World War and was decorated with the Military Medal.



Apologies

To all members of 169 Bde. Sharp eyed readers will have noted that the 'Black Cat' was incorrectly printed with the tail on the left (page 42 May Newsletter) and to Dr G Court whose name was incorrectly transcribed on page 40 May edition. My sincere apologies to all.

Editor

PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



M J Orchard is trying to trace a very old friend of his, 6086989 James Barnet. He transferred to the Surreys from the Queens possibly 1938 - 1939. If any reader can assist please write to M J Orchard, 129 Downsfield Rd, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 8SG. Mr Orchard also sent the photo of A Company 2 Surreys marching over Garden Bridge, Shanghai.



Ian Chambers is asking for readers help. He is trying to trace any person who knew his cousin Private William Gladstone Chambers who died on 24th October 1943 whilst serving with the 1/7th Queens. Any member who may be able to assist please write to I Chambers, 39 Cleveland, Bradville, Milton Keynes MK13 7A2.



This photo forms part of the museum collection at Clandon. It is believed to be c1962 and is thought to be 3 or 4 Queen's Surreys. If you can help with the unit or the names please write to the Editor at RHQ PWRR or contact Mrs James at the Museum, Clandon.

Museum Notes

We are delighted that Mrs Penny James and Mr Roy Harding, our Curator and Museum Assistant respectively, have settled in so well and we consider ourselves most fortunate to have them. A great deal of tender loving care, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm goes into presenting the Museum and they, together with our loyal and willing volunteers work extremely hard.



Colonel East's daughter Mrs Liz Boal accompanied by her son and brother, visited the museum to hand over the late Colonel East's medals to the museum on behalf of the family. The photograph shows the medals being accepted by the Chairman of the Trustees, Colonel Peter Durrant.

Since the last notes were written maximum effort has been applied to refining our records. We have already purchased a computer and we hope it will not be too long before a start is made on transferring our records into a database. We have a wealth of archival material in the Museum and if we wish to make maximum use of it then we need to use modern technology to do so.

We are grateful to those who have generously presented items of regimental interest to the Museum and they are as follows;

A signed photograph of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein inscribed "To Pop Dowler, with my best wishes". Lt General Sir Arthur Dowler was Chief of Staff in BAOR in 1945/46. He was known as "Pop" by those who had the privilege of knowing him well. General Dowler was Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment from 1946 to 1954;

A Queen's Officer's 1802 Shoulder Belt Plate loaned by Major Burton;

Medals of the late Colonel East, Queen's, presented by his family and those of the late Major Clark, Surreys, presented by his wife;

Medals of A/Sgt S M Lumber, Surreys, presented by his daughter;

An account by Mr R Stokes of his war service with 2 Queen's and R Signals from 1940-1946 in North Africa, India, Burma and Germany. With his attention to detail this account is a valued addition to our archives;

Finally, we are indebted to the Association Trustees for so generously underwriting the cost of repair of the "Pink Column" to the Museum. Old Queen's members will remember that this silver trophy was "Shot for" annually by the officers and sergeants messes.

This is a suitable opportunity to ask if readers of the Newsletter could search their attics, cupboards and outbuildings for any items of meaningful regimental interest that they would consider donating to the Museum. We seek archival material, regimental histories, badges, buttons etc. but a word first please with Mrs James (0483 223419) just to make sure we can accept what is offered.

PAWGD

In Memoriam

Gathering dust for some years in the attic of Clandon Park has been a fifteen inch high statue in alabaster of St George. Of its origin we know little other than that it was presented by Lady Henriques in memory of her son, Lieutenant R L Q Henriques, the first officer of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment to be killed in the First World War. To whom it was presented and where it had been before coming to the Museum we do not know. If anyone has any information about the statue we should be very grateful to have it.

The statuette has been cleaned and is now on display in the Museum together with a photograph of Henriques and a suitable caption.

1st Battalion The Queen's, of which Henriques was a member, paraded at Bordon on 11th August 1914, 1000 strong and they embarked for France the following day. Henriques was killed on 14th September 1914 during the Battle of the Aisne and by the end of October the Battalion could only muster 32 all ranks not killed or wounded.

PAWGD

Wizard for Oz

As well as Curating and displaying the Collection, the Museum staff and volunteers spend a proportion of their time researching requests for information about ancestors some fairly recent but some far in the past. For instance, in August the Museum received a telephone call from "down under" about an ancestor. It came from Mr Michael Downey of New South Wales who is a descendant of Major General Sir J Rolt KCB Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1853-1856. The Museum staff researched a good deal of information about this eminent gentleman and also found in its collection a photograph of an oil painting of Major General Rolt by G Hughes executed in 1853, presumably in honour of the subject's attainment of high office. Mr Downey was so delighted with the results of this research that he commissioned a photograph of this picture together with the supporting historical information to be sent to him in Australia. The Museum has benefited from a very generous donation from Mr Downey.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the original portrait of Major General Rolt, the Curator would be pleased to know so that Mr Downey can be told. It is not in the National Portrait Gallery nor the National Army Museum.

On 14th August 1994 the Museum was delighted by a visit from In Pensioner A Whiting and his son Mr Derrick Whiting. Sgt Whiting enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1923 and served with the 1st Battalion. He is now an In Pensioner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea and at the grand age of rising 90 was having a day out with his son. They enjoyed lunch in the Clandon Park Restaurant and then came into the Museum where Sgt Whiting charmed all - staff and visitors alike. Of course, he was the centre of attention in his well known uniform and he carried a handsome stick capped with the Lamb which his family commissioned and presented to him. The early part of Sgt Whiting's service was spent as groom to the Adjutant's horses (the Adjutant at the time was Capt Gerald Pilleau) and he could recall the horses by name and actually found a photograph in one of our albums with a favourite horse in it. One of Capt Pilleau's horses while in the care of Sgt Whiting won the Malta Command Horse Show in 1930; Capt Pilleau had made a miniature replica of the winner's cup and presented it to Sgt Whiting together with a silver wrist watch. Mr Derrick Whiting tells me that his father entered The Royal Hospital in 1993 and in November of that year proudly "led in" the contingent of Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Albert Hall during the Service of Remembrance.

I should like to thank everyone - Trustees, other staff volunteers and visitors to the Museum - whose support and encouragement has helped to make my first season as Curator/Administrative Officer such a pleasant experience.

PJ

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima, 1st Queens

A memorable luncheon was held on 7th May, 1994 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima, in which 33 Indian Infantry Brigade took a leading part.

The surviving officers of 1 Queens and 4/15th Punjab Regiment joined together at Clandon Park, Guildford in the Queen's Surreys Museum, followed by an excellent luncheon in the adjacent private room of the restaurant. Messages had been received from ex officers of the 4/1st Gurkhas who were unable to attend due to their own re-union. The whole affair was a meeting of old comrades, their wives and families. It consequently was a relaxed, convivial party thoroughly enjoyed by all, and cementing a long friendship forged so long ago in traumatic circumstances.

A telephone call from India by Don Papworth to wish the party a good day was much appreciated. He explained the efforts he had been making to obtain official representation for the 33 Brigade on the 7th May, 1994. As a result an honour party from the Assam Rifles was provided. This regiment had been very much involved in the early stages of the Japanese advance into the town.

33 Club (33 Indian Infantry Brigade)



Veterans of The 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, who served together 50 years ago in the Arakan Kohima and the Burma campaign.

Col. Hugh Conroy, CO of the 4/15th Punjab at Kohima gave a short address in memory of the fallen from all regiments, and confirming the continuing great ties of comradeship. He thanked Tony Hobrow and Dick Kensington for organising such a successful party. Our thanks to Peter and Daphne Hill for their enthusiastic help at the Museum.

ASCM

Kohima - A Gunner's Tale

The Queen's participation in the Battle of Kohima is well known but the story is told from another interesting angle by Captain P D Cummins, Royal Artillery, in a recent letter to his sister Mrs. Mary Ford whose husband Richard was the former Curator of Clandon Museum.

In a letter he says:-

"For the record I served with 24th Indian Mountain Regiment - Indian Artillery with 161 Brigade of the 5th Indian Division in the Arakan, Kohima and Imphal and with 32 Indian Mountain Regt of 36 Division in Northern Burma until the end of the war in the Far East."

For the first time in the history of warfare we flew an entire division from the Arakan to Kohima/Imphal. You can well imagine the problems we had loading 450 mules and 120 horses on to planes particularly as none of us humans or animals had flown before.

However, we touched down safely at Dimapur in a tropical rainstorm, some 35 miles from Kohima and the railhead into India the Japanese primary objective, but intelligence told us that there had been a change of plan and that the Japanese intended to occupy Kohima. So leaving our horses and mules behind we arrived in Kohima at the same time as the Japs and after a fierce confrontation occupied one section of the ridge and they the other. Eventually in fact, the same day, we and the Royal West Kents were surrounded and the Siege now regarded as one of the great battles, of all time, began and lasted for some six weeks until the enemy finally retreated. It's all such a long time ago but this particular battle is still vivid in my memory!!

Captain Cummins' uncle, by marriage, was Herbert Hunt, one of two brothers who, as Sergeants in The East Surrey Regiment, were both killed on the same day at the battle of the Marne in 1914.



Colonel Malhotra, Commandant 29 Assam Rifles, having just laid the wreath, 17th May 1994 at Kohima Memorial.

Ships that Pass

The photograph of HMS Vimy in the May issue was most interesting, probably recalling many memories for those who travelled in her, some of whom may like more information. She was in fact a "V and W" class destroyer, 2 types of vessel built during the First World War and often seeing service into and through the Second. Of 1,090 tons displacement, with 3 inch and 4 inch main armament, Vimy was launched from the Beardmore yard in 1917 and gave thirty-one years honourable service to the Royal Navy before going for scrap to Rosyth in 1948.

Also of interest was the revelation on another page that the activities and courses of HMS Royal Arthur have now been absorbed into HMS Excellent. The former name graced various ships and establishments in the past including that of the Second World War training and reception centre located in the former Butlins Holiday Camp at Skegness in Lincolnshire during the Second World War (a place no doubt remembered by many "Hostilities Only" ratings like myself who passed through there). The once gaily painted peace-time buildings were suitably coated in drab camouflage but one of them, near the main entrance, still bore the legend "*Our True Intent Is All For Your Delight*" a sentiment which some of the current occupants seriously doubted.

RF

When the past meets the present

South Africa 1900-1901

Sometimes the past becomes the present! Recently Mr Henk Loots, a medal collector from South Africa, asked the Regimental Museum for details of the scarf crocheted by Queen Victoria which was presented to Colour Sergeant H G Clay, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. Mr Loots wanted to make a replica to display with the medals of a Colour Sergeant of The West Yorkshire Regiment, also a scarf recipient, for a display in the Spion Kop Exhibition in London recently.

After photographing and measuring the scarf, our Curator, Mrs James, hunted in various shops to try to find a colour

match of the wool used by the Queen. Mr Loots produced the finished article on his recent visit and it has been faithfully copied.

Queen Victoria crocheted eight scarves, embellished with her monogram (Victoria Regina et Imperatrix) in red. These scarves were awarded to NCOs who had distinguished themselves in action. Four of

them were awarded to the British Army and the other four went to members of the forces from the Colonies.

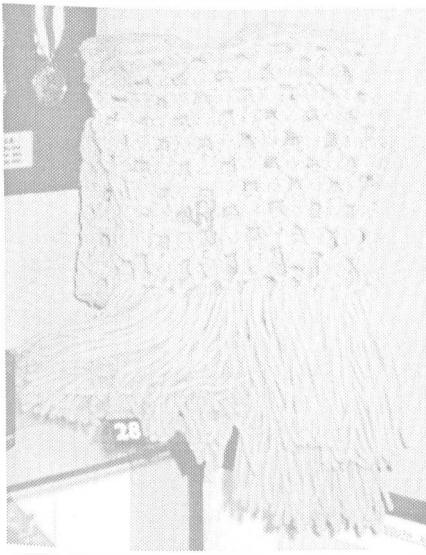
It had been brought to the notice of the Queen that the four battalions in the 2nd Brigade (Queen's, Devons, West Yorks and Surreys) had earned a high reputation in gaining the objectives assigned to them and so she decided to award four scarves which she had crocheted herself one to each battalion in the brigade.

The instructions given were that the scarves were to be awarded to men who had entered the Army as rankers and had already been recommended for decorations. However, the scarf would only be sanctioned after a vote, taken in the field, of their comrades. The result of the voting was then to be brought before a Board of Officers.

Queen Victoria had intended to present the scarves formally to the individuals concerned when they returned to England, but sadly she died before she could do so. The Queen had hoped her scarf about 5ft by 9ins would be worn like that of a sergeant's sash. There is no record that this was done. Not only did C/Sgt Clay receive a scarf for his conduct, but C/Sgt Ferrett, of 2nd Battalion The Queen's, did also. This scarf is held at the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle.

It was of considerable regimental interest to us when Mr Loots told us that he now owned the first Victoria Cross gained by the Regiment, awarded to Pte A E Curtis, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, for his action at Wynns Hill, near Ondenbroer Spruit, Natal on 23 February 1900.

This award was made to Pte Curtis for his gallant action in saving, under fire, his commanding officer, Lt Col R H W H Harris, and with the help of Pte Morton carried him in a bandy chair out of the range of the Boer guns. Pte Morton was awarded the DCM for this act of bravery. Both Pte Morton's DCM and Lt Col Harris's medal group (CB, Afghanistan Medal, Queen's South Africa Medal and Queen Victoria Jubilee Medal) can be seen in the Museum at Clandon.



Mr Loots has given the Museum copies of all the papers he holds concerning Curtis for the archives. Little is known about him. He went to India with his battalion after the war. On leaving the Army in 1910 he became a Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London being discharged after 21 years' service. He died in 1940.

While we are ruminating about these battles at the turn of the century, it is interesting that once again the past is tied to the present. In action at this time Major H L Smith was awarded the DSO, he also was wounded and carried out of action by Ptes Humphrey and Thurston of the Battalion. Major Smith was the father of Colonel Harry Smith MC, who commanded the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War. We close with the statement Pte Curtis made to his acting CO, Major H W Pearce:

Sir

On the night of the 22nd of February 1900 I was with my Coy. and advanced to Grobler's Kloof and then on to Green Hill. We fixed bayonets and expected every minute to make a charge but we got the order to lay down. The fire being rather heavy we made head cover as best we could and remained there the rest of the night.

At daybreak next morning some got the order to retire but the part of the hill that my section and all of A company got the order to advance. So off we went at the double with our rifles at the slope. Just as we rose from our cover the Boers put on a most deadly fire. You could see nothing but men being knocked over. Then someone gave the order to get under cover, so we dropped down where we were and crept behind any stone that was near us. All day some of the chaps tried to get away but every time they rose they would go a few yards and then be knocked over. I saw Lieutenant Hinton go to where I knew the Colonel was lying. He had no sooner got to him than he was shot dead. I did not know that the Colonel was wounded at this time but about 4 in the afternoon I heard someone going in the direction of where the Colonel was lying. I came to the conclusion that he was wounded so I rose up from my cover and made for the Colonel but had to get under cover again as the fire became too heavy and the way I got to him was to dodge from stone to stone until I reached him. I asked him if he was hurt and he said, "I am hit all over the body" but he said, "Who are you?" and I said, "one of your own Regiment come to try and get you away". I then sat him up but he was too weak to remain so, so I called for assistance and Private Morton of the same Regiment came to help me. He came at once and between us we managed to put him up and took a handkerchief from his breast pocket and tied his right arm close to his body and then tried to make a stretcher with our rifles but did not have time so put our hands together and made a chair and the Colonel put his left arm round my neck to steady himself and we then carried him back to a place of safety where some more of our Regiment was.

Myself and Morton had to go back for our equipment and rifles and went back to where the Colonel was lying. I then told Morton to look after the Colonel while I looked about for a stretcher. I was away about half an hour. When I came back they were just taking the Colonel away on a stretcher belonging to the Queen's Regiment. I then made for the Tugela for a drink as we had been 36 hours without a piece of biscuit or a drink of water. I then made for the Regiment and found them after a lot of trouble and handed the Colonel's equipment to Major Pearce. He asked me where I had been and I told him I had been out, cut off with A Coy. and that the Colonel had been severely wounded and Lt. Hinton had been killed and half of A Coy. had also been killed. He then gave me the order to join my Coy.

The Unknown Warrior

There were recently several letters in the press concerning The Unknown Warrior. Because of the regimental interest extracts from various letters are reproduced here, The Revd Malcolm Hart Richards wrote from Feckenham Worcs:-

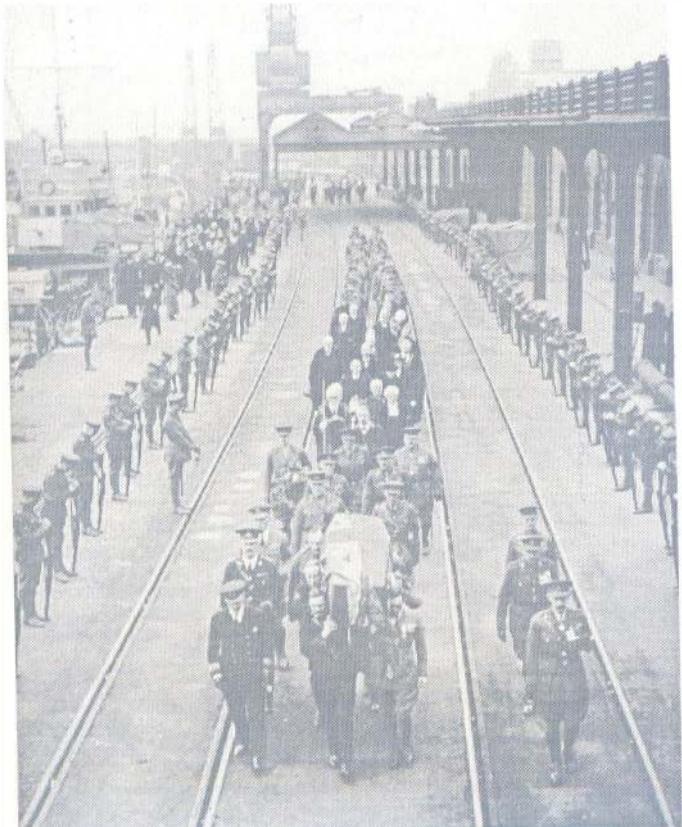
On Remembrance Sunday it might be of interest to our younger generations to be told the story of Britain's Unknown Warrior, and how he came to his last resting place in Westminster Abbey. Incorrectly by quite a number he is known as the Unknown Soldier.

A former vicar in the Chelmsford Diocese, David Railton, Chaplain to The East Surrey Regiment, saw an unmarked grave in a derelict farmyard as he was coming out of the line. It moved him deeply with an inspiration. On leave in England he went to the Dean of Westminster and asked permission for an unknown warrior's body to be placed within the Abbey.

On his return to France, orders were given to the Senior Chaplain of the 63rd Naval Division to superintend the exhumation of the bodies from six different graves of the fighting areas, beginning at Arras and Ypres. It was not known whether the bodies were those of soldiers of the line, or airmen, or officers of rank and social standing. All the bodies were placed in plain coffins of identical size and pattern. They were placed in an Army hut and covered with the Union Jack. A guard was set throughout the night.

The next morning an officer who had nothing to do with the exhumation was ordered to place his hand on one of the coffins. The coffin he touched was to contain the body of Britain's Unknown Warrior. The remaining five were reverently reburied. The selected one was brought with full military honours to Boulogne. It was here attended by officers of rank from the Allied Forces and placed on deck of a destroyer of the Royal Navy to return home with all the ceremony reserved for the bodies of royalty.

The Editor assisted by John Woodroff engaged in a little further research. John remembered reading Lynn McDonalds book "Voices and Images of The Great War" and an extract from the diary of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, GCB KOB CB DSO reads



The Unknown Warrior arrives at Dover.

4 October 1920

**Dean Ryle (Westminster Abbey) came to see me with a proposal which greatly pleased me. He wants to exhume the body of a private soldier (not identified) in France and bury it with full honours in Westminster Abbey putting a plain stone over it saying something to the effect 'Here lies the body of an unknown British Soldier who died for his King and Country etc.'*

I suggested some other word being used than 'soldier' as then this would cover the Navy and Air Force and he agreed. I told him he must ask the King who returns from Balmoral on Friday. He suggested 11 November for the day.

The Daily Herald of 12th November 1920 reported:-

ENGLAND HONOURS ITS UNKNOWN DEAD THE WARRIOR LAID TO REST

Great silent crowds watched yesterday's supremely impressive tribute paid to an unknown 'common soldier.'

The unveiling of the Cenotaph in Whitehall by the King. The procession thence to Westminster, and the service in the great national Abbey were of deep significance, but most impressive of all was the two minutes' universal silence.

With the first round of the salute came the faint sound of martial music. The cortège had left Victoria and at a slow march was wending its way westward. Then the brass instruments died away and there came the low wailing music of the bagpipes.

A small company of soldiers in khaki came first, then the massed bands, and following them the pipers. And then there came the gun-carriage bearing the Unknown and Unnamed Warrior. Army officers of high rank marched on one side, on the other marched high rank Naval officers, but it was not they whom the crowd had come to honour.

Other contingents of sailors, marines, and sailors in khaki followed and, finally, a great procession of ex-Servicemen in mufti. Within ten minutes the funeral procession had passed and, making its way down Constitution Hill, vanished into the low-lying mist.

When the first stroke of Big Ben sounded over Whitehall, the King, standing in the middle of the road, surrounded by Admirals and Field-Marshal, turned southwards to face the Cenotaph. Behind the King, the gun-carriage, bearing the coffin, draped with the Union Jack was drawn across the road.

Windows and roofs were crowded with spectators, and on the pavements below stood the dense throngs of the bereaved, to whom alone this part of Whitehall was open. Women were loaded with flowers, chiefly white chrysanthemums, and the faces of many revealed the sweet and bitter stresses of unforgettable emotions.

On the last stroke of eleven, the King pressed a knob on the top of a little pedestal erected in the road, and the two great Union Jacks that draped the Cenotaph fell to the ground.

At the same moment the King raised his cap. Bareheaded and silent, he stood in the midst of this vast gathering of the silent people.

At the end of the Two Minutes, the bands struck up, and the choir led the singing of 'O God, our help in ages past,' while the drums, draped in black, rolled low thunder in the intervals.

Through the guard of honour of VCs, past the massed mourning of the widows and mothers of the fallen, they carried him - this representative of the Common People, the Man Who Won the War; this Unknown British Warrior.

The Burial Service was read. The earth from the soil of France was scattered on the coffin by the King.

As we stood there in silence while the muffled drums began to whisper, as it were, myriads of miles away, and grew and grew into the sound of a rushing mighty wind, the stone atrocities faded, the vulgarity and bad taste were forgotten, the pomp and circumstance forgiven.

There remained only the clear sunlight streaming through the pale windows of the Abbey, only the splendid proportions of the mighty Gothic church, and in our ears there sounded, not the strains of the 'Recessional', but the crash and thunder of battle under a windswept sky, and the trumpets' promise of a cleaner and a sweeter day.

In November 1939, Brigadier General L J Wyatt, GOC British Troops, France and Flanders, 1920, and Director of The War Graves Commission wrote to the Daily Telegraph:-

*To the Editor of the Daily Telegraph,
Sir,*

From time to time accounts have been published purporting to relate how and by whom the Unknown Warrior's body was selected in France for burial in Westminster Abbey on Nov. 11, 19 years ago. I should like to give here the authentic account of what took place.

In October I received a notification from the War Office that King George V had approved the suggestion and the proposal that the burial should be in Westminster Abbey on Nov. 11th. I issued instructions that the body of a British soldier, which it would be impossible to identify, should be brought in from each of the four battle areas the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres, on the night of Nov. 7 and placed in the chapel of St Pol. The party bringing each body was to return at once to its area, so that there should be no chance of their knowing on which the choice fell.

Reporting to my headquarters office at St Pol, at midnight on Nov. 7, Col. Gell, one of my staff, announced that the bodies were in the chapel and the men who had brought them had gone... The four bodies lay on stretchers, each covered by a Union Jack; in front of the altar was the shell of the coffin which had been sent from England to receive the remains. I selected one, and with the assistance of Col. Gell, placed it in the shell; we screwed down the lid. The other bodies were removed and reburied in the military cemetery outside my headquarters at St Pol.

I had no idea even of the area from which the body I selected had come; no one else can know it. The shell, under escort was sent to Boulogne. The next morning, carried by the pall-bearers who were selected from NCOs of the British and Dominion troops it was placed on a French military wagon and taken to Boulogne Quay where a British destroyer was waiting. Six barrels of earth from the Ypres Salient were put on board to be placed in the tomb at Westminster Abbey so that the body should rest in the soil on which so many of our troops gave up their lives.

Then HMS Verdun moved off, a guard of honour of Bluejackets at 'the Present', carrying that symbol which for so many years, and especially during the last few months, has meant so much to us all.

Yours Etc.

L.J. Wyatt. Kirkby Lonsdale, Nov. 1939.

It was known that a photo of the remains of The Unknown Warrior arriving at Dover was in the museum at Clandon. This photo had been used by several organisations including the BBC to illustrate articles over the years. After a search by the museum working party one Wednesday the photo was found and is reproduced on page 38. It is believed, but has not yet been confirmed, that part of the street lining party was from The Queen's Royal Regiment. A further search of photos and files in the Dover museum is continuing.

*Ryle H E The Right Revd Bishop CVO DD Dean of Westminster, Chaplain 1st class (TF) att 16th (County of London Regiment) (Queen's Westminster Rifles).

LMBW

Thank you, The Kent Messenger Group

World War Two veterans visited the offices of the Kent Messenger Group to thank the firm for helping them join in with the French liberation celebrations.

Six hundred British ex-servicemen took part in a weekend of events in Lille last month to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the day Allied soldiers marched into the city.



Major Derrick Watson speaking at the offices of La Voix du Nord after regimental wall plaque had been presented to their president.

The Kent Messenger Group, publishers of Kent Today, teamed up with its French partners La Voix du Nord and ferry companies P&O and Stena Sealink in contributing to the trip. Douglas Mitchell, secretary of the 5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association, presented a plaque with the regimental badge to KMG chairman Edwin Boorman in recognition of the company's help.

Twenty eight of his members travelled to France for the commemorations. Doug Mitchell thanked the KMG for all their efforts and said "We all enjoyed our visit to Lille and still feel stunned at the tremendous and spontaneous reception we received from the French people".

"We all found it very moving and emotional and it will remain in our memories for a long time to come".



Included in the photo are: Edwin Boorman, Chairman Kent Messenger Group, W J Dorrell, Managing Director, Bryan Godwin, Director of Sponsorship, Doug Mitchell, Percy Culmer, Margaret Mitchell, Tom Culmer.

Acknowledgment: The Editor wishes to thank the Kent Messenger Group for permission to print the article and photo.

Villers-Bocage 13th June 1944 - 13th June 1994

"In June 1944, we said 'thank you' to them, in June 1994, we will say 'welcome'.

These were the words chosen by the Regional Council of Basse-Normandie as the theme for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, commemorated in every town and village which had experienced the fighting. Throughout the area, houses were be-decked with the Stars and Stripes, the Union Jack and the Tricolour, interspersed with great banks of flowers.

In response to an invitation from the Mayor and Council of Villers-Bocage, a party of former members of 7th Armoured Division, led by General Sir Thomas Pearson, and representing the units who had taken part in the fighting at Villers-Bocage on 13th June 1944, spent two memorable days in Normandy. Our Regiment was represented by Major General Desmond Gordon (CO of 1/7th Queens) and Major-General Michael Forrester (CO of 1/6th Queens). Other Regiments represented were The City of London Yeomanry, The Royal Horse Artillery and The Rifle Brigade. Included in the party was the present Earl of Onslow whose father, the 6th Earl, as Viscount Cranley, commanded the 4th CLY in the battle.

Having crossed by ferry the previous night, we were met at Ouisterham on the morning of 13th June and given breakfast before being taken via Pegasus Bridge to the magnificent Memorial Museum (Musée pour la paix) at Caen. Then across Normandy, passing through many of the battlefields of June and July 1944, to Pt.213 overlooking Villers-Bocage for a presentation by Major Christopher Milner of 1RB and discussion of events on that June morning fifty years before.



The 7th Armoured Division representatives.

L-R Christopher Milner, Desmond Gordon, Tom Pearson, Tim Lanyon, Michael Onslow, Michael Forrester, Pat Dyas, Andrew Burn, Joe Lever.

On arrival in Villers-Bocage, we were introduced to our accommodation hosts who took us to their homes for a most welcome déjeuner followed by an offer to go sight-seeing. I chose to re-visit Bricquessard which 1/6th Queens Group had held in the face of mounting opposition during 13th-17th June. This, in itself, proved a highly nostalgic and emotional experience, as this tiny hamlet, in the heart of the Bocage, appeared just as we had left it in June 1944. The single road and the tracks, the woods and the fields were unchanged; no new buildings, only repairs to those that had suffered damage; there was nobody to be seen and in the heat of the afternoon nothing moved and stillness prevailed, - all this as if in silent tribute to those who had given their lives.

Later in the afternoon we re-assembled in Villers-Bocage for the official opening of l'Exposition of the battle and

subsequent reconstruction of the town. We then paraded with the civic band and brass-helmeted members of the fire brigade, and marched to the main square for the unveiling of a noble memorial bearing the signs of 7th Armoured Division and 22nd Armoured Brigade and the regimental badges of the CLY, the RHA, the Queens and the Rifle Brigade, and the words, in French and English, "To those of the 7th Armoured Division who fought and died here for liberty on 13th June 1944". During this very moving ceremony, held in superb mid-summer conditions, and attended by a large number of civic dignitaries and hundreds of local people, Desmond Gordon responded in French on behalf of the Division and presented the Mayor with a suitably inscribed plaque bearing the badge of the Queen's Royal Regiment. Each member of our party was then given by the President of the Regional Council, The Médaille du Jubilé.

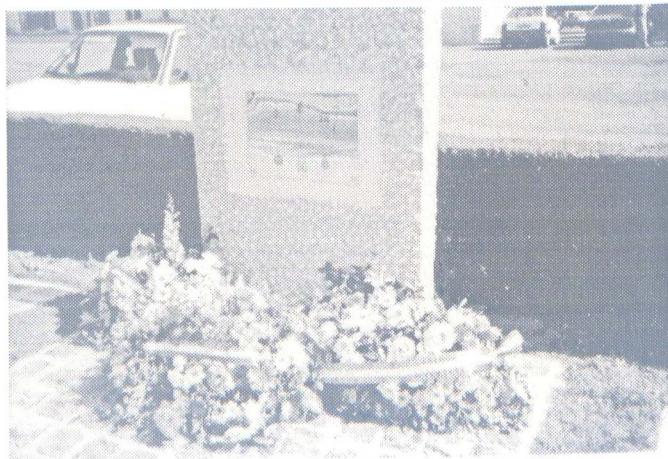


Foreground:- Le Maire Monsieur Xavier Lebrun and Desmond Gordon.

This was followed by a most convivial "vin d'honneur" in the Town Hall where, on entry, all were presented with flags of the two nations which had been lovingly fashioned by the local school-children who then, in order to make us feel really at home, sang in perfect English, songs 'of the time' such as "Tea for Two" and "No. No, Nanette" !

We were then treated to a splendid dinner, more speeches and even more conviviality. And so to bed, with feelings of gratitude and deep humility for the very handsome tribute paid to the Division by the people of Villers-Bocage whose generosity of spirit eclipsed their disappointment at the failure of the operation and the consequent distress they suffered due to their liberation being delayed.

The following day, before leaving for home on the afternoon ferry, we visited the very impressive Memorial



The Memorial - Next morning.

Museum at Bayeux and then crossed the road to pay our respects to those of our Regiments buried in the beautifully designed and immaculately maintained British Military Cemetery.

M.F.

Note. An account of this operation, written by Major-General Mike Reynolds, was published in Newsletter Number 55.

50 Years Normandy Landings Anniversary

Laurie Uren, Victor Cripps, George Mathis and Denis Sumner veterans of the 1/7th Queens, 131 Queens Brigade embarked with the Royal British Legion Pilgrimage to commemorate 50 years anniversary of the Normandy Landings with the 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats)

The crossing from Portsmouth to Le Havre was uneventful with blue skies and a calm sea, memories came flooding back to where we were laying off Southend overnight after loading at Tilbury Docks and when we set sail on 6th June 1944 to join the armada to cross the channel protected by the gun boats, destroyers and the battle ships *Nelson* and *Warspite* firing their salvos overhead almost lifting our landing craft out of the water. The choppy sea with some of the men sea sick - and all a little apprehensive as to what reception we would receive on landing, as many of us had experienced at Salerno at that time the *Warspite* had been wounded by a direct hit - and there she was again in support.

However, on the *Pride of Cherbourg* P & O ship we met up with other veterans from the 50th and 51st Division, who were with us from the El Alamein days forming the 30 Corps many memories were exchanged during the convivial five and a half hours journey and eventually arriving at our hotel at Rouen after midnight.

As we were 100 miles from Bayeux, reveille was at 0500 hours and on the road at 0600 hours, it was wet and dank. Arriving at the outskirts with much chaos and excitement with the gendarmes we were debussed and transferred to a shuttle bus service to a central park with a long walk to Bayeux cemetery for the commemoration service and marshalled into groups to await the VIPs and the Queen to arrive. The solemn service was taken by the padres from the Navy, Army and RAF although the feelings of the men were greater than the service. The calm of the 2 minutes silence was shattered by a distant police car sounding its siren and the sound of the Last Post was lost in the wind. Disappointment that time was not allowed for the wreath laying by the veterans, we were hurried back to the Central Park for a further delay of two hours awaiting the bus shuttle service. It was felt that this could have been spent at the cemetery.

On arrival at Arromanche for the march to the beaches and the salute to be taken by the Queen, we were greeted by throngs of people with a tremendous ovation all along the beaches, one felt proud to have taken part in the liberation of those people, who were showing their gratitude and appreciation. On the sands members of the Royal Family intermingled with the veterans before the march past and singing of all the old wartime songs led by the military bands.

The speeches were lost in the wind - and at this time the tide had started to come in and many of us were standing in water but this was soon forgotten as the march took place. I understand they had catered for seven thousand but it was thought more than twelve thousand took part, all giving their best again the throngs of people were giving a tremendous ovation, offering drinks and eats and

many were autograph hunting. We were then marched into an orchard to await our coaches for a further 4 hours wait, but the good old 'Sally Army' arrived with two vans giving tea and buns free which helped greatly the frustrations of many as there were no seats and the grass was far too wet to sit down.

June 7th was again an early start heading for Caen Medallion ceremony, which was held in the Town Hall and the Salute taken by the Mayor, who himself was a member of the Resistance during the War. After the formalities of the presentations and speeches we were entertained by hostesses and champagne was in liberal supply and on our departure from the Hall we were given another medallion from the people of Caen to show their gratitude and thanks.

The afternoon was spent visiting the cemeteries and placing poppy crosses on the graves of comrades of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and so we were able to pay our respects to former friends and comrades of the Regiment. This became very emotional and stressful when one realised how very fortunate one was to have returned home and to have lived life to the full with children and grandchildren whilst their lives were taken so young. We will remember them.

I wish to congratulate the Royal British Legion for the meticulous planning of the pilgrimage for the 400 members accompanied by doctors and nurses and the excellent accommodation.



1/7th Queen's
D Sumner, G Walters, L Uren, V Cotts at Arromanche ceremony

LU

23rd London/42 RTR Reunion



Major Derek Conran and Major Bernard Hill at the St George's Day Reunion, Clapham Junction.

China 1860 - The Taku Forts

Introduction

It cannot be long before a budding regimental historian starts delving into the past shared experiences of our newly formed Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. There follows a perfect example of a campaign, which links some of our regimental heritage.

The Chinese War of 1860 involved the participation of an Anglo-French Expeditionary Force, which included 4 of our Regimental forebears. The Regiments were to be organised in each of the 4 British operational brigades.

Background

The aim of the British and French troops was to compel the Chinese Court at Peking to observe the trading treaties signed between their governments at Tientsin in 1858.

Preliminary Operations

In 1859, Sir Frederick Bruce and Monsieur de Bourboulon, the British and French national representatives, prepared to take up their duties within the terms of the Tientsin Treaties and a British fleet made up of 19 vessels, under the command of Admiral Hope, assembled in the Gulf of Pechili. On 17 June 1859, Admiral Hope, in a single vessel, proceeded to Taku to announce the arrival of the 2 new officials. An armed rabble refused permission to land and said that the River Peiho had been blocked. After some failed negotiation, on the 25th June, Hope attacked the Taku forts with gunboats and detachments of sailors and marines. The result was disastrous with 4 boats sunk and the shore party mown down in mud. 434 men were killed or wounded out of 1100 disembarked. Hope's gunboat had 9 standing out of 40 and the position would have been worse, had not Commodore Tatnall of the American Navy come to Hope's assistance with his armed barge. The British Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, was convinced that the enemy guns must have been manned by Russians to have been so effective!

On 8 March 1860 an ultimatum was sent to Peking demanding an apology and the acceptance of the Treaty of Tientsin. Hostilities were threatened if a response was not received within 30 days and, indeed, a negative answer from the Chinese was received 2 days before the deadline. The result was The Chinese War of 1860.

The Commander

Lieut-Gen Sir Hope Grant, a cavalryman, was appointed the commander of the China Expeditionary Force. He was a fine horseman and an accomplished cellist. He was also known for being religious and brave, but particularly inarticulate on paper! The French commander was de Montauban and in theory the two were supposed to command the Force on alternate days!

The Allied Force

The allied force was composed of the following elements:

British - Approx 14000.

Cavalry Bde. Brig Gen Pattle.(Kings Dragoon Guards). 1 KDG, Probyn's Horse, Fane's Horse, Stirling's battery.

1st Div. Maj-Gen Sir John Mitchell KCB.

1st Bde: Brig-Gen Staveley CB.

1st Foot (The Royal Scots), 31st (Huntingdonshire later The East Surrey Regt) The largest of the infantry battalions with 30 officers and 970 ORs, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs.

2nd Bde: Brig-Gen Sutton.

2nd (Queen's Royal Regiment), 2/60th King's Royal Rifles, 15th Punjab NI, 1 Coy RE and Desborough's battery.

2nd Div: Maj-Gen Sir Robert Napier KCB.

3rd Bde: Brig-Gen Jephson.

3rd Foot (The Buffs), 44th (Essex Regt), 8th Punjab NI.

4th Bde: Brig-Gen Reeves.

67th (South Hampshires), 99th (Wiltshires), 19th Punjab NI.

French Force Approx 7000.

Naval Force 173 British vessels and 33 French.

The Campaign

The initial action of the campaign was for the British and French Force to land troops on Chusan in order to starve the population of Peking. The landing was successful, but had no strategic effect, as the location was too far from Peking. None of our forebear regiments were present.

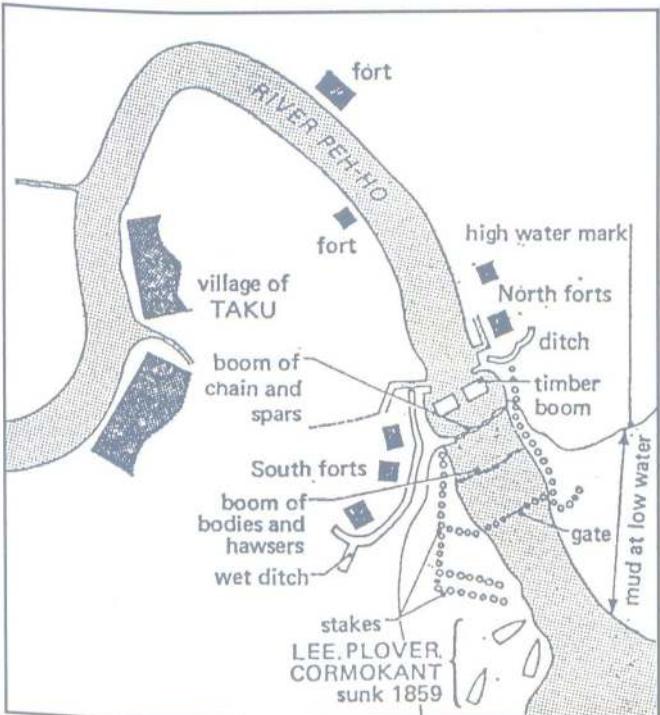
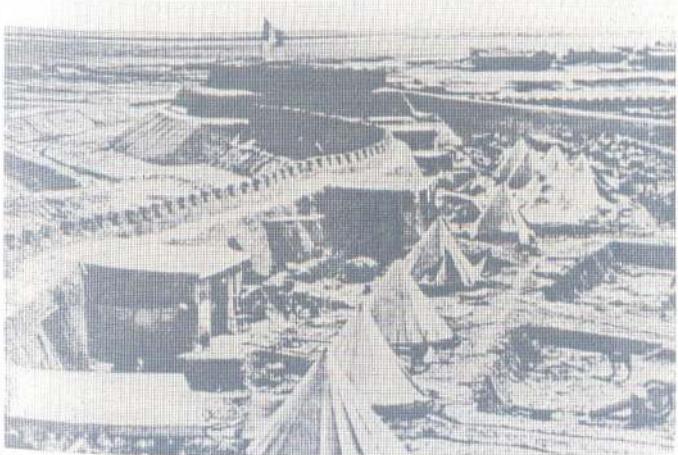
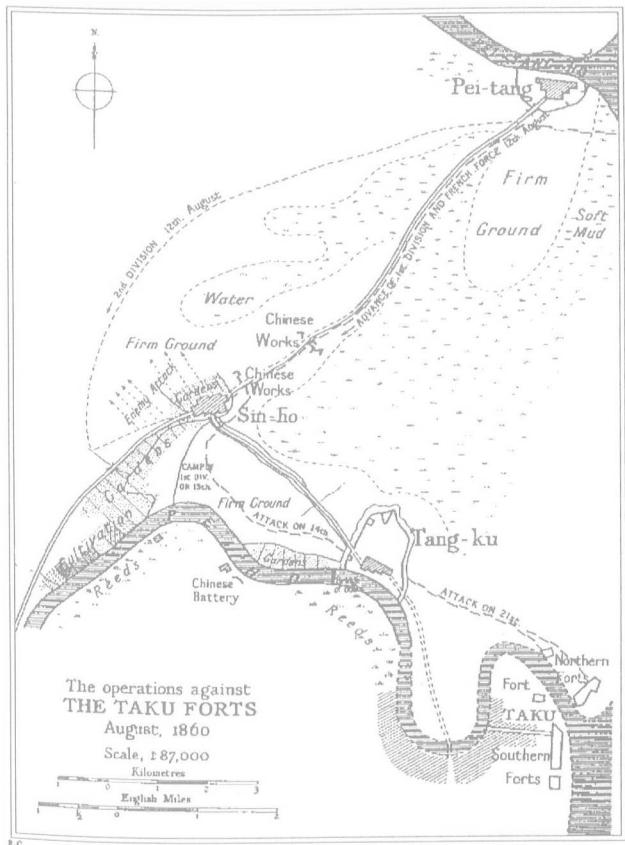
On 30 July 1860, Sutton's Brigade was disembarked at Pei Tang-Ho and Pei Tang was occupied. The first troops ashore were 200 Queensmen and 200 French, who had made a reconnaissance of the town. On the 3rd August, a reconnaissance force moved to a position 10 miles away from the Taku Forts. A 2nd Queen's detachment took part and 2 of its soldiers were wounded by bullets from a Chinese Jingal. (This was a huge musket manned by a 3 man crew). On the 12th August the 1st Division and the French Force advanced south-west along the causeway to Sin-Ho, whilst the 2nd Div advanced with the cavalry on a different axis, swinging to the west in a right hook. The cavalry was confronted by a large body of enemy Tartar horse, which only retreated after allied artillery fire and a charge by Probyn's and Fane's cavalry. Meanwhile, the 1st Division took the Chinese entrenchments on the causeway and advanced into the village of Sin-Ho.

The next Chinese emplacements were at Tang-Ku. The approach was awkward with a ditch on either side, swamp to the north and the River Peiho to the south, so on the night of the 13th the gaps were bridged. On the same night, the 31st (Huntingdonshire) with 250 men of the 60th Rifles and a party of Madras sappers and miners moved within close range of the town and dug a long shelter trench. On the 14th Tang-Ku was attacked and taken by the 2nd Brigade and the French. The 2nd Queen's were in the centre during the assault and 2 of the regiment's soldiers were wounded. 100 Chinese were killed and 45 guns captured.

There was then a halt for 6 days, as preparations were made for the assault on the Taku forts mainly by the 2nd Division, which was commanded by General Napier, an accomplished engineer. Two companies of the Buffs, under command of Colonel Sargent had a series of minor skirmishes with the enemy during this period. A bridge of boats was put up over the River Pei-Ho and the two commanders carried out their reconnaissance.

The Taku Forts

On each bank of the River Pei-Ho there was a detached fort lying to the west of a larger fort. The detached 130 square yards mud fort on the north bank dominated the approaches, so it was considered by General Grant to be the vital ground of the position, which needed to be taken first. Montauban did not agree and thought that Grant was taking too great a risk, as he would not be making the most of his naval firepower, but he later accepted the plan. He had preferred a more direct simultaneous assault against



the forts on both sides of the River. Twenty-three artillery pieces were positioned facing the fort and gaps were bridged. The deep mud made their movement extremely difficult. Some guns needed a team of 6 horses to pull.

In general, the ground was all mud and swampland with deep water courses intersecting it in all directions. General Grant stated that "It is simply a matter of the degree of filth our men must traverse". For part of this stage of the campaign the headquarters of the 1st Division was under a foot of water. The Chinese defences consisted of a deep dry ditch, a blocked gap, a wet ditch, 20 feet of ground covered with pointed bamboo stakes, a second wet ditch, another staked space and finally a thick brick wall with loopholes for artillery pieces.

The assault across the 4 mile gap from Tang-ku began on the 21st August, at daybreak with artillery fire and diversionary fire from 4 French and 4 British gunboats on the southern forts. Brig Reeves commanded the British assaulting troops of 2500 men. The French assaulting force consisted of 700 men under General Collineau. Four 8-inch guns, two 8-inch howitzers, two 32-pounders and three 8-inch mortars provided indirect fire support.

The First Fort

The 37 Chinese guns fired from the northern fort, as the allied force advanced, but most rounds went over the heads of the allies. At 6 o'clock a powder magazine blew up, followed by another in the larger fort 30 minutes later, which was probably hit from a shell from an allied gunboat. The navy was now bombarding the Chinese positions from the west. The 44th and 67th (South Hampshires) advanced upon the gate, with the French, under General Collineau, on their right next to the river. The 67th was to gain its first four VCs in this battle. Coolies carried scaling ladders for the French and stood in the water up to their necks holding the ladders up to make bridges above them. They were preceded by sappers carrying pontoons for crossing the obstacles, but they got in the way and held up the advance.

The 67th had to swim across the ditches. A Maj Anson, General Grant's aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mann of the Royal Engineers cut the ropes of the drawbridge and the drawbridge fell down. However, the gate was still closed, with a shell-hole next to it. Lieutenant Nathaniel Burslem of the 67th headed for it, even though he had received a bullet in the chest. He was joined by Private Thomas Lane, who tried to enlarge the shell-hole, but he was stunned by a 12-pounder shell. He got up, but was spiked by an enemy bayonet. In spite of their difficulties, both men continued to enlarge the hole until it was big enough for a man to get through. The French got into the fort first closely followed by Ensign John Chaplin carrying the Regimental Colour of the 67th and another officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant Edmund Lenon. Chaplin was hit twice by bullets in the forearm and shoulder, but both officers climbed up the wall and reached the parapet. Chaplin was then again wounded this time in the abdomen, but he succeeded in unfurling the Colour and supporting it in place of the Chinese Flag. At the same time Lieutenant Rogers of the 44th assisted him. After three and a half hours of fighting the fort was taken. Burslem, Lenon, Chaplin and Lane were all awarded Victoria Crosses, as was Rogers of the 44th.

The Other Forts

The Buffs and the 8th Punjab Infantry then advanced on the second lower northern fort, which was a thousand yards away amid a deluge of rain and a sea of mud. A staff officer advanced to examine the scene, but a white flag

was then seen flying from one of the southern forts and 2 hours later all the enemy positions at Taku were occupied. The southern forts were seen to be totally dominated by the first fort captured.

Casualties

The total casualties at Taku Forts of our forebear Regiments were as follows:

2nd Queen's	4 wounded.
3rd Buffs	2 wounded.
31st Huntingdonshire	Nil.
67th South Hampshire	6 killed, 71 wounded.

The total allied casualties were 201 British and 158 French, whilst 1800 Chinese died, with 1500 fleeing the scene. 2000 Chinese along with 400 guns were captured.

Subsequent Operations

The Chinese War of 1860 finished with the allied occupation of Peking on 13 October. The immediate future fortunes of our forebear Regiments are summed up as follows:

The 2nd Queen's Royal Regiment was transported to England via Hong-Kong.

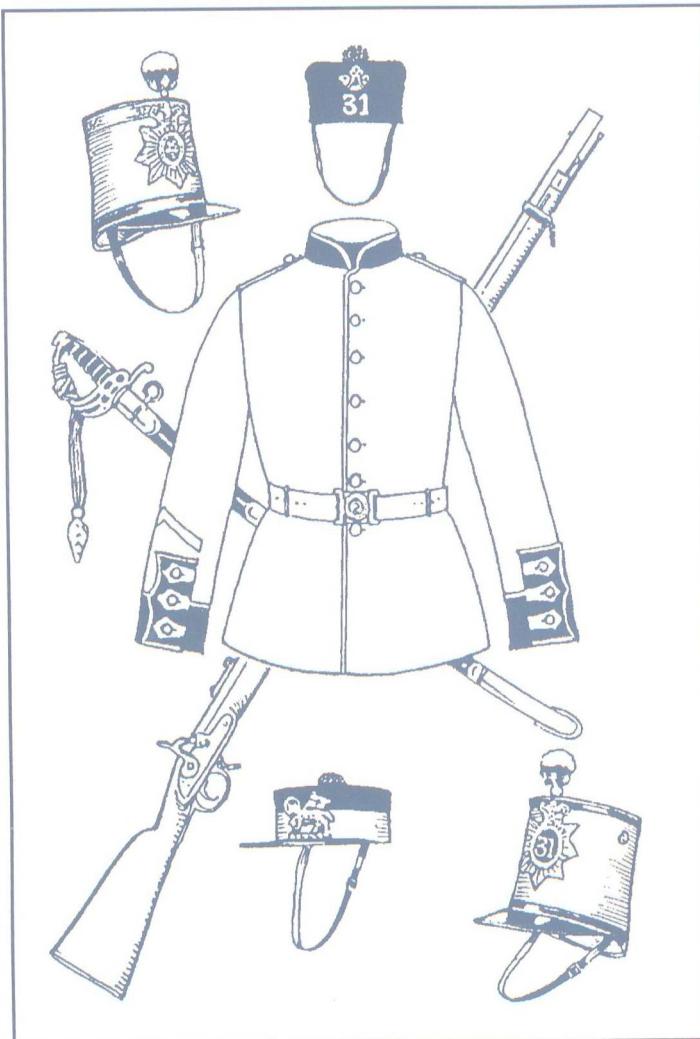
The Buffs garrisoned Taku Forts.

The 31st and 67th garrisoned Tientsin, following its surrender and occupation.

PC

Pictured Right:

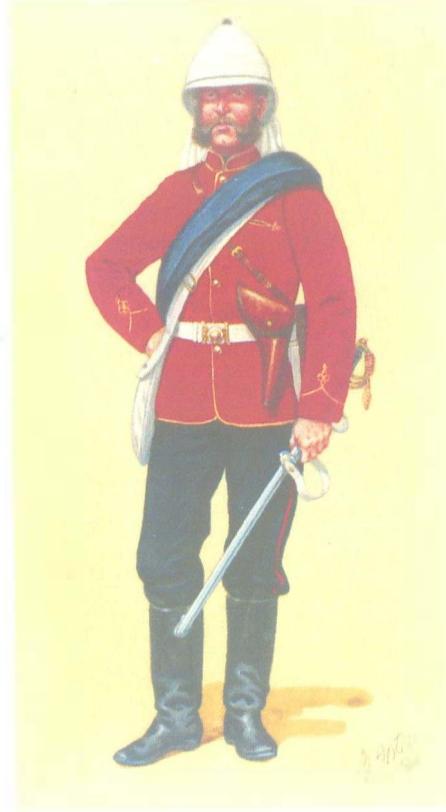
Major's Shako, 2nd Queen's; OR's Forage Cap, 31st L.I. Company; Officer's Sword; OR's Tunic, 2nd Queen's; Officer's Forage Cap, 2nd Queen's; OR's Shako, 31st; 3 Band Rifles Enfield Musket



Sergeant, 2nd Queen's with prisoner

Private, 31st Regiment

Company Officer, 2nd The Queen's



Golf-Society Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park on Thursday 5 May 1994. Once again the meeting was blessed with good weather and the course was in excellent condition. Unfortunately the entry did not match the weather as only ten members entered for the meeting, which was our lowest attendance. Those who played enjoyed an excellent day's golf and a number of non-playing members joined us for lunch which enhanced the enjoyment of the meeting.

The AGM of the Society was held before lunch this year as an experiment. HP Mason presided and 13 members attended, apologies being received from 22 members. Lt Col PGFM Roupell was nominated to continue as Captain of the Society for a further two years, and was duly elected.

The prizes were presented by the Captain, Lt Col PGFM Roupell at the end of the day's play. The results of the meeting were as follows:

Challenge Cup	MJ Power Esq	73
Dodgson Cup	Capt BML Scripps	70nett
Heales Memorial Trophy	MJ Power Esq	41pts
Veterans Halo	Major WJF Sutton	43pts
Harry Adcock Trophy (Putting)	HP Mason Esq	32putts
PM Greensomes (14 holes)	Lt Col PGFM Roupell and MJ Power Esq	31pts

The winners of the Society Sweep run on the morning round were: 1st Lt Col BA Hannaford 2nd Maj RA Green 3rd Brig MJA Clarke

Royal Marines Match

The Society Match against the Royal Marine Golf Society was played at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet on Tuesday 24 May 1994. For once the weather was perfect which made for an excellent day's golf and all matches were keenly contested. At the end of the morning Greensomes the Society went into lunch leading 3 - 2. After an extremely good lunch and well fortified, we were the wine hosts this year, we managed to prevail in the afternoon Foursomes again by 3 - 2. The Match Result being Queens Royal Surrey Regt 6 : Royal Marines 4.

QRSGS	AM	RMGS	
		Maj Gen PR Hay	Capt HJ Phillips
Maj Gen GA White	0		1
Lt Col PGFM Roupell (captain)			
MJ Power Esq		Col AJ Harris	
CC Surtees Esq	1	Col SD Smith	0
Col JW Sewell		Capt RD Patterson-Knight	
Maj WJF Sutton	1	S Hayward Esq	0
Col JGW Davidson		Sgt PJ McCormack	
IIP Mason	1	JD Francis Esq	0
Lt Col FB Herd		Capt AB Gordon	
Maj RA Green	0	(captain)	
		Lt JA Cook	1
PM			
HP Mason Esq	1	Maj Gen PR Kay	
CC Surtees Esq		Col SD Smith	0
Lt Col PGFM Roupell		Sgt PJ McCormack	
MJ Power Esq	0	S Hayward Esq	1
Col JGW Davidson		Col AJ Harris	
Col JW Sewell	0	Capt IJ Phillips	1
Maj WJF Sutton		Capt AB Gordon	
Maj RA Green	1	JD Francis Esq	0
Maj Gen GA White		Capt RD Patterson-Knight	
Lt Col FB Herd	1	Lt JA Cook	0

Please make a note in your diary now, and try to join us for future meetings - even if you are unable to play, why not join us for lunch and meet old friends.

I repeat my request of last year - if there are any former officers of The Queens Royal, East Surrey, 23rd London, Queens Royal Surrey, or serving officers of the Surrey Companies of PWRR or London Regiments who would enjoy playing with the Society, please contact Secretary, FB Herd, Oak Tree Cottage, North Gorley, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2PJ. 0425 652084.

We look forward to continuing our winning run on 24 May 1995.

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn meeting of the Society, which was attended by 14 members was blessed with one of those crisp sunny autumn days which make golf such a pleasure. Woking Golf Club, as we have come to expect, was in its usual excellent condition, which was reflected in some very good scoring both in the Medal and Stableford competitions in the morning.

After an excellent lunch for which Woking is renowned, the afternoon Greensomes were played in a relaxed and lighthearted manner. The Society was delighted to welcome three new playing members:- Jumbo Fuller, Colin Howard and Malcolm Howard, and we were joined at lunch, which is open to all members, by Jennifer Davidson and Richard Hill.

The winners of the competition were as follows:-

Senior Div	Autumn Bowl C M Howard Esq	65 net
Junior Div	Glasgow Greys Cup Lt Col F B Herd	72
Petri Plate	Aggregate of Spring & Autumn meetings M J Power Esq	136 net
Heales Memorial Trophy	C C Surtees Esq	35 pts
Runner up Seniors	Maj R A Green	30 pts
Runner up Juniors	M Howard Esq	29 pts
Veterans Halo	Maj W J F Sutton	38 pts
PM Greensomes	14 Holes A W Fuller Esq & M J Power Esq	30 pts

In 1995 the Society is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the first meeting at Sudbrook Park. The President and Captain will be arranging a special day to commemorate the event, so please make a note in your diary now of the date. All you golfers out there, come and support us, even if you can't play make a date for lunch.

1995 Fixtures

Thursday 11th May Spring Meeting Sudbrook Park.

Wednesday 24th May Royal Marines Match Fleet by invitation.

Wednesday 4th October Autumn Meeting Woking Golf Club.

FBH

Donations

The Trustees acknowledge with grateful thanks the donations made by the following gentlemen, F O Bleach, W Longley and to all those members who send "a little extra" when sending their subscriptions.

A Guide to The Regimental Museum

Members will receive with this edition of the Newsletter, a free copy of the new Museum Guide. This has been compiled and produced by the Trustees of our Museum at Clandon Park. Like their other publications (Salerno, Cassino, Malaya, The Territorials etc) this Guide has been produced to raise funds to pay museum running expenses. Our museum is, arguably, the single most effective instrument we possess to tell or remind the general public, the people of Surrey in particular, of our long and remarkable history. To do this effectively does not only cost a great deal of money, it also requires a considerable voluntary effort by the Trustees and "helpers" who throughout the year plan the displays, clean, polish, repair and preserve the exhibits and artefacts on display and in store, carry out painstaking research, catalogue and document the archives, give up their free time to "police" the museum when open to the public, and so on. The purpose of the Guide is self evident, but it is also a testimonial to years of devoted effort by the Trustees and numerous other voluntary helper's.

The Association Trustees who bear the cost of such publications have long realised that, much as many members would like to visit the museum and buy its publications, the distances and the costs are, sadly, for too many, too great. In consequence, the Association Trustees, at their meeting in March generously decided to make sufficient funds available to provide a free copy of the Guide for every member.

I hope that this souvenir will serve several purposes. First that it will encourage those members who can to visit the museum, particularly those who have not previously done so. Next that it might encourage any members with time to spare to offer their services as occasional helpers. Further, I hope all members will tell their friends and relations about the museum, that it is modern and compact, full of interest and not only to those who have soldiered, that it is "disabled visitor friendly", and has been highly praised by museum experts as an example of how a Regimental Museum should be presented. Finally, whether you visit the museum or not, I hope the Guide will always serve to remind you, with pride, of the high reputation and unsurpassable traditions of your Regiment and to reassure you of our determination to continue telling the story of our Regiment, through the museum, for as long as humanly possible.

On your behalf I congratulate the Museum Trustees and helpers on the consistently high standards they achieve in the museum, and have achieved in the production of this Guide, and I thank the Association Trustees for so generously making funds available to allow this free issue to members. I wish all members of the Association a thoroughly good and evocative read!

WEMcC

The Reserve Forces Association

This Association which has recently embarked on a recruiting drive was formed in the late 1960s and was previously known as the Reserve Officers Association. Its stated objective is "the maintenance of law and order through fostering the efficiency of the Reserve and Auxiliary Forces of the Crown", and in furtherance of that objective it assists those Forces to co-operate with similar Forces of the NATO countries. Membership is open to individuals who have or who have had a Reserve commitment or have otherwise served in the Armed Forces, and on a corporate basis to units of the Reserve forces. (Commanding Officers of 5th and 6th/7th The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment please note!).

I was a founding member of this Association and a member of the committee of its predecessor Association at the

invitation of the late Major Gordon Lett DSO, The East Surrey Regiment. I shared with Gordon a vision of enlarging the knowledge and experience of the TA by building closer ties with our NATO counterparts, exchanging training visits and engaging in friendly competition. The Rules of the Association are substantially as Gordon Lett and I drafted them in consultation with the other members of that committee (including Air Chief Marshall Sir John Slessor, General Sir Hugh Stockwell and Admiral Phillip Sharpe) nearly 30 years ago and accurately reflect that vision in 1967 after a detailed briefing at MoD by General Sir Ian Freeland (a former wartime Queens Battalion Commander and then Adjutant General) I agreed to lead a team of observers to the 20th Annual Conference or Congress in Trieste of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (ICRO) (at that time UK had not been admitted to the membership of the Common Market and I had the impression that in encouraging us to get into ICRO the government was keen to build any bridge that would get the nation into the Common Market). (ICRO) had then been established for twenty years and was doing for other European Canadian and USA Reserve units precisely what I wanted for the TA. The 20th Congress was extremely well organised and well attended by hundreds of ordinary members. There were visits to military establishments, sight-seeing tours of ships of the Italian Navy, numerous parties, receptions and dinners, military competitions and of course many official meetings of the official National delegates. From these meetings, however, we were usually excluded, curiously, Great Britain was deemed already to be represented by a gentleman who had through long service become a Vice President of ICRO. He was a former Lieutenant Colonel in the RASC called B*****Y, who apparently owned a drinking Club outside the MoD in Whitehall Court called "The Reserve Officers Club", and he had obviously misrepresented to the ICRO Officials the extent of his influence and official recognition!

The job of my team was to persuade ICRO that B*****Y if not a charlatan was not representative of his country, or of its Reserve Forces. Despite hectic canvassing often late into the night culminating in a fairly passionate speech to a full meeting of the delegates, we were politely rebuffed, told that it was a British problem for Britons to sort out and politely shown the door. However whilst all this was in public, in private we were assured that our cause was just, and that we had made many friends who would not forget us but we should understand that it was not in the official nature to admit they had been conned!

Whilst the MoD and The Council of TAVRAs were pondering their response, B*****Y died rather suddenly and we were immediately admitted to membership, I've no doubt with relief on the part of our European colleagues! Since then hundreds, if not thousands of TA soldiers and other Reservists and their units have derived considerable benefit from our membership of ICRO.

I have no hesitation in recommending membership of the RFA, both individual and corporate to readers of this Newsletter. To the corporate member the advantages will be obvious from this article. To the individual member apart from literature and a regular Newsletter there are meetings and visits and the opportunities to express opinions, but in addition there is the opportunity to attend the ICRO congress held every year in a different European City and enjoy a holiday with a distinctly military flavour! Anyone interested should write direct to the Secretary, The Reserve Forces Association, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SG.

WEM.C



Book Reviews

Malayan Patrol,
By E T Boddy, Published by Pentland Press,
Price £13.50

Written as a novel the book relates the experiences of a young National Service officer from basic training to commanding a platoon during the emergency in Malaya.

The Emergency is seen through the eyes and experiences of a junior Infantry Officer who regarded his Platoon, most of whom were conscripts, with great pride and affection. How true - and amusing - are the descriptions of Private Gingell, the worst driver in the world, the mad scamper to escape 'friendly' mortar fire, the Scout Car accidental collision with a pig, as are accounts of moments of danger when infrequent contact was made with the enemy, and, of course, week after monotonous week of uneventful patrolling in primary jungle, undergrowth and rubber estates.

It is a timely book for as years pass memories fade and the British people should be proud of the way these young National Servicemen behaved in this very nasty guerilla war. For this was a platoon commander's war and most of the platoons were National Service officers and men stiffened by the odd regular N.C.O. Although to the majority the jungle was unknown and at first they found it strange and unnerving, but they persevered with their constant patrolling and eternal vigilance day after day until they were victorious and had come to realise that, indeed, the jungle is neutral.

A very well written book and no-one should be put off by the author's description of it as a novel. It is down to earth fact.

Forward Everywhere: Her Majesty's Territorials
by Stanley Simm Baldwin, published by Brassey's,
price £29.95.

This book should enjoy a terrific sale, because it richly deserves pride of place on the shelves of anyone who's ever served as a 'weekend soldier'. If ever a book was supremely well written by a Terrier for Terriers, this is it. It traces the development of the Territorial Army from Britain's traditional Militia Volunteer and Yeomanry units through its deathless achievements in both World Wars to the remodelling of the Reserve after 1945.

This is no bleak chronicle but a predominantly human story. There is a chapter on 'Famous Part-Timers' (politicians, judges, churchmen, lord mayors, broadcasters, newspapermen, film stars). And there is a richly entertaining chapter of anecdotes.

The book ends with a look at 'The Way Ahead.' towards the Terriers' centenary in 2008. Field Marshal Lord Bramall, in his foreword, makes it clear that in an age of Regular force reductions, the role of the Territorials

becomes more vital than ever. This book is an impeccable salute to the men and women whose role he defines as '*the saviour of the home, the spreader of freedom and the solvent of class antagonisms.*'

Destination Kwai

by Jack Shuttle, Available from the author, J F Shuttle, 20 Glebe Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1BX, Price £5.00 including postage.

Responding to War Minister Hore-Belisha's call for young men to double up and double the Territorial Army, Jack Shuttle joined The East Surrey Regiment in May 1939 and in the December of the same year was posted to Shanghai in a draft of 20 other ranks and seven junior officers, where they became part of the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

Destination Kwai is his story of six long years service in the Far East, from policing duties in Shanghai until September 1940 when his unit was moved to Malaya where they took part in the battle when the Japanese invaded, culminating in capture upon the fall of Singapore.

An account of fortitude in adversity, he vividly records the hardships endured during three and a half years in captivity in Changi and various camps along the River Kwai in Thailand. Written without bitterness or rancour and retaining a sense of humour, the book relates examples of comradeship, unselfishness and an unquenchable spirit.

Old Queen's Royal Regiment silver centrepiece



One of the pieces of silver on display for the officers' club luncheon has a rather interesting background. In the fifties following an extensive renovation of mess silver it was discovered that the centrepiece pictured above was in fact a very rare and splendid reproduction of one of the largest known and most celebrated pieces of English Plate.

The original is a Silver Cistern with a capacity of 60 gallons, made in 1735 by one Charles Kandler, a famous silversmith of the period.

The cistern took over three years to make at a cost of over £2,000 for the material alone. It was disposed of in a lottery sanctioned by special Act of Parliament. A Sussex gentleman named Batten was the fortunate winner, but soon afterwards he sold the piece to the Empress of Russia. It is still believed to be in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

LMBW

Queen Catherine of Braganza

I was most interested to read in the article by Katherine Gibson on Queen Catherine of Braganza in the May 1994 edition of your excellent (no pun intended!) Newsletter. This was all the more so because Lady Gibson describes the history of many portraits of the Queen who has such a special place in our Regimental History.

As no doubt many of my Queen's Royal Regiment predecessors I, as a young and early Queen's Surreys officer, looked at the portrait of this redoubtable lady with a degree of fascination. (It was, incidentally, under the 1st Battalion's portrait of Her during a Mess dance that I recall a well known bachelor responding to the possibility that he might one day marry by demanding of his listeners; "Why should I pay to keep another man's daughter?")

However, all this apart, the particular reason why the article is of special interest to me is that here in my small Somerset village of Stratton-on-the-Fosse there hangs another portrait of the Queen. Just 150 yards from my home there is one attributed to Sir Peter Lely in the Head Master's house at Downside, the Benedictine school founded in England in 1795 following a period of exile in France forced by the Reformation.

The painting's history is somewhat obscure, and I know nothing of the artist, but Downside's monastic forbears in St Gregory's Douai furnished the Catholic Queen with a chaplain during that difficult period for her, referred to by Lady Gibson in her article, and hence the Monastery's connection and interest which led to their acquisition of the portrait of her earlier this Century. The connection originated out of Charles II's Benedictine friendships of his exile hence his selection of them to serve his Queen. Their first Mass for Her at St James's was attended and recorded by Samuel Pepys in his diaries. After thirteen years, in 1674, Charles was forced to banish the monks again and it was over a hundred years until they returned although it was a further nineteen years before they purchased Downside House in this village.

It is, perhaps, also worthy of mention that Downside has some interesting connections with the present Regiment apart from the many Old Gregorians, as old boys are known, who have served in its former Regiments. For instance, it owns a number of paintings by Lady Butler ("Steady the Drums and Fifes"), which she gave to the

Monastery because her brother was a monk there. Also, the last three Commanding Officers of the Royal Hampshire's and first of a PWRR battalion were OGs, surely an unusual record for any school, especially in modern times.

RTWM



Pas de Calais 50 Years on

16 veterans from the 1/5th Queens OMA, who took part in the liberation of the Pas de Calais Region were invited together with their wives to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of that liberation taking place during the first two days of September.

The regional newspaper *La Voix du Nord* paid for the hotel accommodation which was 4 star and we were wined and dined on a grand scale.

On the first of September we had a buffet lunch given by the Northern Council and a gala dinner given by the Mayor of Lille in each case washed down by copious draughts of wine and preceded by whiskey and followed by champagne. The Mayor in a voice choked with emotion referred to Britain standing alone after the disaster of Dunkerque and thanked the veterans for freeing Lille from the Nazi tyranny. The British Ambassador made a splendid speech in reply.

On 2 September we were driven to Agincourt which our beautiful French courier described as being *famous for its windmill!!?* and had a handsome lunch with plenty of 1990 Chateau de Roaïd. Some of us took the opportunity to buy a case of this excellent vintage as a souvenir.

From Agincourt our coach was given a police escort down one way streets and against red lights to get us back to our hotel just in time to don our medals and take up positions lining the route for a parade of WWII vehicles. A French Military Band came after this parade and was followed by two Chelsea Pensioners and a Military escort marching us in quick time.

I was unable to keep up with this marching so fell back to lead the rest who followed twelve abreast behind me. The families of Lille and the Pas de Calais region lined the streets in their hundreds/thousands and gave me/us a rapturous reception cheering, clapping and waving the flags provided by *Le Voix du Nord*.

After laying a wreath on behalf of the Regiment and cocktails at the town hall, the Queen's were due to present a Queen's Royal Regiment shield at the HQ of the *Voix du Nord*. There I made a speech in halting French thanking the paper for their generous hospitality and invoked the memory of the soldiers and French civilians who were killed, wounded or bereaved during or before the liberation. After somewhat sheepishly asking the veterans to join me in 'Vive la France' we gave three resounding cheers for the people of Lille and the people of all France. Doug Mitchell then presented the shield and the managing director of the paper replied suitably. There were 'drinks' (whiskey) both before and after the proceedings. The stalwarts of the party then preceded to an open air Glen Miller jazz concert and a fireworks display, after a 'croque monsieur', coffee and two brandies at the cafe opposite the hotel I retired after two memorable days.

On the coach returning home we presented Doug Mitchell with a picture - The Paschal Lamb surrounded by Battle Honours of The Queen's Royal Regiment as thanks for all his work during the months preceding the tours and the three days of the tour itself.

We also expressed our gratitude to Lt Col Lcs Wilson for all the help he gave us which made the tour possible.

DSW

Regimental Deaths

Abbott - On 24th September 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Graham Sharrah Abbott TD JP, aged 79 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Baker - On 4th August 1991, WO1 (RSM) Phillip Sydney (Doughy) Baker, aged 80 years, The East Surrey Regiment and Queen's Royal Regiment.

Best - On 4th May 1994, Sergeant Thomas Percy Best, aged 77 years, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. After leaving the services in 1945 Tom joined the N.F.S. and in 1948 joined the Surrey Fire Brigade as a retained Fireman at Limpsfield, and subsequently served at Oxted Fire Station when Limpsfield closed, rising to the rank of Retained Assistant Divisional Officer in 1971. He retired from Surrey Fire Brigade in 1976. Tom served through the Burma Campaign as a Chindit and was a member of the Burma Star Association.

Burrows - On 14th September 1994, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Cecil Burrows, aged 87 years, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the battalion from October 1923 to 1947. A stalwart member of 5 OMA and the Dunkirk Veterans.

Campbell - On 25th July 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Dennis James ffollott Campbell MBE, aged 89 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Chambers - On 31st August 1994, Corporal George Edward Chambers, aged 83 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Corpes - On 11th June 1994, Sgt Edward Leonard (Peter) Corpes, The East Surrey Regiment.

Esler - On the 22nd October 1994, Major (Quartermaster) Ronald Henry Esler MBE., aged 74 years, The Queens Royal Regiment. (Obituary to follow in May Newsletter)

Farrant - On 29th August 1994, Private Reginald Farrant, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Harris - On 8th August 1994, George Kenneth Harris, aged 79 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Corps of Signals. He served at Dunkirk and the Western Desert where he was mentioned in despatches.

Luxford - On 13th April 1994, Sergeant John Anthony Luxford, Aged 76 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Mann - On 29th April 1994, Corporal Harold Mann, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Napley - In September 1994, Sir David Napley aged 79 years. He served as a Captain during the war with The Queen's Royal Regiment in India. Sir David Napley was a former president of the law society and was probably the best known solicitor in Britain.

Read - On 8th July 1994, Private Peter Douglas Read, aged 67 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Robinson - On 28th February 1994, Private Peter James Robinson, aged 59 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Strong - On 12th April 1994, Captain Norman Hubert Strong, aged 79 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Wellman - On 5th July 1994, Sergeant W H Wellman, aged 85 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Williams - on 23rd June 1994, Sergeant Albert John Williams, aged 73 years, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Wood - On 22nd April 1994, Leonard Henry Wood, aged 86 years.

Worsfold - Recently, Private R C Worsfold, aged 75 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Families

Armstrong - On 10th February 1994, Sylvia Holden Earle (nee Bailey) Armstrong, widow of Brigadier C D Armstrong CBE DSO MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

Moody - On 16th October 1994, Mrs Pauline Ann Moody, beloved wife of Corporal A D Moody, 2/6th The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Obituaries

Brigadier F E Stafford CMG CBE

Frank Stafford, who died on 10th April 1994 aged 98 was an unusual member of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

He was born on the 25th August 1895 and was educated at the Royal Guildford Grammar School. In May 1911 he joined the 5th Queen's and helped temporarily in the Orderly Room until he started work in the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough. When the 5th Queen's mobilised at the beginning of the Great War in 1914, he was required to remain at Farnborough, but when the Battalion sailed for India and Mesopotamia three months later, he went to and could not be recalled.

He was the Orderly Room Sergeant in Mesopotamia, working under the Adjutant, Captain W P Spens, later Chief Justice of India, and finally Lord Spens. The Commanding Officer was the Honourable A.G. Broderick, whose brother was Secretary of State for War, and Frank remembered Colonel Broderick dictating long letters home to him in the sweltering heat of a tent in the desert.

He was wounded in Mesopotamia, but gained a commission, and was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, because of his previous experience at Farnborough.

In 1919 he joined the the staff of the Civil Commissioner Iraq and and became Financial Adviser to the British Embassy in Baghdad. In 1936 he was in the Colonial Service in Nigeria.

At the outbreak of the War in 1939 he was commissioned in the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel for service with the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration and his most interesting appointment was Financial Adviser to the Ethiopian Government and the Emperor Haile Selassie. In 1945 he was demobilised with the rank of Brigadier and joined the Foreign Office.

After the War he held many leading appointments such as Head of the U.K. delegation to the Four Power Commission in 1947 and Member of the U.K. Delegation to the United Nations from 1948 to 1952. In 1953 he returned to Ethiopia as Adviser to the Government, and was made a Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Ethiopia. In 1978 he was Chairman of the Council of The Royal Society of St. George.

When he retired to Holbrook Park, near Horsham, he joined the Old Comrades Association of the 5th Queen's and attended the Annual Reunions regularly. Among all his glamorous and distinguished appointments, he was particularly proud of his service as Orderly Room Sergeant of the 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

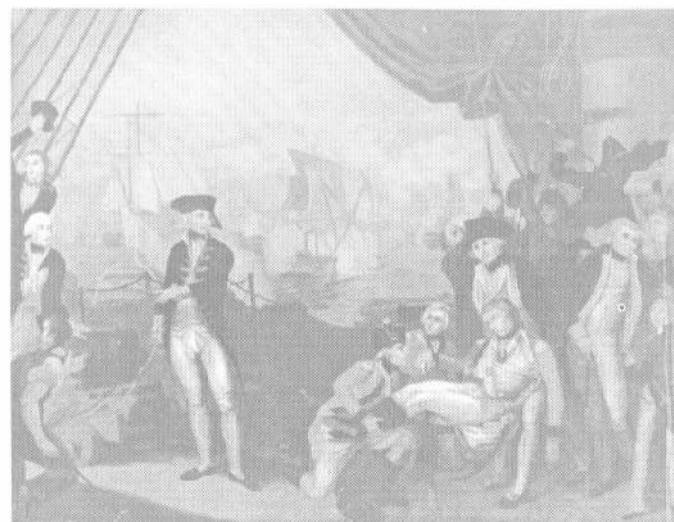
HMWH

Major C.H. (Dickie) Dickins, The East Surrey Regiment.

Major C.H. (Dickie) Dickins, a great-grandson of the founder of Dickins & Jones, was born in 1903 in Hythe, and educated at Tonbridge School where he joined the Army Class. Passing out of Sandhurst in 1923 he joined the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment in Hong Kong, moving with it to India two years later. Here he met, and subsequently married, at Shorncliffe, Barbara Tew, daughter of Brigadier H.S. Tew CMG., also of The East Surrey Regiment. In 1937 he was posted as Staff Captain to Palestine where he remained until the outbreak of the 2nd World War. Separated from his regiment and with his family evacuated to South Africa, he spent the next four years in various appointments in the Western Desert. Of his experiences there he recalled in later years his time with The Libyan Arab Force commanded by Popski, of Popski's Private Army fame; a spell in the Sudan as Camp Commandant of a POW camp for Italians prisoners; and his departure, as Garrison Paymaster, on the last ship out of Tobruk, where, at the height of an air raid, the dockside navvies dropped the Garrison safe containing over a million pounds into the harbour - where it probably remains.

In 1944 he returned to England to 12 Infantry Training Centre at (where else?) Howe Barracks, Canterbury and then in 1945 re-joined the 1st Battalion as Second-in-Command in Greece and Salonika. Here, three years later and after eight years of almost continuous separation, he decided to leave the Army, just in time to miss the first and most golden of the bowlers! He subsequently became a Civil Servant working in the Ministry of Defence in Chessington and Whitehall, and distinguishing himself regimentally at the Golfing Society's twice yearly meetings at Sudbrook Park where he was known as a bandit with a lightning back swing. In 1972 he and his wife retired to Western Australia where he died in his 91st year. He is survived by a son, daughter and four grandchildren.

DJCD



"Earl Howe on the quarterdeck" or better known regimentally as
"The Death of Neville".

This picture was painted by M. Brown, Historical Painter to T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of York, under the patronage of His Majesty and the Lords of the Admiralty.

Earl Howe is seen upon the quarter-deck of the Queen Charlotte during the violence of the action, and after the line was broken. On the larboard quarter, at some distance, appears La Juste, an eight gun French ship of the line, which was afterwards captured. This ship is distinguished by the national flag of France and the signal for "Close action" displayed at the mizen top-gallant masthead. Upon the same quarter, at a greater distance, appears the Brunswick, commanded by the gallant Hervey. In the centre of the picture is seen the Royal George, the Gibraltar, Glory, and other ships engaging the enemy, with the Venguer and Sans Pareille appearing between the intervals of smoke. On Earl Howe's right hand is Admiral Sir Roger Curtis Bart., the First Captain of the Fleet; and at the opposite end of the picture is Sir Andrew Snape Douglas (who appears as just having received the wound upon his forehead), attended by his aide-de-camp, the son of Sir Andrew Hammond. The centre group is the much lamented young Neville, of the Queen's Regiment, supported by his brother officers, Major Isaac and Captain Tudor, also Captain Lock, of the Navy, immediately upon his being wounded by a broadside from the Jacobin, which ship was afterwards sunk. The singular circumstances of the wound of this young officer is particularly marked; his sword which he had in his hand (which was a favourite one given him by his uncle), was shattered by the ball, which forced part of the hilt into his side.

- Britannic Magazine, 1796.

SCT

continued from page 29.

The completed work was exhibited, apparently without charge, in Orme's premises at 14 Old Bond Street, from January to April 1795 as a loss leader for the sale of subscription prints at one guinea. It gained the approval of the King and Queen, of the officers shown, and of the public who came to see it in large numbers. The original painting can be seen in the National Maritime Museum, where Lieutenant Neville has wrongly been given the rank of Captain, while the print belonging to the Regiment is with the 1st Battalion.

In his speech of welcome in front of the vast painting of the battle by de Loutherberg, Lord Lewin was kind enough to mention the strong bond that was created between the Royal Navy and the Queen's Royal Regiment by the battle which has been handed down to this day. The Naval Crown on our Regimental Colour is proof of this. A most memorable day was concluded with a splendid dinner in Queen's House.

Thank You:

Major J.L.A. Fowler TD. For your material help, particularly in view of the present shortage of paper.

Congratulations to:-

Canon I Hardaker to be Hon Chaplain to HM The Queen.

Colonel P R H Thompson OBE TD to be a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

So There We Were

1674 The Queen's in Tangiers found things relatively quiet, the Moors apparently being so much occupied with disputes among themselves that they did not trouble the Garrison. An Order in Council in June directed that all promotions at Tangiers were to be made by seniority "and that no new men were to be appointed in their place".

1684 Mindful of impending withdrawal from Tangiers, the Garrison were arranging destruction of fortifications and removal of guns so as to deny their use to any potential enemy or hostile forces in the future. The Queen's were embarked in various ships during the months of February and March for transport home.

1694 Fighting in Flanders, The Queen's were obviously employing some tactics of deception. At Ypres they built huts of straw, successfully drawing the French away from the town of Huy which The Queen's later captured.

1701 The Queen's were at Estremos in Spain where the effective strength of the Regiment was given as 523 "wanting to complete 662". Luttrell's Marines (predecessors of The East Surrey Regiment), having taken part in the capture of Gibraltar earlier in the year, now found themselves part of the Garrison under siege from Spanish and French forces and endured many hardships as a result.

1744 The 31st Regiment, having gained the much prized nickname of "Young Buffs" from King George II the previous year, were still engaged in Continental campaigns in the Austrian Netherlands. The Queen's had a company in Bermuda and seemingly the Regiment was not suffering from any form of financial inflation as it was reported that their costs "remained the same as last year".

1764 The Bermuda company of The Queen's, despite their low costs of previous years, were disbanded and disappeared into history, many of its officers and men having lived and died in this remote appendage to the British Crown. The 70th Regiment embarked for its first year of foreign service, its station for no less than ten years being the little island of Grenada.

1784 The 31st were in Canada as part of an eleven year term of American duties. The Queen's, in Gibraltar, were subject to new uniform regulations arising from the findings of a board of general officers. Some officers must have been spending too much time out of uniform as the King himself gave orders for restrictions on leave for members of the Garrison.

1814 Both The Queen's and The 31st Regiment, fighting in adverse weather conditions and under heavy French

fire, successfully attacked and captured, Toulouse. The Duke of Wellington entered the town in triumph in what was virtually the end of the Peninsular campaign in which both Regiments had served with distinction and gained Battle Honours.

1834 The 70th went to Gibraltar where they lost three Sergeants and thirty Private soldiers in a cholera epidemic which broke out soon after their arrival. The Queen's in Bombay were reputed "to have earned a high character in every respect". A minor alteration in uniform took place when an order was received that a red stripe was to be worn down the outer seam of the grey trousers then issued.

1874 The Queen's were at the Royal Barracks, Dublin where in October the Martini-Henry rifle was substituted for the Snider. In India the 70th Regiment were reported to be in good health at their station of Rawalpindi.

1894 On a different station at Agra the health situation of The East Surrey Regiment was far different from that of twenty years previously, several deaths resulting from an outbreak of enteric fever. The Queen's sailed from India in the *Malabar* in January and arrived at Dover in the following month when 120 men were transferred to the Army Reserve.

1934 The uniforms of some members of both Regiments now bore the ribbons of the medals of both the South African and Great Wars, and for the time being energies could be devoted to less aggressive activities. The East Surreys at Shorncliffe had a varied programme. The Garrison Drag Hunt reported an excellent season, ending with the Point-to-Point Meeting and the Hunt Ball in March. At boxing there were some good bouts against the Nottingham Police and in the Kent Inter-Services Boxing Competition. Considerable successes were achieved by the Bayonet and Fencing Team who were preparing to compete in the Army Competitions at Olympia. The Queen's were in China, finding it to be fascinating country and engaging in a full programme. The Sergeants renewed links with the Royal Navy by entertaining parties of Chief and Petty Officers from H.M. Ships *Cornwall*, *Suffolk*, *Falmouth*, *Adventure* and *Bruce*. Several Guards of Honour were mounted, including one for the General Commanding United States Marine Corps who expressed his pleasure at the drill and turn-out. But war clouds were already gathering and within the next ten years, soldiers, sailors and Marine Corps would find themselves fighting bitter battles in many and far flung spheres of war. And further ahead, the post war years would see drastic Service re-organisations.

RF

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson



"We will remember them"



Pictured here, symbols of bravery, dignity and honour are the Great Cross and War Graves in the Morlancourt British Cemetery No. 2 at Ville-sur-Ancre, the final resting place of fifty-five UK soldiers and one Australian who fell in the First World War, mostly in August, 1918 during the Battle of Amiens which was part of the last "big push" to end the war. Fighting was sporadic, the Battalion War Diary of the 6th Queen's reporting "quiet" periods interspersed with others of heavy shelling. Between the 8th and 20th August an advance of 26 miles was made from Morlancourt to the Escaut Canal. But as the Battalion surged forwards towards victory some of their members were left behind for ever, twenty-five of them now lying in the Cemetery where their headstones are poignant reminders of the supreme sacrifice made by both Surrey Regiments in the years 1914-18

*"Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Dream of battlefields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking,"*

(Sir Walter Scott)

The picture above formed the cover of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Annual Report 1992-93 and is reproduced with their permission. We are extremely grateful to the Commission for allowing us to reproduce the picture and for all they do in looking after the graves of so many of our comrades.