

NOVEMBER 1995

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



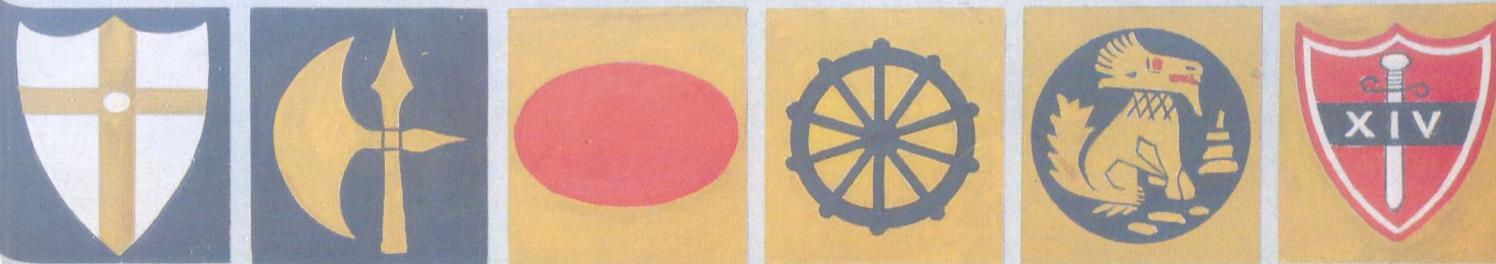
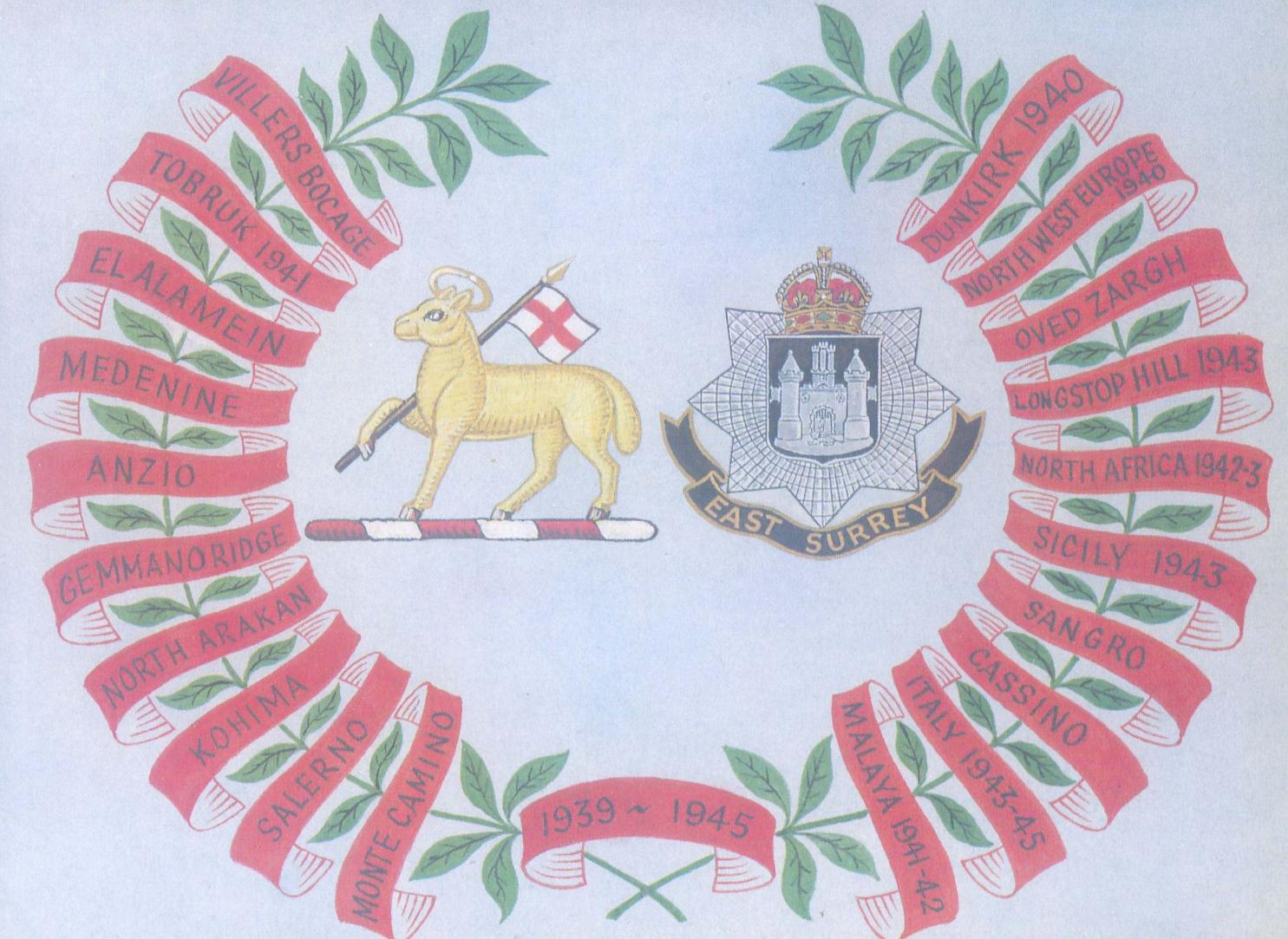
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NEWSLETTER





Regimental and Association Events

1995

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY(1941)



1996

10th February

SOBRAON DAY (1846) (150th Anniversary of the Battle).

1st March

Regimental Council Meeting - Clandon.

9th March

Queen's Surreys Territorial Trustees Meeting - Clandon.

16th March

Queen's Surreys Museum Trustees Meeting - Clandon.

30th March

Queen's Surreys Trustees and Association Committee Meetings - Clandon.

30th March

2/7th Bn The Queen's OCA Annual Reunion. Details from S Messenger Esq. 10 South Row, Blackheath, London SE3 0RY

23rd April

23rd London and 42nd RTR Annual St. George's Day Lunch St. John's Hill, details from:- Major D.H. Conran TD, 5, Cherwell Lodge, Walter Eaton Road, Oxford, OX2 7QH. Tele: (01865 - 53587).

27th April

Museum Open Day - Clandon.

9th May

The Golf Society Spring Meeting, Sudbrook Park, Richmond.

11th May

Annual Dinner, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from- D. Mitchell Esq, 3, Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, GU3 5JE. Tele: (01483 - 232043).

16th May

ALBUHERA DAY (1811).

21st May

Golf Society v Royal Marines match, Northants Golf Club. By invitation.

24th May

Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors - Clandon.

25th May

Presentation of New Colours to 1st Bn PWRR - Canterbury.

1st June

GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

9th June

Queen's Surreys Annual Church Service and laying up of 1 Queen's Colours Guildford Cathedral 1100 for 1115 hrs. (Details in May Newsletter).

1st August

MINDEN DAY (1759).

9th September

SALERNO DAY (1943).

2nd October

Golf Society Autumn Meeting

1st November

Annual Reunion - UJ Club. (Details in May Newsletter).

History, The Queen's Royal Regiment Vol VIII. Correction.

In July, Fl Lt J M Knowles RCAF wrote to the museum drawing attention to the list of officers who served with 22 Column, The Chindits, page 332, which records that a Fl Lt A Tofield RAF served with the Column and the Queen's in the Burma Campaign. When the booklet "The Queen's in Burma 1943-1945" was written in 1985 and republished in 1991 Fl Lt Tofield's name was again recorded as having served with 22 Column.

The facts are, that Fl Lt Tofield was physically unfit for the march into Burma and after the initial training was replaced at short notice by Fl Lt Knowles who had completed some training with 4th Bn The Border Regiment. Fl Lt Knowles went on to complete the tour with 2 Queen's in 22 Column, The Chindits. In the photo of officers of the 2nd Bn with the Chindit Force Fl Lt Knowles is seen sitting on the ground in the front extreme right (page 326).

The Regiment regrets any embarrassment to Fl Lt Knowles and apologies for the insufficient clarity of the original list.

Readers in possession of Volume 8 of the History of The Queen's and The Queen's in Burma are asked to amend their copies.

Editors Note: Fl Lt Knowles has written a long account of his tour with the Queen's, but sadly I am unable to publish in this edition but hope to do so in May 1996.

From the Past



CSM Walter Webb DCM and family being presented to HM King George VI at the Depot Queen's in September 1938 accompanied by Captain F J C Piggott. CSM Webb was commissioned on 26th March 1941. He had enlisted on 24th June 1922 and the award of the DCM was for gallantry at Abu Salani, Palestine on 23rd May 1939.

Editorial

This year has seen many 50th Anniversary parades commemorated throughout the UK. Many of our members have taken part in these parades and most of us have seen the television or heard the radio broadcasts reminding us of the events of so many years ago. It is right then, that in this edition of the Newsletter many of the articles are written by veterans who took part in the actions in which our Regiments took part during the Second World War.

The museum has received a mixed response for the request for details of your experiences during the war but there must be many more who have not yet written in. Do try to and record your reminiscences of your service with the regiment and battalion in which you served. As you all know various booklets are in the course of preparation now and your help is needed. Queen's Surreys members will have a chance to forward their memories too. There is a questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter.

Many of you have written in over the years saying how much you enjoy the centre colour pages depicting uniforms of our Regiments over the years. Sadly, the artist who produces these excellent plates had a heart attack in the summer, and was therefore unable to complete the plates for this edition. On behalf of you all, I send Bryan Fosten our very best wishes for a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing more of his work in our Newsletter in the future. In its place are sketches drawn by Donald Green whilst serving with 1/7th Queen's in Normandy in 1944. Mr Green has generously given his sketch books and other papers to the museum and has given permission for them to be reproduced. This is a valuable record sketched at the time his battalion was in action and will form a unique record for the future.

I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have assisted me in checking facts, and the compilation of this Newsletter, in particular Richard Ford. He was, as most of you are aware the Curator of our museum and over the years has contributed many articles. I am most grateful. I have been fortunate to have so many articles forwarded for possible inclusion in the Newsletter by readers. If your article is not in this issue I will try and publish it in the future. In the meantime please do keep on sending in your articles and news.

Finally once again my very sincere thanks and gratitude to Major John Fowler who continues to supply the paper on which this Newsletter is printed. Paper costs have risen dramatically in recent years and we all are indebted to him.

With best wishes to you all.
Les Wilson

President's Notes

I am very honoured to succeed Brigadier Mike Doyle as President of the Association. The Association is a thriving organisation and this is due to the keen interest and work of past Presidents, Chairmen, Treasurers, Branch Secretaries, Museum Trustees and many others all of whom have been linked by a common thread, namely Les Wilson who is our Association Secretary and to whom we owe so much.

1995 will of course be remembered as the 50th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. We have all been involved or taken part in the National and local celebrations for VE and VJ Day. As a rather junior President I feel hesitant in commenting but, and I know I speak for all those who were too young to take part in the war, we are all eternally grateful to all of those who fought, suffered or died to safeguard our future.

The Queen's Royal Regiment and East Surrey Regiment fought with great distinction and as a Regiment we have a right to be

very proud of their record. The Regiments were involved in the campaigns in the Far East, Africa, Italy and Europe and played an important part in the defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan. I can say no more than thank you to those who took part and fought so gallantly. We will always remember them.

Best Wishes
Bob Acworth.

Congratulations and Best Wishes



Congratulations To:

Stan and Florence Blay - who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 13th May 1995.

Captain and Mrs Gordon Morris - who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22nd September 1995.

Stan and Valerie Rayner - who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 6th October 1995.

Major General Francis Piggott - who celebrated his 85th birthday on 11th October 1995.

Colonel 'Buck' Buchanan - who celebrated his 87th birthday on 28th August 1995.

Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Bryan Ray - who were married on 22nd July 1995.

Founders Day Royal Hospital Chelsea



Roy Harding from our museum at Clandon with In-Pensioner Whiting.

STOP PRESS

Kingston-upon-Thames

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment plan to Exercise the Freedom of Kingston-upon-Thames on Friday 3rd May 1996. This is a provisional date for your diaries. Further details will be announced later.



The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Presentation of New Colours

The main event since the last Newsletter has been the Presentation of New Colours to the 2nd Battalion by HRH The Princess of Wales at Howe Barracks, Canterbury on Saturday

20 May. This splendid occasion was watched by 3,000 members of the Battalion and their guests. The day concluded with spectacular displays by the Regimental Free-Fall Team and the Minden Band of The Queen's Division. It is hoped that the Colonel-in-Chief will also present New Colours to the 1st Battalion in Canterbury in May 1996. Our TA battalions should receive New Colours in 1999.

Laying up of Old Colours

The Old Colours of 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment were laid up in Canterbury Cathedral at a Service on Thursday 1 June. The ceremony was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Canterbury, the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Denison-Smith and a congregation of over 900 with many former members of the Battalion present. A reception was held afterwards in Westgate Hall, Canterbury. The Old Colours of 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment will be laid up in Guildford Cathedral on 9 June 1996, of 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment in Winchester Cathedral on 1 August 1996, and of 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment in St Paul's Cathedral on 13 September 1996.

Freedoms

The Regiment exercised its Honorary Freedom of Southampton on 30 March, of Reigate and Banstead on 31 March, and of Tonbridge and Malling on Saturday 10 June. It also received the 'Privilege' of Jersey, transferred from The Royal Hampshire Regiment, on Monday 8 May and will exercise the Freedom of Brighton on Saturday 28 October. It is planned to exercise another six Freedoms next year. We hope that members of The Queen's Surreys Regimental Association will give maximum support at these events, particularly in Surrey.

The Battalions

Our Regular battalions exchanged barracks in September, when the 1st Battalion returned to Canterbury from Omagh and the 2nd Battalion replaced them in Ulster. On Friday 20 October the 1st Battalion will provide a contingent to represent the Regiment at a parade in London of regiments holding the 'Privilege' of the City to mark the conclusion of the 50th Anniversary of the World War II Victory celebrations. The following week the 1st Battalion will fly to Kenya for a six week training period.

Recent Successes

The 6/7th Battalion team won the TA Cup in the Army Orienteering Championships in May, and in June a team from the Regimental Golfing Society, captained by Colonel John Davidson, won the coveted Argyll and Sutherland Bowl at the Army Officers' Golf Championships. In August, our superb Regimental Free Fall Team, 'The Tigers', won the Gold Medal for Canopy Rotations at the Army Parachuting Championships, led by Sergeant Cashman who in July had also been a member of a winning Joint Services team at the Rhine Army international championships. Finally, in early September, the 1st Battalion won the Infantry Cricket Cup in the finals against the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick - a significant achievement after two years stationed in Northern Ireland.

Regimental Headquarters

Lt Col Les Wilson retired in January after twelve years service in Regimental Headquarters and was replaced by Major John Rogerson. Five months later, at the end of May, Colonel John Francis handed over the job of Regimental Secretary, after twelve

very busy years in the post. A farewell luncheon was given for him in Haberdashers' Hall where earlier in the year he had been made an Honorary Freeman of the Company. He was succeeded as Regimental Secretary by Colonel Paddy Panton who was commissioned into The Royal Sussex Regiment in 1961, commanded 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment from 1982 to 1985 and was Colonel of The Queen's Division from 1989 to 1992. Finally, at the end of September, Lt Col John White handed over the appointment of Deputy Regimental Secretary after eleven years in the post to Major Tony Martin, late Royal Regiment of Wales.

Dover Castle Museum

Association members who have not visited the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle recently (admission free on showing a Regimental Association membership card) are strongly advised to try out the new Second World War Inter-Active Video which was installed there last year. This new facility places our excellent museum among the best in the country and it should not be missed.

The Journal of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The Journal of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment gives much more information and pictures of these and other items of news. It is published twice a year in June and December, price £3 a copy, and may be ordered through Regimental Headquarters.

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Presidents Reception



Brigadier Mike Doyle with the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Mrs Catherine Cobley and the Deputy Mayor Councillor John Woodhatch.

Presidents Reception, The Senior Service



At the Presidents reception in May three Royal Navy Officers attended, met and had a mini reunion Lt Cdr Brian Wills MBE HMS Excellent, Commander George Greaves, Secretary The United Services Trustee and Commander Bill Evershal, Administrator Guildford Cathedral.

Museum Notes

Computerisation is still the OK cry in the Museum. Stage 1 has been completed and all details of artefacts, medals, pictures and uniforms - some 4,000 odd items in all - are now retrievable. Stage 2, involving documents, books, photograph albums and battalion boxes, is currently being completed.

As a result of Major Peter Hill conscientiously going through all the non indexed and indexed regimental journals and newsletters from their first publication to date, we now have a bank of useful references to a wide variety of subjects. Mr Peter Henman has, after many weeks of work, grouped these references under suitable subject headings and this will form Stage 3 of computerisation.

Mrs James is already finding the ability to retrieve information rapidly and comprehensively, a tremendous help in one of the Museum's important functions, the answering of queries. It is also a useful management tool and of great assistance in managing the Collection. A great deal of appreciation is shown by those who, having lodged their query, find that it is answered so fully by either Mrs James or Mr John Woodroff and they take the trouble to write back and say so. This is good and for those who work in the Museum it makes their efforts very worthwhile.

A number of medal groups have been presented to the Museum including that of (on loan) the late Major General Fergus Ling. To all donors we express our grateful thanks. They can rest assured that the medals will all be cared for, displayed and appreciated by former members of the Regiment and our visitors who never cease to be impressed by our comprehensive display. I can think of no more fitting tribute to the memory of a deceased member of the Regiment than that his medals should be displayed in the Museum alongside those of his colleagues and former comrades-in-arms.

We have also been privileged to display thirteen groups of framed medals collected by Major B D S Burton, a former member of The Queen's Royal and Queen's Regiment.

Major Bob Johnson, who is currently writing a booklet on The Queen's in the Near East and N. Africa during the Second World War has agreed to be a trustee of the museum.

As always we are indebted to Mr John Woodroff our Hon Archivist for the time he devotes to researching answers to enquiries. The many grateful letters received pay testament to his sterling work on the museum's behalf.

When we open again after the winter closure period on 30th March 1996, you will find that there will be an adjustment to the Museum's (and the House's) Saturday opening hours. They will be from 1200 - 1600 hours. On all other days (except Thursday and Friday when both premises are closed) opening times will be as before: 1330 - 1730 hours.

Thanks to Lt Colonel Les Wilson we have been provided with a very attractive "flyer" advertising the Museum which we have distributed far and wide - hotels, tourist offices, Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Mr Roy Harding rather astutely put some in the Council Offices in Guildford where people go to pay their bills! Certainly our visitor numbers seem to be holding up and we have seen no reduction in donations or shop sales as compared with a similar period last year.

By the time you read this we shall have closed for the winter. Yet again we shall be indebted to Penny James and Roy Harding, all the members of our working party and those willing volunteers who move in to clean and reorganise ready for next season. The Museum also owes a debt of gratitude to the volunteers who so cheerfully attend during the summer on weekend and Bank Holiday afternoons to help to man (and woman) the premises at busy times.

Victory in the Pacific

On Sunday 20th August 1995, near to the date of the 50th Anniversary of Victory over the Japanese in the Pacific, a ceremony to commemorate Commonwealth nationals who died in World War II was conducted at Sydney War Cemetery Rookwood at 10.30 am. The Reverend Joe Mullins MC who as an Infantry officer, served with the 1st Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment 7th Indian Division, 14th Army in the Arakan and the victorious advance to Rangoon, conducted the Service. Mr Mullins welcomed the gathering noting particularly the veterans of the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets, a group of whom had flown out specially from Britain for the occasion, veterans of the 12th and 14th Armies together with the Air Forces of the Commonwealth, Womens Services, wives, widows, children and friends children of those who served.

After the singing of '*God save the Queen*' and opening prayer, His Excellency Sir Roger Carrick the British High Commissioner read the lesson from St Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 8; 31-39. The Reverend Joe Mullins prefaced his address by mentioning that he was a Company Commander with General (later Field Marshal) Bill Slim's 14th Army who along with Indian and Gurkha units turned the Japanese back from the borders of India, the prelude to the Victory in the Pacific. In his address he highlighted the significance of the 50 year the Golden Jubilee which was recorded in Leviticus 25 of the Bible. Two salient features of the Jubilee were release of captives and reuniting of families. The victory over the Japanese was effected because the allies stood for a Right Philosophy, not '*might is right*' but righteousness is might, for which cause we were willing to die if necessary. Secondly the Jubilee stood for Family Values: '*Each of you shall return to his family, it is a Jubilee*' Mr Mullins cited the example of one who returned, a released POW and another who laid down his life in battle. Finally, there was the Fight of Faith. We needed to remember Winston Churchill's famous words '*the price of victory is eternal vigilance*'. This is a spiritual principle as well as a political one. '*If God be for us, who can be against us?*' is true, but God has also given each of us minds and wills to be actively vigilant, which requires faith and obedience.

The Hymn '*O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come*' was followed by prayers and thanksgiving and the singing of '*Abide with me*'. The Ode was recited by Captain John Wells CBE DSC RN, from Liss, Hampshire who served with distinction in the Pacific. After the Two Minutes Silence, the Australian National Anthem and the Benediction representatives of eleven nations laid wreaths and children present took bunches of flowers and laid them on the headstones of the graves of the fallen. The service took place in bright spring sunshine.

Collecting the Lamb



Les Wilson and a party from 5 OMA, Cardwells Keep.



This plaque records that the Depot of The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment raised in 1661 for service in Tangiers was under The Cardwell reforms linked to West Surrey.

Stoughton was the home of The Regiment from 1876 to 1959 where those joining were trained before leaving to serve their Sovereign and Country in Peace and War.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

Countryside Properties the main developers have very skilfully throughout the refurbishment sought to preserve and where necessary fully restore the external fabric of the buildings.

The arch over the old road into the barracks has been refurbished and above the arch can be seen a two foot high Paschal Lamb. This Lamb was manufactured in Blairgowrie, Scotland by R W Stephens and company. The cost of this was borne by the Developers and in 1985 to record the occupation of our Depots in Guildford and King



Countryside Property show house. In the background can be seen part of Peterborough Block now Queen Mary's Mews.

With the full support of Guildford Borough Council and Countryside Properties the Association asked for some form of recognition to be made within the barracks of the Regiments stay. It had been proposed to use Battle Honours but this was not acceptable. (Readers living in the Guildford area will know that several roads are already named after Queen's Battle Honours).

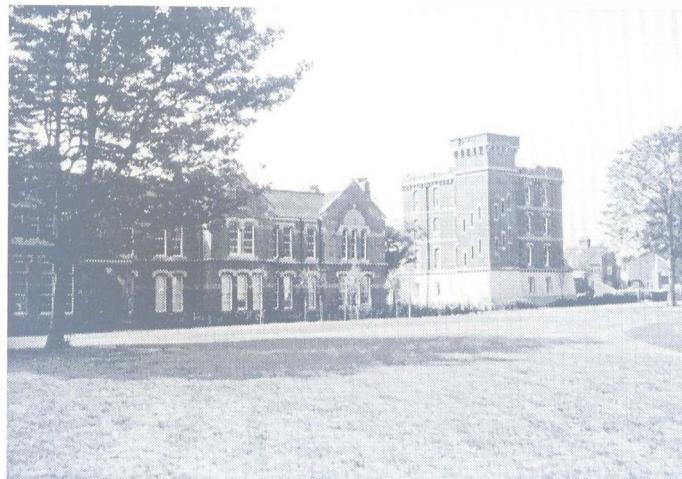
A proposal to use the names of selected past Colonels of The Queen's was approved by the Council and the Developers and as a result street/road names are to be as follows, Teviot Close, Fairborne Way, Kirkfields, Torrens Close, Monro Drive, Giffard Way and Whitfield Close. Road signs have yet to be erected but it is anticipated that this will take place shortly. The Keep retains its old name.

In the November 1994 issue of the Newsletter we reported that work was in hand to convert one of our old Depots at Stoughton into a housing estate. Since then work has continued and many new buildings have been erected.

The Keep has been converted into flats and most are now occupied. The Officers' Mess, now known as King George's Lodge has been converted into luxury flats.

The Administration block, which housed the orderly room and offices with the Quartermasters and RSMs quarters at each end is now known as Queen Elizabeth's Mews, Peterborough Block renamed Queen Mary's Mews has been converted into flats and nearly all are now occupied. Tangier Block, all Married Quarters, Medical Centre, MT Sheds, Sergeants' Mess and the Accommodation Blocks built to accommodate the militia intakes in 1936-37 behind the MT and Drill sheds, have all been demolished as have the Dining Hall and NAAFI.

New attractive two - three and four bedroom houses have been built in their places. Most of the large trees which were such a lovely feature of the barracks have been preserved.



The Officers Mess now King George's Lodge and the Keep.

the Association. The Association Trustees had already decided in 1891 to build a Memorial Hall at Stoughton. The Memorial Plaque at Stoughton can be seen to the left of the archway in what was the entrance to the Depot. This was paid for from Association funds.

A new entrance to the site has been made by opening up the wall some fifty yards from the old entrance in the direction of Emmanuel Church.

In January a small exhibition was staged in a show flat (which had been the guard room and cells) of artefacts, medals and uniforms of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1876 - 1959, the period we occupied Stoughton Barracks. It had been planned to allow the exhibition to be on display for nine to twelve months, but sales of flats were so good that the exhibition had to be discontinued in May. Many of our old soldiers and members of the public went to see the display whilst it was on show and several newspaper articles were published. The display was also featured on the local Southern TV.



Pictured right: The old entrance and archway. The Paschal Lamb can be seen on top of the archway with the Memorial Plaque on the pillar to the left of the picture.



New housing built where the married quarters once stood. To the right of the picture can be seen part of the old Officers Mess.



The Administrative Block with the RSM Quarter on the right of the picture now Queen Elizabeths Mews.

With the assistance of Major Jock Haswell who wrote the text, an illustrated short history of the Regiment and its links with Stoughton has been produced. A copy of this will be given to every home owner in Cardwells Keep.

Building will continue for some months to come but the care in preserving the old Victorian buildings, blending with the new housing will make Cardwells Keep a very attractive place to live.

With the erection of the Memorial Plaque recording the Queen's Royal Regiments occupation on the wall outside the barracks the final chapter of our history is now well and truly completed and it seems fitting to complete this article with our old motto.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

* 1) Readers may be interested to know that the lamb featured on the Memorial Plaque, was cast from a mould of a silver lamb presented by Colonel F D Watney TD who commanded the 1/4th Queen's - in the First World War. This piece of silver is on loan to The London Regiment by permission of The Queen's Royal Surrey Territorial Trustees.

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Burma - 50 years on

Recently Tommy Atkins was interviewed by BBC Southern Counties Radio on the part played by 2 Queen's as Chindits in 1944. The interview was to last for ten minutes but as Tommy explained "you can't cover a lot of ground in that time". Before the interview a member of the radio staff approached him with a written brief headed "Chindits Battalion of The Surreys Regiment". The remainder of the brief was so inaccurate that Tom rewrote the script for the BBC staff. As one of the staff remarked they were not very familiar with military terminology! It can be assumed by readers that various members of BBC Southern Counties were given a short regimental history lesson, particularly on The Chindit Expedition of 1944.

It all took place with a lot of good humour and Tom was even offered a cup of BBC coffee afterwards!

On the 19th August 1995, Tommy Atkins was also invited to be present at the Guildhall, Guildford, when the Deputy Mayor opened a Civic Museum display depicting the part played by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Burma Campaign. The Deputy Mayor thanked Mr Mathew Alexander for arranging the display to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. He went on to say how proud the citizens of Guildford were in

"It is right and proper that we should be commemorating the Victory of 50 years ago and it is also important that we should remember the part played by veterans like Tommy Atkins who served in that gruelling campaign. I am sure this exhibition will go some way in bringing home to people the terrible conditions, the degradation and in many cases the ultimate sacrifices made by members of The Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma. We should always acknowledge with gratitude, the courage of the men and women who despite the hardships and horrors of war kept hope alive so that oppression and tyranny must never prevail in a civilised world". The Deputy Mayor went on to thank Tommy Atkins for his part in staging the exhibition. Tommy had packed webbing and equipment as it was carried on the Chindit columns. Ration boxes had been made and filled with sand to give the public some idea of the weight carried during the day and a large number of the public called in at the exhibition, and were very interested in what they saw, and very appreciative and full of genuine thanks for what most of them said, *"For the freedom that they are enjoying over the past 50 years"*. Tommy Atkins' final remarks on the VJ celebrations:- *"It has taken fifty years for the country to say thank you to the forgotten Army, this year the country on the whole has done the 14th Army proud. Soldiers of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment, and The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and all who saw action in the Far East, you have at last been recognised by a grateful country"*.





This plaque records that here was The Depot of The East Surrey Regiment (31st and 70th Foot). This barracks was the home of The Regiment, where those joining the Regiment were trained before going on to serve their Sovereign and their Country in many parts of the world both in War and Peace. Many never returned. 1875 - 1959

he feared that either the flag would fall down or be pulled down accidentally without help from the Mayor, or alternatively that despite the Mayor's efforts the flag might remain obstinately in place!

The arrival of the Mayor, Councillor David Twigg, was preceded by our Association Standard bearer Tony Ramsey MM and the Standard bearers of the British Legion and their Chairman. After a brief speech by the Mayor and a sharp tug of the cord the flag fell away and the plaque was revealed much to the delight of most and the obvious relief of Colonel Les! There followed a brief address by Major Peter Hill who had commanded the Depot a few years before its closure. He recalled some of the events in the history of the Barracks and he introduced another of those attending the ceremony, Colonel Tom Buchanan DSO OBE MC ERD TD (known to most of those attending as "Colonel Buck") who had started his distinguished career at the Barracks as a Supplementary Reservist over 60 years ago. The Mayor was then introduced to veterans of all the campaigns in which the Surreys had fought and all the foreign service stations in which the Regiment had served in living memory i.e. before, during and after the War.

The Association then assembled in its customary place of honour in front of the War Memorial in the Market Square. The Mayor, Aldermen, other Past Mayors, the Councillors and senior Officers of the Council, the Mace bearers and our Chairman, Secretary and Colonels McConnell and Wilson then processed ceremonially to the War Memorial from the Guildhall. There was a brief ceremony when wreaths were laid on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation, our Association, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, and the Far East Prisoners of War Association, the British Legion and other Ex-Service organisations. After two minutes silence, the Vicar of

Kingston, the Rev. James Bates said the object of the brief service was to remember those who had died for their Country, those we knew and whose memory we treasured, and all those who still suffer. He invited all present to continue this act of remembrance inside the Parish Church, and he made special mention of The East Surrey Regiment and the pride and affection the Borough had for that Regiment and its successors.

In Church, at the Mayor's invitation he and the Mayoress shared their pew with the Chairman and past Chairman of the Association (both former Surreys). The reason became clear as the service

Pictured left: Major Peter Hill thanking the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames with our Standard Bearer in the background.

Pictured right: Mr Tony Ramsey MM our Standard Bearer, with the Memorial Plaque at the top of the picture and a poppy wreath laid by Major Peter Hill in memory of all Surreys who died in the service of their Country.

Over one hundred members of the Association who were privileged to have served in The East Surrey Regiment took part in a series of civic events in The Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames on Sunday 20th August 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the War in the Far East and therefore the end of World War 2. The Borough had decided not to mark VE Day with any special ceremony, but to hold Civic acts of Remembrance at several locations including the War Memorial and the Parish Church.

The Association had long ago resolved to affix plaques to the walls of Stoughton Barracks and Kingston Barracks to remind passers by of the Regiments which had occupied them prior to 1959. These plaques were completed at about the same time as the Mayor's office at Kingston announced the arrangements for VJ Day, so it was decided to ask the Mayor to unveil the plaque on the Keep at Kingston Barracks as part of the programme of events. Due to the number and timing of the other events in the Mayor's diary it was decided to hold the unveiling ceremony at 0930 hrs. Whilst this was inconvenient to many, and indeed precluded the attendance of several, it was the only time available and it proved to be the focus, for most of us, of all the other events of the day.

The weather of course was excellent, and on arrival outside the Barracks, it was immediately apparent that our Assistant Honorary Secretary had been hard at work since long before any of the rest of us had arrived. A somewhat antique storm flag of The East Surrey Regiment concealed the plaque which the contractors had affixed to the wall at a height of over 10ft above pavement level and hopefully beyond the reach of the local graffiti artists. Lt. Col Les Wilson had departed from his home in Dover soon after dawn, the roof of his car adorned, like that of an itinerant window cleaner or cat burglar with a suitable ladder. He had had to invent, on site, a workable unveiling device, and he had had to anticipate and bring with him an array of tools and materials likely to be needed.

He was heard to confess that



Jack Chaffer briefs a lady reporter. Tony Ramsey has heard it all before!

He was obviously impressed by the experience.



proceeded. The reading by the Mayor of part of St. Paul's letter to the Romans, "...who shall separate us from the love of God...?" set the theme which the Vicar developed and explained in his very moving address. In numerous references to the Association, and an accurate potted history of the doings of all the Battalions of the Queens and the Surreys in the War, including a particularly compassionate account of the exceptional losses and privations sustained by members of 2nd Surreys, first in battle and then in captivity, he reached the conclusion that nothing could separate us from the love of God. Then to everyone's surprise he invited all who had served in The East Surrey Regiment to process behind the Mayor into the Regimental Chapel for the blessing of a new lighting system recently installed there. Although The Association had contributed part of the cost we had not expected any ceremonials. With the Chapel full to overflowing the Vicar ordered the lights to be turned on, blessed them, and explained that they are intended to come to full power slowly. He compared this effect with the growing light of dawn, and that comment seemed to encapsulate the mood and symbolism of the day. A new dawn indeed and a truly thoughtful gesture by the Vicar.

After Church we fell in again, this time outside the Guildhall where the Mayor again expressed the Borough's gratitude to those who had served and, again to the surprise of many, invited everyone to join him in the Guildhall for refreshments. After the Loyal Toast, the Vicar and the Mayor and members of the Council circulated and met members of the Association. From there we departed, some for further refreshment in the Portsmouth Road Drill Hall (probably for the last time as this is shortly to be vacated by the TA), some to their homes at considerable distances from Kingston, and some even to London and Horse Guards Parade to enjoy the fireworks and pageantry that was to end this memorable weekend.

W.E.McC.

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The East Surrey Regiment badge

At the recent dedication of the Memorial Plaque at Kingston, several Surrey historians present remarked that 'someone has got the badge wrong'!

From 1910-1953 The cap badge was as illustrated in Fig. 1. - From 1953 - until the Amalgamation in 1959 the badge was as shown in Fig. 2. It was decided by the Regimental Council that the plaque should portray the last badge of The East Surrey Regiment.



Fig. 1

An eight pointed star, the top point displaced by a crown which rests upon a shield bearing the Arms of Guildford (viz. the castle of Guildford, with a lion couchant guardant on a mount in front of the castle and a woolpack on either side); superimposed on the central turret is the Arms of Kingston-upon-Thames - below, a scroll inscribed "East Surrey". The badge is in bronze for officers, and for other ranks the star and castle are in white metal and the crown, scroll and shield are in gilding metal.



Fig. 2

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Recruit Comedies?

I joined the army at 17½ for 5 years with the Colours and 7 years on reserve. Due to army cadet experience during the war (Queen's Royal Regiment) and passing several IQ tests I was sent to the 28th Training Bn, Hollywood Barracks, Belfast, Northern Ireland. The supposition by "Higher Command" being that we were a cut above the average? The Army in its wisdom decided 6 months of tough training (similar to Colchester military corrective establishment) would set us up a treat, putting us on the road to military management ie - officer or NCO material - HA! HA! Little did they know about the Jan 1946 intake!!!

It was the custom at that time to place all training personnel on "stand to" for a 7 day duration. This manoeuvre was an attempt to cope with "The Troubles" - not you understand an out and out shooting war, but it got very nasty especially in the early hours, after the pubs closed. Came the call for our intake, needless to say at half three in the morning. We were woken by persistent whistles and general roaring of the duty permanent staff. Our platoon of 30 souls were billeted on the third floor of the barracks, on this occasion I was in charge of blankets (one blanket per man to be loaded on the truck) also elected to be last man out to ensure nothing was left behind - including heavy sleepers!!!

I had decided early on that our section would break previous call-out records, I had also pinpointed the trouble spot, heaving 30 blankets down three floors to the waiting trucks - so I wired up two bundles of 15 blankets each - and you guessed it, heaved them out of the window!! I always felt that the line between bright ideas and the idiotic is narrow!!- The Royal Ulster Rifle Regiment CSM standing beneath the barrack windows blowing

his whistle however appeared to have very little doubt as to which side of the line I appeared!! He was Duty Officer that night, he was amazing! He could speak English for a half hour without most of us Londoners understanding a word - he was only about 5ft 5" in height - but about the same in width - a seriously frightening man!!! Apparently whilst blowing his whistle to get us up and out, two missiles hurtled three floors down, one on either side of him, missing him by inches - he almost swallowed his whistle! As I exited the barracks I became aware of 3 lines of grinning troops in front of which was a red faced Sgt Major "spitting blood". As a civilian one would normally have beaten a hasty retreat - but as a recruit one stood and took the tirade-concerning my parents, or lack of them! I was never quite sure? - I only understood one word in ten - his final conclusion was I was unlikely to make a soldier! especially if he had anything to do with it.

The sequel to this thrilling event and start of my army career was I later discovered that this particular Sergeant Major took rifle drills on a Saturday morning.....at this point I quickly discovered I had a relation in the East Surreys (which was true - Sgt Major Fowles) and I transferred from the Kings Royal Rifles into The Surreys!!! ASAP.

Later in my soldiering life when standing on parade with the Regiment I often thought of this event. Along would come some General and say "And how tall are you my man"? "6 feet 2 inches Sir". "And what made you join the Surreys then?"...."Well it's like this sir - there were these 30 blankets". No! I never did tell them!

TN

2/5th Queen's

Fergus Ling joined the 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in late 1941 and was, apart from Captain "Lottie" Collins the Quartermaster, the only regular officer serving in the Battalion. An outstanding trainer of those under his command and a firm, but just, disciplinarian he had a kind and thoughtful nature and always concerned himself with the welfare of his subordinates as I trust the following reminiscences will illustrate.



His first thoughts after his Company had driven off an Italian attack on Point 130 at Enfidaville and casualties had been evacuated was to call for tea for his soldiers. This was brought to the forward areas by the Commanding Officer Lt Colonel J Y Whitfield, when visiting the Company, both officers then distributing it to the men in the forward positions. During the approach to the Gothic Line the 3 ton truck in which I was travelling with my platoon was involved in an accident fortunately close to a Field Ambulance. I rejoined the battalion in the olive groves near Assisi the following day covered in bandages. Fergus Ling as Commanding Officer subsequently sent me to Rome under the care of the Padre where I could receive outpatients treatment at a British Military hospital and enjoy a period of leave! "Off you go Harry and when you come back you can have a quick time as PR1" were his cheerful words. On return a week or so later and having partially recovered from my injuries, he welcomed me back with the words "your platoon will be happy to see you Harry"! A kindly action but I suspect that he knew that had I been evacuated through normal channels he would have been short of a platoon commander for longer than a week or so!

I was attending a course near Naples when Fergus Ling left the battalion in late 1944 and he was not able to see me before his departure. He had recently appointed me to command a newly constituted "Battle Patrol" and was kind enough to send me Christmas greetings on a card, which had originated in Germany (how he obtained it I do not know!) depicting children playing at soldiers and wearing helmets and carrying rifles with his words

"A merry Christmas and successful patrolling against the Boche and a Happy New Year"! On the reverse he expressed his regret that it had not been possible to say good-bye and wished myself and the Battle Patrol good luck. The Battalion took part in extensive training in Egypt from April to July 1944 following the Anzio battles absorbing as did other units in 56th (London Division) a considerable number of officer and soldier reinforcements from Anti-Aircraft Regiments



that had been disbanded. Here Fergus Ling excelled in the thorough training of all under his command and such was the high standards attained by all members of the Battalion that two "Platoon in Attack" competitions were held one in Egypt and one near Tivoli, on its return to Italy, without a single casualty amongst those taking part or those directing the twenty four "attacks". This in spite of the firing of all platoon weapons and the throwing of 36 grenades in the final assault. A truly remarkable achievement given that many of the officers and men taking part had only recently received infantry training.

HFB

Soldier Magazine 50 years on

Of interest to our readers, particularly those who served with 1/6th Queens was this extract from The Soldier Magazine September 18th 1995 "First in Line". Soldier Magazine reported the Victory Parades of 1919 and 1946.

Heading the Army's marching column in 1946 were men of The Queen's Royal Regiment, the Second of Foot. (No, the Royal Scots had not been disbanded. They were marching at the head of the Scots contingent later in the procession).

Heel-and-toeing with the best was a grizzled colour sergeant with two rows of ribbons on his breast. The Soldier report recorded the incident thus: "Now and again a faraway look comes into his eye: he is remembering incidents of that other Victory Parade in which he marched in 1919".

"A Territorial soldier, then as now, it was 34 years since young Fred Gibbins joined what is now the 1/6 Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He proudly claims that he was the oldest soldier to stay with his battalion wherever there was fighting. If anyone doubts that he was in the thick of things, he could point to the ribbon of the Military Medal at the head of his first row".

"He earned that in the Mareth Line for gallantry when some ammunition trucks caught fire under a rain of shells. He saved a nasty situation by standing firm with a spitting Sten-gun when things seemed to be going too well for the Germans". He was 48 years old and had 31 years' service when that happened. "I think the King was surprised when he presented the medal to an old 'un like me", he said. In civvy street, CSgt Gibbins MM, was a driver with Bermondsey Borough Council.



CSgt Fred Gibbins (centre) tells comrades of the other Victory Parade in which he marched - in 1919. He won the MM.

Major General Michael Forrester who commanded 1/6 Queen's in 1943 until being wounded in June 1944 remembers C/Sgt Fred Gibbins as a great personality in the battalion and one who truly represented the spirit of Bermondsey. Freddie Gibbin's son served with General Forrester in The Parachute Regiment after the war.

The Editor wishes to thank the Editor of Soldier Magazine for permission to reproduce this article.

Headlines and Quotes 1939-45



BRITAIN IS
AT WAR
WITH
GERMANY

TIRPITZ SUNK BY
29 LANCASTERS
THREE DIRECT HITS BY
12,000lb BOMBS
BATTLESHIP CAPSIZES
ONE PLANE LOST

DAILY MIRROR, Friday, Aug. 28, 1939
Daily Mirror
2 tank fights
open in Libya

"Many years ago, as a cadet hoping some day to be an officer, I was poring over the 'Principles of War', listed in the 4th Field Service Regulations, when the Sergeant-Major came upon me. He surveyed me with kindly amusement. 'Don't bother your head about all them things, me lad,' he said. 'There's only one principle of war and that's this. Hit the other fellow, as quick as you can, and as hard as you can, where it hurts him most, when he ain't looking!'"
Field Marshal Slim.

"And so I made my first contact with those truly remarkable people, the British territorials. It has always seemed to me a curious phenomenon that in this, the most non-military of countries, where, ever since the days of Oliver Cromwell the army has been regarded with extreme suspicion, there should exist in their thousands these enthusiastic people who after a hard day's work are prepared to desert their families in the evening to travel, in many cases, long distance to some bleak, dreary drill-hall (now called T.A. centres) for military training"

A Full Life - Lt. Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks.

DAILY MIRROR
**JAPAN DECLARES
WAR ON BRITAIN
AND U.S. BATTLES
IN PACIFIC**

There was a delightful story going round the 8th Army. Monty having changed the original plan for the invasion of Sicily, was summoned to Algiers for a conference. On arrival at the airfield he said to Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's chief of staff, who had come to meet him: "I expect I am a bit unpopular here!" Bedell Smith replied: "General, to serve under you would be a great privilege for anyone: to serve alongside you wouldn't be too bad. But say, General, to serve over you is hell!"

A Full Life - Lt Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks.

**BATTLE 'HONOURS' FOR
THE CHINDITS**

First Secrets of Jungle

THE TUNISIAN SCENE
PATROL ACTIVITY ASTRIDE THE
MEJERDA

A DIVERSITY OF BATTLEFIELDS

**MEN OF SURREY DIED FOR
LONGSTOP HILL**

Montgomery Rave HQ Luncheon

GERMANS BLOW UP BRIDGES AT CAEN
**Montgomery is Massing
for Big Attack**

**The King's
Day in
France**



LONDON PRIDE

The 56th DIVISION IN ITALY

**FLYING BOMBS KILL 2,752, INJURE 8,000:
VERY HIGH TOLL IN LONDON—Premier
Answers 2,752 Bomb Falls, London**

**A MAGNIFICENT SHOW
BY THE QUEEN'S
BATTALION WINS STIFF
ACTION IN ITALY**

The Evening News

**ST. ROME is the most
dangerous place in Italy**

**Companies even platoons, under junior leaders became the basic
units of the jungle. Out of sight of one another, often out of
touch, their wireless blanketed by hills, they marched and fought
on their own, often for days at a time. They frequently approached
the battle in scattered columns, as they did for the crossings of
the Irrawaddy, and concentrated on the battlefield. The methods
by which they did this and, above all, the qualities they needed
to make these tactics possible and successful repay study, they
may be needed again.**

Field - Marshal Slim.

The V2 Rocket Comes To Southern England

The object of giving medals, stars and ribbons is to give pride and pleasure to those who have deserved them. At the same time a distinction is something which everybody does not possess. If all have it, it is of less value. There must, therefore, be heartburnings and disappointments on the border line. A medal glitters, but it also casts a shadow. The task of drawing up regulations for such awards is one which does not admit of a perfect solution".

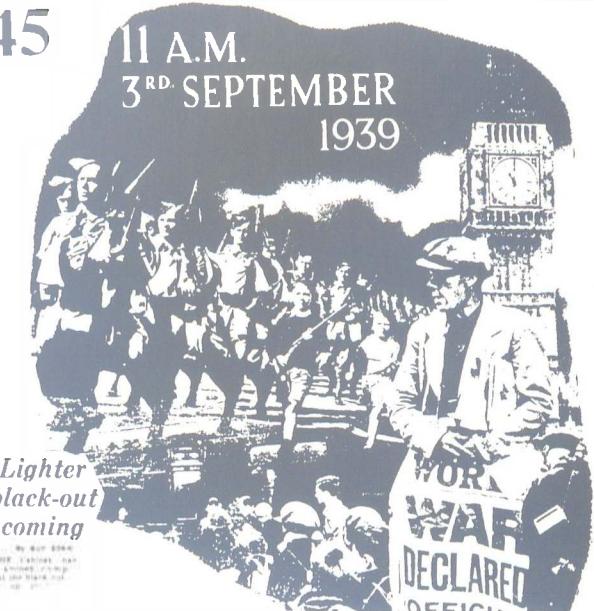
Winston S. Churchill. Speech to House of Commons 22nd March 1944.

DAILY
MIRROR

VE-DAY!

SALUTE TO THE INFANTRYMAN

11 A.M.
3RD SEPTEMBER
1939



The British nation can be counted upon to carry through to victory any struggle it once enters upon, no matter how long the struggle may last, no matter how great the sacrifice that may have to be made and no matter what means may have to be employed: and all this even though the actual military equipment to hand may be utterly inadequate, compared with that of other nations.

Adolf Hitler - "Mein Kampf"

GERMANS BLOW UP BRIDGES AT CAEN

**Montgomery is Massing
for Big Attack**

**...the greatest battle-winning
factor of all - a spirit of complete
trust, confidence and affection
within a formation. This sort of
happy family atmosphere is
common enough in divisions
which have lived, trained and
grown up together, but it is
comparatively rare in higher
formations. I know of only two
in our army where it existed
strongly during the last war -
Montgomery's 8th Army and
Slim's 14th Army".**

A Full Life - Lt Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks.

**THIRD OF BERLIN
LAID IN RUINS**

The good general is the one who wins his battles with the fewest possible casualties.

The memoirs of Field-Marshal Montgomery.

**ANZIO VETERANS
WERE THERE**

Home From Jap Prison

**ATOM BOMB SAVED 200
EAST SURREYS**

Malayan Prisoners Were To Be
Massacred

**BOB PASS VICTIM
OF MURDER TRICK**

Made 'Journey home' broadcast

**WORK FOR
RETURNED
SOLDIERS**

**GOVERNMENT'S
TWO BILLS**

**BERLIN CHEERS BRITISH VICTORY MARCH
FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

DAILY
MIRROR

PEACE

**JAPAN SURRENDERS
ALLIES CEASE FIRE**

The Queen's and Surreys at War 1939-45

The Queen's Royal Regiment.

The two Regular battalions of the Regiment were both abroad on the outbreak of the war, the 1st Battalion in Allahabad, India and the 2nd Battalion in Palestine on internal security duties.

The 1st Battalion: The 1st Battalion spent the war in the Far East. For over a year from October 1940, it was deployed on the North-West Frontier in operations against the tribes and then in 1942 it joined the 7th Indian Division. The Division was deployed in the Arakan, in Burma in September 1943 and the Battalion saw some hard fighting through the winter months inflicting the first reverses on the Japanese. In May 1944 the Battalion was flown to Kohima to help relieve the gallant 4th Queen's Own Royal West Kents who were holding out alone against the main Japanese attempt to invade India. In the battle for Jail Hill, Kohima, the 1st Battalion played a major part in bringing about the defeat of the Japanese. This action was considered the turning point of the War in Burma: thereafter the Japanese were always in retreat. Later in 1945 the Battalion drove the enemy down the Irrawaddy River and fought its last battle of the war north of Rangoon at the end of July. In the war against the Japanese this Battalion never failed to take its objectives and was never made to withdraw from ground it had won.



Evacuation by sampan - 1 Queen's

The 2nd Battalion, initially in the Middle East, took part in General Wavell's successful campaign in the Western Desert in 1940, including the capture of Sidi Barrani. In 1941 after two abortive efforts to reach Crete while the German invasion was in progress, it took part in the war in Syria against the Vichy French. In September it was landed by sea at Tobruk with the 70th Division to relieve the Australian garrison, and then in November 1941, it took part in the successful break out against General Rommel's forces and linked up with the 8th Army offensive.



Mules were the only transport on the line of march

Consequent upon the loss of Singapore in 1942, the 70th Division was moved to reinforce the Far East, initially the 2nd Battalion going to Ceylon and then to India, where in 1943 it became part of the Deep Penetration Forces (the Chindits) under General Wingate. The Battalion was divided into two columns, and with the rest of 16 Brigade marched under appalling conditions from the Ledo Road in the north to the centre of Burma using mule transport and re-supply by air. It finally took part in the operations in the Indaw area to disrupt the Japanese lines of communication. At the conclusion of these operations a long period to recover from the debilitating effects was required. After re-forming, the 2nd Battalion was training for the attack on Malaya (Operation Zipper), when the Japanese surrendered in August 1945.

The Territorial Battalions

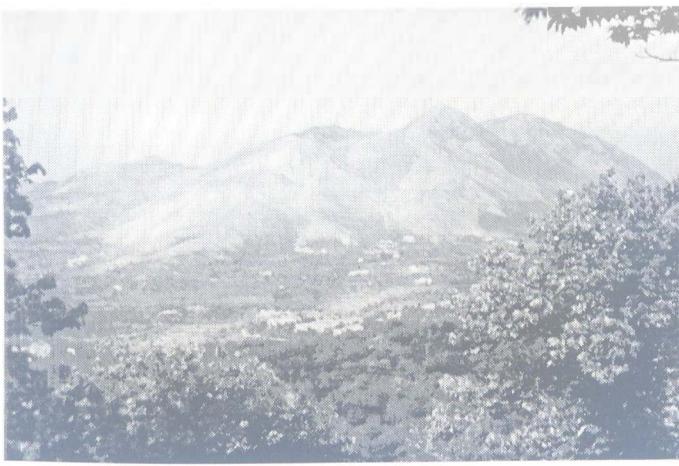
44 Home Counties Division which included 131 Queen's Brigade, 1st/5th, 1st/6th and 1st/7th Battalions, went to France on 3rd April 1940. They were followed later in the month by 35 Brigade which included 2nd/5th, 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th Battalions. The Germans launched their 'Blitzkrieg' on 10th May: 131 Brigade, after some heavy fighting on the Escaut and near La Bassee, carried out a fighting withdrawal through Dunkirk. The Naval Commander-in-Chief wrote that 'the bearing, good order and discipline of the Queen's was an example and inspiration to all of us in the Royal Navy'. 35 Brigade which was only half trained and half equipped, with no proper anti-tank weapons and no artillery, was evacuated through Cherbourg after being overrun by the main German armoured thrust. Its position had been hopeless from the start and the fact that the battalions came home, largely intact, is a lasting tribute to the spirit of The Queen's.



Dunkirk at the time of evacuation

After Dunkirk in the reorganisation of the Army, 35 Brigade became 169 Queen's Brigade of 56 London Division and for two years took part in the defence of the Kent and Sussex Coasts. In the summer of 1942 both 44 and 56 Divisions were ordered overseas to the Middle East, where the former joined the 8th Army in North Africa, while 56 Division was deployed in north Iraq. In Egypt, 131 Brigade tenaciously held the Alam Halfa ridge area in the defeat of the main German offensive against the El Alamein position. Subsequently it fought, but at some cost, on the southern front at El Alamein. After this battle, 44 Division was broken up and the Brigade became the Lorried Infantry Brigade of 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats).

131 Brigade led the advance of the 8th Army from Tripoli to the Mareth Line where at Medenine the Germans mounted a counter attack using two Panzer Divisions; the three Queen's battalions unprotected by mines and wire met the brunt of the attack and thoroughly defeated it. At dawn on 7th March 1943 there were no less than 27 tanks destroyed by their 6-pounder anti-tank guns in front of 1/7th Queen's. Following the battles of Mareth and Enfidaville, 1/7th Queen's was the first to enter Tunis. Meanwhile 169 Brigade spent the winter of 1942/43 in Iraq, and when ordered to join the 8th Army, drove straight from Iraq into action at Enfidaville on 28th April. Its approach march of 3,313 miles in 31 days, an average of 107 miles a day, is the longest in military history.



Monte Camino, Italy

Both Queen's Brigades took part in the landings at Salerno, 169 Brigade in the initial assault force and 131 Brigade landing later with the follow up force. There was much hard fighting and when the break-out was made, the two Brigades led their Divisions, now in the 5th (US) Army, side by side across the plain of Naples, across the Volturno and beyond. 131 Brigade with 7th Armoured Division then returned to England in December 1943 to take part in the Normandy invasion. 169 Brigade in Italy fought on, capturing Monte Camino, crossing the Garigliano and finally were at Anzio, before returning in a very reduced state to Egypt to reform and retrain.



1/5th Queen's in Kangaroos during the advance into Germany

In 1944, 131 Brigade landed in France on 8th June two days after D Day and after heavy fighting round Caen and Villers Bocage, pursued the Germans to the Seine, swept across north east France, drove the enemy from Ghent, crossed the Scheldt, kept the Nijmegen road open during the Arnhem battle and finally pushed the Germans back across the River Maas. After this in a reorganisation, 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's dropped out of the Brigade and returned to England, leaving 1/5th Queen's to cross the Rhine on 28th March 1945. This Battalion then fought its way across north Germany and led the 7th Armoured Division into Hamburg, hoisting the Regimental Flag on the Town Hall. It subsequently moved to Berlin to take part in the Victory Parade in July, marching past Mr Winston Churchill with its Colours flying and the band playing the Regimental march 'Braganza'.

Meanwhile in July 1944 169 Brigade, reinforced by converted Royal Artillerymen, returned to Italy to take part in the intensive fighting to break the Gothic Line and cross the Rubicon. Reinforced again it spent the winter fighting for the line of the River Senio, and with the coming of spring, crossed Lake Commachio in early April, advanced to and crossed the River Po and had occupied Venice when the German armies surrendered in Italy.

The East Surrey Regiment

The outbreak of the Second World War found the 1st Battalion of the Regiment in Colchester and the 2nd Battalion in Shanghai.

The Campaign in France in 1940.

The 1st Battalion with the 1/6th and 2/6th served in France with The British Expeditionary Force. In May 1940, the 1st and 1/6th advanced into Belgium but were driven back by the force of the German Blitzkrieg. The line of the River Escaut was held temporarily, but a fighting withdrawal to the coast became inevitable. On their last night in Belgium, the 1st Battalion was ordered to Nieuport to counter-attack in the 1/6th Surreys area. The counter-attack stabilised the situation, and side by side with the 1/6th, they held the position until ordered to withdraw to the beaches prior to embarkation. On 1st June 1940 the two weary East Surrey Battalions, marched the 12 miles along the sands to Dunkirk. So ended their 1940 Campaign.

The recently-formed 2/6th Surreys landed in France in April 1940, initially intended for duties on the lines of communication. However, they were caught up in the battle for the Channel ports, and were ordered to take up a defensive position on the River Bethune. While under command of 51st Highland Division, in spite of valiant resistance, the Battalion was driven back to the coast, and was forced to surrender at St Valery on 12th June 1940.

2nd Battalion in Malaya

An even worse disaster was the loss of the 2nd Battalion in Singapore. The Japanese invaded Malaya on 7th December 1941, and the Battalion was heavily involved in the fighting all the way down the peninsula. At the Battle of Gurun a week later, Battalion Headquarters was overrun and the Commanding Officer, Major Dowling, killed, as were two company commanders and a large number of officers and men. They had suffered such heavy casualties by 20th December that the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment was amalgamated with the 1st Bn The Leicestershire Regiment, and fought the remainder of the campaign as 'The British Battalion'. Eventually, after many delaying actions, the British Army was forced into Singapore Island, and there, on 15th February 1942, compelled to surrender. Of the 2nd Battalion's 786 men who met the Japanese in December 1941, only 265 remained. Of these, a further 149 were to die while prisoners of war of the Japanese. Although the 2nd Surreys had ceased to exist as a fighting unit, their Colours, the symbol of the spirit of the Regiment, never fell into enemy hands. They had been deposited in the vaults of a bank in Singapore in 1940, and were recovered intact five years later.

On 16th June 1942 the 2nd Battalion of The East Surrey Regiment, which had been lost at Singapore, was reconstituted from the 11th Battalion of the Regiment. The new 2nd Battalion assumed the title and distinctions of the old Regular battalion. The Colours of the original battalion were brought home in HMS Nelson in 1945.

The 1st and 1/6th Battalions in North Africa



Attack on Longstop Hill, 1 Surreys, April 1943

After the Dunkirk disaster of 1940, the 1st and 1/6th Surreys remained at home training for their next operation.

The 1st Battalion, now in the 78th Division, returned to active operations in the Allied landings in North Africa in November 1942, and advanced rapidly to within 18 miles of Tunis. Here it was held up after heavy casualties, and forced to withdraw. For six weary months, during which the 1/6th Battalion in the 4th Division joined the First Army, they fought in the mountains of Northern Tunisia against some of the best divisions in Von Arnim's Army. Casualties were heavy in the two Surrey battalions, and each lost its Commanding Officer. Lt Colonel Bruno of the 1/6th was killed leading his men in an attack on a strongpoint. Lt Colonel Wilberforce died on the eve of victory, killed by the last shell to be fired into the 1st Battalion area. After the link-up between the 1st and 8th Armies, and the final co-ordinated attack, the Germans surrendered on 12th May 1943, and the North African Campaign was over.

1st and 1/6th Battalions in Sicily and Italy

Two months later, the 1st Battalion was again in action, this time in the mountains of Sicily. This was a short but difficult campaign with 78 Division operating on the lower slopes of Mount Etna. Every yard had to be fought for, but by mid-August 1943 the Germans had withdrawn to the mainland, and the Sicilian campaign was over.



Evacuating a casualty in the mountains, 1 Surreys, Italy

Then followed the campaign on the mainland of Italy from September 1943 to May 1945. The Allies were confronted with a long, mountainous peninsula, all the rivers of which flowed east and west, conferring an invaluable advantage on the defender. It was a long, slow advance of heavy and costly fighting - very much an Infantryman's war. The 1st Battalion, still in 78 Division, landed in Italy in September 1943 and the 1/6th five months later. The 1st Battalion advanced slowly against strong opposition and in severe winter weather. One of the principal battles was that for a bridgehead across the River Sangro.



The 1/6th Surreys entering Cassino, May 1944

Both Battalions were involved in the battles for Cassino, which was the key to the advance northwards to Rome in 1944. The 1/6th, particularly, had much hard fighting in the crossing of the Rapido River, south of Cassino. Here their second Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Thompson, was killed in action. The battle honour 'Cassino' was awarded for these operations. After the fall of Rome on 4th June 1944, two days before the Allied invasion of Europe, there was still much hard fighting ahead, most of it in the mountains. The 1st Battalion's final battle, in April 1945, was for Argenta, part of the main line of the German defence south of the River Po. The 1/6th had been withdrawn from Italy after the capture of Forli in November 1944, and transferred to operations in Greece.

Associated units of The Queen's and Surreys

The changing face of modern warfare had made conversion of some units a necessity and both Queen's and the Surreys had been affected in this respect, 4th Queen's became the 63rd Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery and later 127 LAA Regiment RA (Queen's). Several of their unit had an important role in front of the Maginot Line and were some of the first Territorials to go overseas. Later in the war the unit was selected for AA defences on the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches. In October they moved into Belgium and Holland.

The 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment also converted to an artillery role becoming 57th (East Surrey) Anti Tank Regiment RA. They fought in France and Belgium and returned via Dunkirk. They then served with the 8th Army at Alamein and across North Africa and were present at Salerno. Their second line regiment 67th (East Surrey) Anti Tank Regiment RA joined the 'Black Cat' (56 London) Division and took part in the epic 3200 miles approach march from Iraq to Enfidaville. This unit also fought at Salerno and Anzio and followed 169 Bde up Italy to Trieste.

21st London were part of the Corps of The East Surrey Regiment. In 1935 they were transferred to The Royal Engineers to become 35th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers (First Surrey Rifles). Their ATS members mobilized with them. In 1940 the Battalion, together with its ATS Company was transferred to the Royal Artillery with the title, 35th Searchlight Regiment RA (First Surrey Rifles) 23rd London Regiment had become the 7th (23rd London) Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1937, then in 1938 it was converted to an armoured regiment and named 42nd Bn The Royal Tank Corps, later The Royal Tank Regiment saw service in the Middle East and saw action in the Western Desert. The second line battalion became 48th Royal Tanks and joined the 1st Army in Tunisia in 1943. Later they fought their way up Italy arriving in Venice in April 1945.

On 1st June 1943 a Company was formed from a battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment, they were known as The 71st Independent Company and were formed for special duties as a Royal Engineers Works Company. After service in Tunisia they landed in Sicily. Their duties were 'beach development' to ensure the rapid movement of troops from the landing crafts. 24th September 1943 found the Company in the front line south east of Salerno. In January 1944 they arrived in Suez for training and then returned to the UK. They took part in 'Overlord' arriving on 'Gold Sector' beach France, unloading ships, repairing roads and running a petrol dump. They were under constant artillery fire until 15th August. The Company was disbanded on 20th September 1945 having served with distinction in Italy and France.

Captain R G Graham, The East Surrey Regiment was the Officer Commanding from its inception until 3rd September 1945. After the Second World War, The Queen's were awarded 39 Battle Honours and The Surreys 25. Our Regiments had taken part in every campaign in the war except Norway.

*References:- History The Queen's Royal Regiment Vol 8
History The East Surrey Regiment Vol 4
Territorial Battalions of The Regiments of Surrey and their Successors.*

Battle Honours 1939 - 1945

Listed below are the Battle Honours awarded to our Regiments in the Second World War. Those listed in heavy type were borne on the Sovereigns Colour of the Regiment.

The Queen's Royal Regiment

“Defence of Escaut,” “**Villers Bocage**,” “Mont Pincon,” “Lower Maas,” “Roer,” “North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45,” “Syria, 1941,” “Sidi Barrani,” “**Tobruk, 1941**,” “Tobruk Sortie,” “Deir el Munassib,” “**El Alamein**,” “Advance on Tripoli,” “**Medenine**,” “Tunis,” “North Africa, 1940-43,” “Salerno,” “Monte Stella,” “Scasati Bridge,” “Volturro Crossing,” “**Monte Camino**,” “Garigliano Crossing,” “Damiano,” “**Anzio**,” “Gothic Line,” “**Gemmano Ridge**,” “Senio Pocket,” “Senio Floodbank,” “Casa Fabbri Ridge,” “Menate,” “Filo,” “Argenta Gap,” “Italy, 1943-45,” “**North Arakan**,” “**Kohima**,” “Yenangyaung, 1945,” “Sittang, 1945,” “Chindits, 1944,” “Burma, 1943-45.”

The East Surrey Regiment

“Defence of Escaut,” “**Dunkirk, 1940**,” “North-West Europe, 1940,” “Tebourba,” “Fort McGregor,” “**Oued Zarga**,” “Djebel Ang,” “Djebel Djaffa Pass,” “Medjez Plain,” “**Longstop Hill, 1943**,” “Tunis,” “Montarnaud,” “North Africa, 1942-43,” “Adrano,” “Centuripe,” “**Sicily, 1943**,” “Trigno,” “Sangro,” “Cassino,” “Capture of Forli,” “Argenta Gap,” “**Italy, 1943-45**,” “Greece, 1944-45,” “Kampar,” “**Malaya, 1941-42**.”

On the formation of **The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment** in 1959 these Battle Honours were borne on the Queen's Colour.

The 4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) in commemoration of its forebears service as 42nd Royal Tank Regiment inherited the Honorary Distinction of a badge of The Royal Tank Regiment, this was borne on the Regimental Colour. This badge carried four scrolls; the first bore the dates “**1941-45**” and the other three the battle honours “**North West Europe**” “**North Africa**” “**Italy**”.

Dunkirk and Ypres 1995

I was privileged to be asked to accompany The Richmond (North Yorkshire) Branch of the Dunkirk Veteran's Association on the 55th Anniversary pilgrimage to Dunkirk on May 7 this year. We actually stayed in De Panne, in Belgium, which along with Braydunes

was one of the main beach evacuation areas once it was evident that Dunkirk could not cope with the sheer numbers to be moved. Needless to say most of the sand dunes which provided sparse cover during the evacuation are now covered in houses and flats.

Some 12 - 15 veterans and wives attended plus widows and several post War II service men and wives, myself and Kay included. Medals were worn at ceremonies as appropriate. A total of 55 coaches converged on the area from all over UK. We were amazed and impressed by the sheer resilience of all the veterans, the youngest was 74. No one went sick, all timings were met, all meals attended and many stood for hours in perfect weather with attendants and then marched considerable distances on cobbles. Music throughout the 5 days was provided by bands from The Royal Hussars, The South Wales Police and The Lancastrian Brigade. Impressive is the only words I could use for these bands who played morning noon and late into the night over a five day period, no regular bands could have performed as well and would charge a huge fee! Wreath laying ceremonies and services took place at Dunkirk and De Panne attended by huge crowds of Belgium and French citizens and veterans



The Dunkirk Veterans March Past De Panne promenade including City of Birmingham Police (an old tradition as British Police were present during the evacuation.)

producing a gala atmosphere. Both towns arranged evening galas which were packed, to hear “Land of Hope and Glory” sung (3 times) brought a lump to many a throat and would have put the last Night of the Proms to shame.

We were also fortunate enough to have time to visit War Graves Cemeteries in the area which include graves from both World Wars and even more sad the names of thousands who have no graves. The War Graves Commission do a magnificent job in recording and maintaining these cemeteries which provide a fitting resting place for those who fought and died. By contrast the German Cemetery was wooded and sombre. A brief Battlefield tour based on the deployment of 1 Green Howards, part of 7 Division in 1914 in the Ypres Salient was conducted by Major Jack Riordan who had used his Father's diaries to pinpoint the actions of The Green Howards at the Menin Cross Roads and to be able to identify company and platoon positions at the start of the bitter fighting around Ypres which lasted for four years. The impressive Cemeteries at T'Houge, Tyne Cot, Dunkirk and Koide were also visited. Prominent amongst the thousands of names listed were those from our former regiments and battalions both regular and Territorial. Almost every Regiment in the Army, or Battalion suffered losses including Commonwealth forces. The Indian Army lost thousands! Altogether a moving experience. Members who were not at Dunkirk, or who served in HM Forces after World War II are encouraged to attend as the number of veterans who can attend annually is obviously decreasing and it is in everyone's interests to continue this Ceremony and Pilgrimage into the future. The local population certainly expect us to do so. As a final tribute to highlight the courage of those who survived, it should be remembered that many went on to fight in campaigns in Italy, The Western Desert, Burma and in some cases in Palestine, Cyprus, Malaya and Korea examples we all shared.



Dunkirk Veterans Memorial, De Panne, after laying of wreaths

Formations Signs of The Second World War

The use of signs on badges as means of identification, particularly in time of war, goes back to earliest times. It thrived during the Crusades and in later years the practice developed of wearing light distinctive coats over body armour - hence the term "coat of Arms".

Military identification in more recent years was usually by way of the Regimental badge, but the development of larger formations such as Brigades and Divisions in the South African War and more particularly in the First World War led to the need for appropriate signs and symbols. Dropped between wars the practice was renewed in the Second World War when exceeding the original intention of distinguishing personnel and vehicles, the signs also came to be used as route markers. For wear in uniform signs were usually embroidered or of stencilled cloth and were worn on sleeves of battle dress, exclusive of greatcoats. They were positioned one inch below the Regimental or Corps shoulder title and immediately above the arm of service strip.

Formations soon became sign minded. Some units adopted Divisional badges on stationery and, more informally, they became motifs for brooches, embroidered handkerchiefs and Christmas cards. The old soldiers' habit of collecting regimental cap badges for waist belt adornment gave way to collecting insignia of larger units.

In a more permanent form the badge's are often to be found incorporated into war memorials, notable examples being found in such places as Aldershot and Edinburgh and further afield in the English church at Batavia, Netherlands, East Indies. Formation badges have also found a place as background decoration at military events, in the grand finale of "Drums", the Army Pageant held at the Royal Albert Hall in May 1946, they were emblazoned on banners being carried. The practice of wearing formation signs is now firmly established, both in war and peace: there is no doubt that the formation badges, particularly those of both world wars have their undisputed place in our military history and will always be remembered by those who wore them during its making....

Illustrated below are a selection of the formation signs worn by our Regiments during the Second World War.

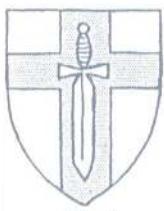


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

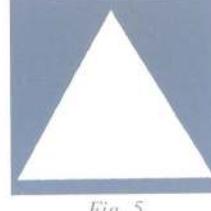


Fig. 5

First Army (Fig 1.): The distinguishing badge of the First Army, commanded by Lieut.-General Sir Kenneth Anderson KCB., MC., worn throughout the campaign in Tunisia, was the red cross of St. George on a white shield, a crusader's sword superimposed on the upright of the cross. The First Army landed in North Africa in November, 1942, and commanded the British formations which cleared Algeria of the Nazi occupying forces, and holding them during the winter of 1942-43 until the final battles in Tunisia which led to the capitulation of von Arnim and the entire German force in North Africa.

The Second Army (Fig. 2): The Second Army formed in England in the summer of 1943, adopted a similar sign to that of the First Army, a blue cross being substituted for the red. Second Army was raised for the invasion of Europe, and went ashore in Normandy on D Day, 6th June, 1944, forming part of the 21st Army Group. Under the command of Lieut-General Sir Miles Dempsey, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC.,, Second Army saw much hard fighting in the establishment of the beachhead at Caen, and in the break-out which culminated in the German defeat at Falaise. Then followed the drive across France, the crossing of the Seine and the Somme, the liberation of Brussels, and the sweep up to the banks of the Maas, which was held during the winter of 1944-45. The spring of 1945 saw Second Army engaged in the clearance of the enemy between the Maas and the Rhine, and on 24th March, 1945, it was 12 and 30 Corps of Second Army which forced the northern crossing of the Rhine. Then followed the drive across North-West Germany-Münster, Osnabrück, Bremen and Hamburg and to the banks of the Elbe, which ended in the surrender of the last remaining German armed forces.

Eighth Army (Fig. 3): The existence of the Eighth Army became known when in November, 1941, General Sir Alan G. Cunningham, KCB., DSO, MC, was appointed to its command at the opening of General Sir Claude Auchinleck's offensive in the Western Desert. The Eighth was formed from the original Army of the Nile, and included the 13 and 30 British Corps with South African, Australian, New Zealand and Indian formations. It was engaged in much hard fighting in the Desert against the combined forces of the Italians and Rommel's Afrika Korps throughout 1942, which culminated in the withdrawal to the defensive line at the gateway to Egypt. It was at this time that Lieut-General (later Field-Marshal Viscount) Montgomery was appointed to its command and directed its efforts into the great victory of El Alamein in October, 1942. Under his inspiring leadership the Eighth swept on across Cyrenaica and Tripolitania to the Mareth Line and thence northward into Tunisia to the final defeat of the Axis forces in North Africa. "The achievements of the Eighth Army," said Mr. Churchill in an address at Tripoli in February, 1943, "will gleam and glow in the annals of history." The Eighth next saw action in the invasion of Sicily, and then into Italy. They fought their way northwards across the Sangro, the Volturno, through the Gothic and Adolf Hitler Defence lines and finally in the swift, decisive Po Valley campaign which culminated in the surrender of the German forces in Northern Italy. The Eighth Army H.Q. and Army Troops wore as their badge the now famous golden crusader's cross on a white shield set on a dark blue background. The badge was later adopted by H.Q. British Troops in Austria (B.T.A.).

Fourteenth Army (Fig. 4): A red shield, with a narrow white inner border, the centre divided by a black horizontal band, on which the Roman figures "XIV" were inscribed in white, set across a white sword, hilt uppermost, was the badge of the hard-fighting Fourteenth Army, commanded by General (later Field Marshal) Sir William Slim, GBE, KCB, DSO, MC. This Army, which was disbanded on 1st December, 1945, was formed in 1943 and was the largest single Army of the war. In its time it held the longest battle line, from the Bay of Bengal to the borders of India and China, and fought through some of the most difficult country in the world from Manipur to Rangoon. At one time its strength was nearly a million. It was grouped into three Corps, the 4 and the 15 and 33 Indian Corps. A fourth Corps, the 34, was formed for the invasion of Malaya. The Fourteenth Army's great victories in the Arakan, at Imphal, Kohima, Kennedy Peak, Mandalay and Meiktila led to the defeat of the Japanese and the liberation of Burma and Malaya. The design of the Fourteenth Army badge was submitted anonymously in a competition open to all ranks for the choice of badge when it was chosen, it was disclosed that the artist was none other than the Army Commander, General Sir William Slim.

1st Division (Fig. 5): A white triangle on a black square or circle was the formation badge of the 1st Regular Division. It formed part of the original B.E.F. and embarked for France in September 1939, as part of 1 Corps. It saw much hard fighting in the 1940 operations in Flanders and in the evacuation from Dunkirk. In 1942 the Division joined the First Army in B.N.A.F. (British North Africa Force) and took part in the campaign in Tunisia, thence to Italy as one of the formations of C.M.F. (Central Mediterranean Force). The triangular badge on the sleeve was sometimes worn without a background, and was often improvised out of ordnance flannelette.

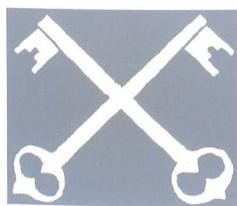


Fig. 6

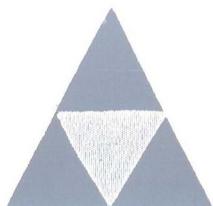


Fig. 7



Fig. 8

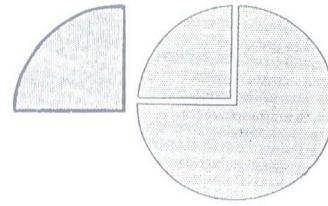


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

2nd Division (Fig. 6): Two white keys crossed, on a black square was the badge adopted by the 2nd Division. The badge was an appropriate choice for in the earliest days of the history of British arms, it was the practice in time of need for two armies to be raised, one in the South of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the other in the North by the Archbishop of York. This was a pre-war Regular division and it formed part of the 1939 B.E.F., serving in France and Belgium until the withdrawal from Dunkirk in May 1940. The Division left England for India in 1941 and subsequently became one of the two British Divisions with the Fourteenth Army in the victorious campaign which drove the Japanese from Burma.

3rd Division (Fig. 7): A Regular Army division which served with the B.E.F. and took part in the heavy fighting in holding the Dunkirk perimeter during the evacuation in May 1940. The Assault Division of Second Army, the 3rd Division landed on the Normandy beaches on the 6th June 1944. As part of 1 Corps it took part in the establishment of and the subsequent break out of the beachhead and the operations in North-Western Europe culminating in VE Day in May 1945. 3rd Division's badge was a red triangle surrounded by three black ones, the whole forming an equilateral triangle.

3rd Indian Division (The Chindits) (Fig. 8): A golden Burmese Dragon on a blue circular background was the badge of the 3rd Indian Division - Wingate's Chindits - who made history with their airborne invasions of Burma. The Chindits were first in action in Japanese occupied Burma as long range penetration troops in the expedition led by the late Major-General Orde C Wingate, DSO. As part of the Fourteenth Army, the Division was subsequently engaged in the Chindwin area harassing and disorganising the Japanese lines of communication.

4th Division (Fig. 9): This regular Division first adopted as its badge the fourth quadrant of a circle in red, but this was later changed to a red circle, with one quadrant displaced, set in a white square. It formed part of the B.E.F., arriving in France as part of 2 Corps in October 1939. In the evacuation in 1940 it held the west flank of the Dunkirk perimeter. The Division later saw service in North Africa with First Army and with the Central Mediterranean Force in Italy and in Greece.

4th Indian Division (Fig 10.): The 4th Indian Division was the first formation to leave India. It embarked for Egypt, where it concentrated in the Autumn of 1939 and formed part of the original desert force under command of General (later Field Marshal) Lord Wavell. At Sidi Barrani, the Division shared with the 7th Armoured Division the honours of that complete victory over the Italians. The formation was then withdrawn from the Western Desert to participate in the campaign in East Africa. It joined General Platt's forces in Eritrea, where it took part in the operations leading to the defeat of the Italians at Keren, where the Division fought with the 5th (Indian) Division in securing a complete victory. The 4th (Indian) Division then hurriedly returned to Egypt to meet the threat of the Afrika Korps. One Brigade (the 5th) was withdrawn to Syria, where it took part in the operations against the Vichy French Forces. The rest of the Division remained in the Western Desert, participating in the action at Sollum, the battle of the Omars, and the hard fighting in Cyrenaica. Early in 1942 the Division was withdrawn from the Desert, one brigade going to Cyprus, another to Palestine, and the third to the Canal Zone. It returned to the Desert again to form part of the Eighth Army at El Alamein. The Division's badge was a red eagle in flight. The badges worn in the Western Desert were the gift of the women of the Punjab at the instance of the late Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, Prime Minister of the Punjab, who visited the Division in the Middle East.

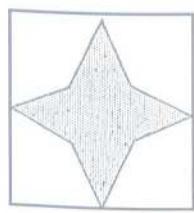


Fig. 11

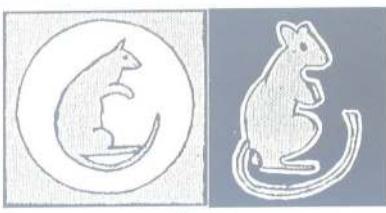


Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

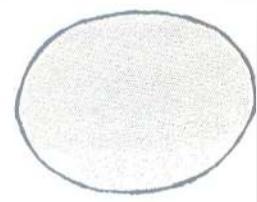


Fig. 15

6th Division and 70th Division (Fig. 11): A red four-pointed star set in a white square was this formation's badge. A Regular Division, it joined the B.E.F. in 1939. Later this formation was renumbered 70th whilst forming part of the Middle East Forces in the Western Desert. It formed the garrison at Tobruk in 1941, and in November of that year made the sortie which linked up with the 1st South African and 7th Indian Brigades during General Auchinleck's offensive. On the relief of Tobruk the Division was withdrawn from the M.E.F. and dispatched to India to meet the threat of the Japanese invasion. Whilst in India Command the formation was reorganised and formed the British element of the 3rd Indian Division (The Chindits). The 70th Division retained the 6th Division's badge when it was renumbered a red four-pointed star on a white background.

7th Armoured Division (Fig. 12): The 7th Armoured Division, the famous "Desert Rats", was the first formation to go into the Western Desert at the outbreak of war with Italy. It was in the sands and barren wastes of Libya that the Division earned its title, thanks to its "scurrying and biting" activities, and the adoption of the jerboa (the desert rat) as its badge a red rat in a white circle on a red square. This form was later changed to a red rat, picked out in white, on a black background. The Division formed part of Field-Marshal Lord Wavell's original desert force, which became the Army of the Nile. It took part in the first offensive against Graziani's forces which rolled the Italians back beyond Benghazi in 1941. Throughout all the desert operations, in General Sir Claude Auchinleck's offensive and with the Eighth Army under General Montgomery, the Division was to the forefront of the battle at Sidi Barrani, the Battle of the Omars, Gazala; it took part in the battle of El Alamein, the advance through Libya, and in the final battles in Tunisia which brought the British Armies in North Africa to their goal. The Division was withdrawn from the Mediterranean early

in 1944 to participate in the invasion of Europe, and it landed in Normandy in June. It was in action at Caen and Falaise and in the operations in France, Belgium and Holland which culminated in the assault on the Rhine and the drive into Germany. It was the 7th Armoured Division which formed the bulk of the British Force which entered Berlin, taking part in the Victory Parade.

7th Indian Division (Fig. 13): Known as the "Golden Arrow" Division. A yellow arrow on a black square or circle was the badge of the 7th Indian Division. This formation saw much hard fighting in the Arakan, and was cut off for sixteen days in the Ngakyedauk pass, where it formed the famous "box" at Sinzweya and held off all the Japanese attacks, stopping the enemy advance towards India. This formation later formed part of the Fourteenth Army in the advance into Burma. Crossing the Irrawaddy on 14th February, 1945 and taking part in the hard fighting which drove the Japanese from Myingyan, Yenangyaung and Sittang. The Division later provided the first troops to enter enemy territory in the Far East when it was flown to Siam where it concentrated and disarmed over 113,000 Japanese troops.

11th Indian Division (Fig. 14): The 11th Indian Division formed part of our forces in Malaya at the time of the Japanese invasion. The Division was, at the outset of the brief ten weeks campaign, located in the north of the Malay Peninsula on the Thailand border, and was the first formation in action in North Kedah against the Japanese when they launched their attack on 8th December 1941. The formation saw much hard fighting and sustained heavy casualties in the withdrawal through Malaya, the two British battalions of the Division, the 1st Leicesters and the 2nd East Surreys being amalgamated and designated "**The British Battalion**". The Division was finally compelled to withdraw to Singapore Island where following the increasing intensity of the Japanese assaults, the Command capitulated. The badge on the 11th Indian Division was an eleven-spoked wheel on a yellow or gold background. The badge was retained whilst the Division was in captivity, and at Changi the entrance to the POW camp was decorated with the badge to which was added in dog latin the motto, "*Qui Ultime Melior Ridet*" ("He who laughs last laughs best"). This for a considerable time was accepted by the Japanese with all the solemnity as the Divisional motto without realizing the purport, and the fact that it had been added for their discomfort.

44th (Home Counties) Division (Fig. 15): This was a first-line Territorial Army Division made up of TA units of Kent, Surrey and Sussex and the County of London. A scarlet horizontal oval was the formation sign. The 44th formed part of the B.E.F. in 1940, taking part in the defence of Cassel and the withdrawal to and evacuation from the Dunkirk beaches. Dispatched to the Middle East via the Cape in 1942, it took part in the operations in the Western Desert and was part of the Eighth Army at El Alamein, but was subsequently disbanded on the reorganisation of the forces in the Middle East.



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

56th (London) Division (Fig. 16): The badge of this London Division was a black cat set on a red background. It was "Dick Whittington's cat", as well as being a lucky black cat and the badge was chosen by its original Commander, Major-General Sir Claude Liardet (the first TA Officer to command a Division). The 56th formed part of Home Forces until 1942, when it embarked for the Middle East and joined the forces which garrisoned Palestine, Syria and Iraq. The Division joined the Central Mediterranean Force in 1943 and took part in the landings at Salerno and Anzio and the advance through Italy, being well to the fore in the crossing of the Garigliano. As part of the Eighth Army, the 56th took part in the Po Valley campaign, forging through the Argenta Gap, winning the bridgehead over the Reno, and sweeping north-east to the liberation of Venice at the end of the 15th Army Group's victorious campaign in Northern Italy.

78th Division (Fig. 17): This was a war-formed Division which was raised in Scotland in preparation for the North African Expedition, and landed with "Blade Force" at Algiers on 8th November 1942. The Division had its first main clash with the enemy at Tebourba. As part of the First Army the Division saw much hard fighting, holding the line along the borders of Algeria and Tunisia during the winter of 1942-43, clinging on to Medjez el Bab, and the fierce fighting at Fort MacGregor and Long Stop Hill. It took part in the final operations in Tunisia culminating in the surrender of the Axis forces at Cap Bon. Landing in Sicily on 25th July, 1943 the Division fought at Cantanuova, Adrano, Bronte, and Randazzo. Operations in Sicily were concluded on 15th August, and the following month saw the Division in Italy fighting up to Larino with the Eighth Army. The 78th were later withdrawn to Egypt, but only for a short time, for the winter saw the Division back in action again in the Apennines. As part of the Eighth Army in 15th Army Group the Division took part in the forcing of the Argenta Gap into Northern Italy. The badge of the 78th Division was a yellow battle-axe on a black square or circular background.

The Editor wishes to thank R Dymott of Cassell PLC (Arms and Armour) for allowing us to reproduce extracts from the book Formation Badges of World War Two, written by the late Lt Col H Cole.

In Hoc Signo Vinces

In this sign shalt thou conquer.

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Surreys visit the Museum April 1995



Bill Attewell DCM, Lt Col Jock Woodhouse OBE MC, Tony Ramsey MM, Major Peter Hill, 'Lakri' Wood MM.

Serving with 2 Surreys 1945 - 47

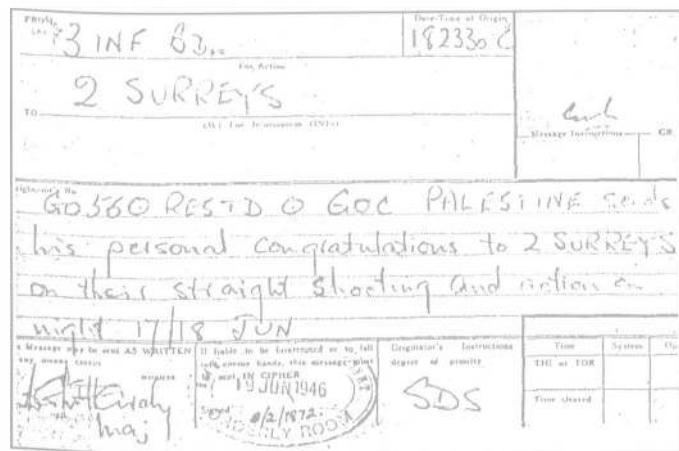
VJ Day has come and gone! Colonel Buchanan recalls the Battalion was on a three day exercise on the Romney Marshes when they heard that VJ Day had arrived. The fields and dykes in that part of Kent had represented the paddy fields of Japan. Jungle equipment had been issued to the battalion and they were waiting for orders to go when the atom bombs were dropped, thus saving countless allied lives. Orders came to go on embarkation leave and on the men's return it was learnt that the Battalion would be going to Palestine where troubles had broken out. The Stern Gang and other terrorist organisations were causing a certain amount of disruption.

The Battalion, commanded by Lt Col T A Buchanan DSO MC, sailed from Liverpool on 7th December 1945, accompanied by the 4th Bn The Black Watch, on SS *Samaria*. Also on board were parties of ENSA and WAAFs. They sailed non-stop through the Mediterranean to Port Said. Brigadier Boxshall, who had brought the 1st Battalion back from Dunkirk, met the ship. He was now Brigadier commanding Canal North District. He made the Battalion very welcome. Christmas arrived and a happy day was spent in spite of being at Qassassin, a dreary desert camp between Cairo and the Suez Canal.

The Battalion was soon on the move again. A train journey followed, across the Canal at Kantara, over the desert to Gaza for breakfast and a wash and shave, arriving at Haifa on 31st December 1945. The Battalion were allocated Camp 197 at Quiryat Haim, just south of Acre roundabout out of Haifa and based on the airfield. The platoons were given tasks, such as guards at the airport, the docks, Barclays Bank, the oil refinery and key points. The men were not bored as the platoons rotated the duties. An on going job was to help with the Jewish illegal immigrants who were being sent back to Cyprus.

Patrolling the narrow streets of Haifa after dark was quite spooky with strange night time noises coming from the houses and alleyways. The Battalion had to stand-to on many occasions. After the Railway workshops were blown up, a detachment at a road block - engaged a strong party of the Stern Gang with such success that thirty of the attackers were killed or captured. The action of the Battalion caused a considerable stir and became headline news.

The following signal was received by the battalion



tanks, which were miraculously saved on the 31st March. The Battalion received the grateful thanks from the manager of the Shell Company for their excellent support.

The time had now come for the Battalion to be relieved of Internal Security Duties and to move to Egypt. The Battalion left by train on 27th April 1947. Owing to terrorist threats the 6th Airborne Division guarded the line. The orange groves bristled with bren guns. They must have been relieved to hear of the safe arrival of the Battalion at Fayid. 2 Surreys became the Guard Battalion. The duties were very heavy. Some of the guards were ceremonial. A daily ceremonial guard mounting parade, with the Drums playing the Guard to their place of duty, was quite new for many of the men. It was a change from the barbed wire and road blocks routine to which the Battalion were so well accustomed. Guards were required for the C-in-C and to keep an eye on the Families and the ATS quarters. The amenities at Fayid were very good, a splendid shopping centre, camp cinemas and a comparatively civilized life after the restricted existence they had got used to in Palestine.

2 Surreys had been an Independent Battalion and on the 1st November, 1947 joined 8th Infantry Brigade. After a little over a month the Battalion moved up the canal to El Ballah. It was a popular move even though the amenities were not so good. They were only a few miles from Ismailia and an hours run from Port Said. One of the duties here was to guard the 'Polly Camp' where the families (not Surreys) evacuated from Palestine were housed. In time they were able to return. There was now time to carry out normal military training, the first real opportunity since the UK. Cadres were set up in every corner of the camp. The King's Birthday was celebrated on the 12th June with a parade where the new Colours presented to the Battalion before they left the UK were carried by Lt R G Page and Lt G G Gale, escorted by C/Sgt F Hammond, Sgt D Driver and Sgt G Halliday.

It was necessary to carry out patrols in the North Canal Zone and along the Sweet Water Canal and these were carried out in carriers and Staghound armoured cars. Some men moved to Port Said and carried out guard duties in the docks and on ships carrying WD stores. Many of the men had a love hate relationship with acting RSM 'Brushy' Broom; he had a hair cut mania and woe betide anyone with a hair out of place! He lived with his wife and son in quarters in Moascar and would commute to the Battalion daily on an army motor cycle. The MT section were suspected of sabotage when the bike broke down en route! Sugar in the tank?



Carrier Patrol, 1 Surreys Sweet Water Canal.

While the Battalion was in Palestine and Egypt their sporting activities and prowess in the boxing field, cricket, rugby football and athletics were second to none. Cpl Eric McQuade's name appears in so many lists of competitors. Swimming gave much pleasure especially when the men were stationed along the Canal, floating in the wake of the ships passing through.

Time was running out for the Battalion. It was already known that their long and eventful individual existence was coming to

an end and the Battalion was to be amalgamated with the 1st Battalion now in Greece. The Battalion shrank rapidly, already depleted by PYTHON and when it returned to Moascar in April 1948, it only consisted of HQ, B and C Cos. On 28 May, Lt Col Duncombe published the last Battalion Order in the form of a Special Order of the day. The final clearing up was completed, and the packing and closing of accounts. Men were posted away. What was left of the Battalion was split into two groups, one for home and the other to join the 1st Battalion. On the 12th June the cadre with Lt Col Duncombe sailed for home and were met at Liverpool by the Colonel of the Regiment who spoke to the NCOs and men on the troop deck and explained the reason for the amalgamation. That evening the party reached the Depot at Kingston to be welcomed handsomely by Major S B Cope who had recently been second in command of the Battalion and his Depot Staff, who among other things had made up their beds! The Colours and the spirit of the 2nd Battalion were carried forward and merged with those of the 1st Battalion.

Thus ended the service of the 2nd Battalion's cadre appropriately enough in the home of the Regiment.

Grateful thanks to Messrs A Bentley, R J Clarke, D P de Winton Jones, G E Ellis, D James, D J Nielson, D G Tripp and G N. Wilmot. for sending in their stories of life in 2 Surreys.

PS Does anyone remember meeting the ATS Provost on the nightly Haifa - Cairo train?

DH

Farewell Dinner Trieste 1945



Farewell Dinner given by Roger Close-Brookes to senior officers of 169 Queen's Brigade, Trieste 1945.

Left to Right: Lt Col Sheldon, Lt Col Taylor MC, Brigadier Dick Richardson DSO OBE, Maj Close-Brookes DSO, Lt Col Spencer (RA) DSO TD, 131 Fd Regt RA, Lt Col Mc William DSO MC, Maj Grimson OBE Brigade Major 169 Queen's Bde and Maj Henton DSO Bty Comd 131 Fd Regt RA.

Kingston - Refections in the sun



Colonel 'Buck' Buchanan and Major Toby Taylor put the world to rights.

Soldiering in Salonika

The latter half of 1947 and the early months of 1948 were a particularly busy time for the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment newly arrived in Salonika where they were based in Sobraon Barracks. That period was taken up with lots of guards and fatigues, turn-and-turn-about at times. Particularly in the early months of January as the numbers became more and more depleted through demobilisation, and extra duties were placed on the remaining numbers.

I was one of that number, in fact quite a few of us were newly arrived in the battalion having been transferred from the British Military Mission, which was based in the main Greek Army barracks in Salonika town itself.

We were sent to the Surreys as reinforcements in the latter half of '47. Six of us had been together in the Devons in England, then with the 4th Royal Norfolks to Patras, Greece. When they disbanded in late '46, we joined the Military Mission in Salonika, and as I said earlier, a number of us were later sent to reinforce the Surreys. We had quite a mixed bag of events in Sobraon Barracks.

I remember in the third quarter of '47 the American aircraft carrier *Franklin D Roosevelt* paid a courtesy visit to Salonika and we played them at football. I don't remember much about the match, but I do remember they brought to the barracks cases and cases of canned beer (the first I had ever seen). We used them as seats round the field. Most of us did not remember who won the game, but we all had a jolly good time.

Another event which some will find amusing (though officially I suppose not) and which we, at the time found confusing, was when the Regimental band paid us a visit and the Bandmaster became most irate when a number of us didn't stand to attention when the regimental march was played. But of course, as we had been East Surreys for only a short while how were we to know the regimental march! Particularly as there wasn't much opportunity to get to know things like that on active service overseas.

Another interesting duty that befell us was Quarry guard where there was still a number of German prisoners of war working. It was on one of these guards that someone pointed out that a hole in the Nissen hut wall at bed level had been made by the bullet that a previous soldier had shot himself with.

There was also the Town Car Park guard, and at the Town Guard Room near to the harbour front and the White Tower. It is called that now, but in those days it was called the Oiki Tower. It had that word in electric lights on the roof. It was called that because OIKI means NO! Apparently in the dim distant past, a Greek general had repeatedly shouted Oiki! when called upon to surrender to the invading Persians or Turks. The locals were very proud of their tower.

I also remember a time in late '47 early '48 when we were employed repairing the approach road to the British Military Hospital in the Salonika town. At one time there was the body of a chap from the DLI's lying in the chapel there. He had been killed when his Bren carrier came off the road and landed on top of him in the ditch. About that time we had a camp concert where some of the Durham's helped entertain. One of them balanced one of the iron and canvas beds on his chin! Another memory is of the cross country runs in winter. It was very muddy, but quite enjoyable.

I also remember the ankle deep mud in the company lines following a heavy downfall of snow from 17th to 19th February 1948. I was in D Company, and although only a junior NCO, I often found myself acting company orderly sergeant as our numbers became more and more depleted. In fact by 21st Jan there were only 14 men left in the company.

Our company commander was Captain Taylor (nicknamed Robert of course) and other company officers were Lts Ashley

and Lambden. In February 1948 about 170 recruits joined us from England to make our numbers up. My demob number was 69, while most of the new lads' numbers were over 110. So, although I was only 20 years of age, I felt like an old sweat.

A major event in the Battalion's time there (according to my regimental diary for 1948) was when the Greek terrorists mortared the town on Monday 9th February. Some of us from D Company were on night guard at the Town Guard Room. All hell broke loose with the terrorists hitting the town from one direction, and the Greek Army replying from the other. One of the bombs went through the roof of the British Army town car park building killing a number of those inside. I believe they were Royal Engineers or RASC. We had been on guard there only a couple of nights previously, so we had a lucky escape.

When the word got round about the killing, some of our lads got quite incensed about it and wanted to go out and take on anybody. But they were calmed down. The following morning a lot of the terrorists were captured and were marched along the road in front of us on their way to the Greek barracks. When they saw us they started shouting and spitting in our direction. They were singing defiant revolutionary songs as they went. Quite a number of them were women.

The battalion was on stand-to for a few days after that. So as I say, the short time that I was with the Surreys in Salonika was quite an eventful period for the battalion. Understrength most of the time, and when numbers dwindled so it was turn-and-turn-about guard and fatigue duties. It was a busy time for the battalion but we made the best of it of course.

I left them on 25th February 1948 sailing on the *Arundel Castle* for Blighty and demob on 8th March at Aldershot. So in that period in 1947/48 the battalion was in Greece in the 4th British Infantry Division (The Cheshire Cheese) as part of a stabilising force helping to secure a future for a very unstable country going through a tumultuous civil war. Although it was hardly ever mentioned at the time, or even now, and never recognised officially, The East Surreys and other units of the British Army and the British Military Mission, played a large part in helping Greece to find its feet in the aftermath of World War two. And there are British gravestones there dated after May 1945 to prove it.

FWM

000

"Corporal" Harris



George Harris examines the cover during printing of this edition of the Newsletter. He and his family have been printing our Newsletter and Museum booklets now for some years. We are grateful to him, his family and in particular his daughter Elaine for all the hard work they do on our behalf.

During the last war George rose to the rank of Corporal in one of the lesser known regiments of the British Army but we do not hold that against him.

Note the clean white coat worn especially for this photo!

Admiral of The Fleet Lord Fraser of North Cape, GCB, KBE

We are indebted to Captain J J Streatfeild-James, Royal Navy lately Captain HMS Excellent, for this copy of a description of the Fraser Altar and its present location in the church of St Michael and All Angels, Thursley (off the A3 (T) between Guildford and Hindhead).

Bruce Austin Fraser was born on 5th February 1888, entered the Royal Navy in 1902, specialised in Naval Gunnery in HMS *Excellent* in 1912 and served at sea during the First World War. Apart from a short period in the Admiralty, he spent the whole of the Second World War at sea commanding in succession the Second Battle Squadron, the Home Fleet, the Eastern Fleet and the British Pacific Fleet. As Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, he was in charge of Russian Convoys and was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath for good services rendered in the pursuit and destruction of the battleship *Scharnhorst* on 26th December 1943 off the North Cape of Norway. While in command of the British Pacific Fleet, he was the United Kingdom signatory to the Japanese surrender, aboard the United States battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, on 2nd September 1945. After the war, he became Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth before serving as First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff from 1948 - 1951. On completion of that appointment he returned to his home near Hampton Court in Surrey.

His outstanding contribution to victory at sea was recognised by many nations including Russia (the Order of Suvarov); United States of America (Distinguished Service Medal); Netherlands (Grand Order of Orange Nassau); France (Chevalier of Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre with Palm) and by Norway (Grand Cross, Order of St. Olav).

Upon his death, Lord Fraser's body was brought by gun carriage to his alma mater, HMS *Excellent*, on Whale Island for a funeral service in the church of St. Barbara on 20th February 1981. Later his ashes were scattered at sea.

The Altar

This altar, of English oak, was given by retired Gunnery Officers and Officers and Ships Company of HMS *Excellent* and was dedicated by the Provost of Portsmouth on 6th December 1981. Originally in St. Barbara's Church, the Navy's memorial to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser of North Cape is shaped like

an anvil to symbolise his part in forging victory in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The upper section bears replicas of the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, an Admiral of the Fleet and member of the Order of Suvarov, First Class. On the lower Section is a tampion of a 5.25" gun from his flagship, the battleship HMS *Duke of York*.

The altar was given to the parish of St Michael and All Angels by the Chaplain of the Fleet on 25th January 1995 to replace a table that was stolen from the North Aisle where this altar now stands.



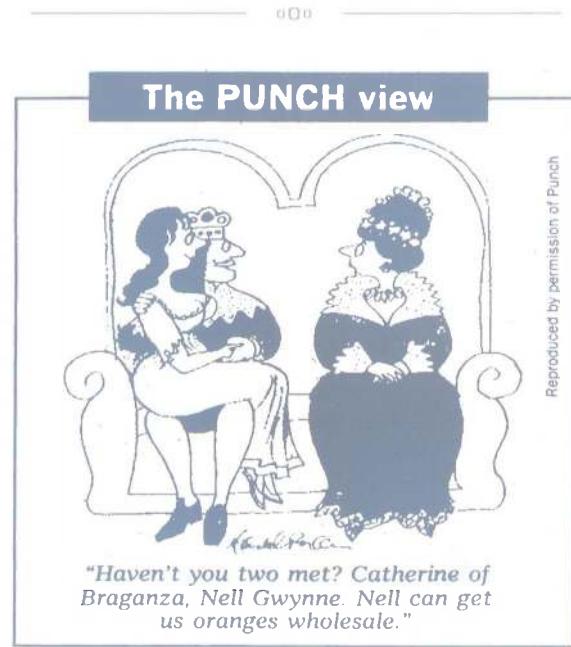
The Fraser Altar

Inset: the Regimental Badge in one of the stained glass windows dedicated to Private A G Fosberry 2nd (Vol) Bn The Queen's Regiment who died at Modders Spruit, South Africa, 6th July 1900 aged 23 years.

HMS *Excellent* and The Queens Royal Regiment

HMS *Excellent* on Whale Island in Portsmouth Harbour was the Royal Navy's principal School of Gunnery from 1830 until 1974. Internationally famous among sailors, "Whaley" also has a long standing affiliation with soldiers. At the Battle of the Glorious First of June 1794, Admiral Lord Howe flew his flag in HMS *Queen Charlotte*. As often happened in those days, soldiers were embarked to act as Marines in the fighting tops and on deck; in his case they were drawn from a company of the 2nd, The Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot. HMS *Queen Charlotte* replaced the second HMS *Excellent* as Gunnery School Ship in 1859 and remained so until 1891 when the school was established, ashore, on Whale Island. The liaison between ship and regiment went ashore too.

When The Queen's Royal Regiment embarked for the South African War, HMS *Excellent* sent a party to help stow the men's baggage and to wish them Godspeed. The practice of being the Regiment's "chummy ship" continued throughout the First World War when sailors sent "their" soldiers serving in France comforts from home. Every year, the Glorious First of June was celebrated by a cricket match and dinner held alternately at the Regimental Depot and on Whale Island. This match has been continued on the formation of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Such was the camaraderie which existed between the Queensmen and the Islanders that, in 1924, HMS *Excellent* was authorised to adopt Braganza, the Regimental March of The Queens Royal Regiment, as her own. The tradition continues to this day.



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A Cautionary Tale

Is it cruelty when one older and one younger Regimental Signals Sergeants misadvise an about-to-be Regimental Signals Officer in Berlin in 1949 on how to test a field telephone. Their serious and earnest advice was that he should lick two fingers and place one on each terminal whilst one of them turned the handle (rapidly!). Had the term been coined at that time an apt description would have been that the Subaltern in question went ballistic. It is a surprise that an Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Association and Chairman of the Museum Trustees are around to tell the tale.

PAWGD

So There We Were

1685 The Queen's were fighting the Duke of Monmouth and his rebel forces at Sedgemoor when victory went to the King's Forces. Colonel Percy Kirke was active in the campaign but afterwards earned himself an unenviable reputation for his conduct towards prisoners, allegedly treating some with the utmost cruelty while allowing others to escape by means of bribery.

1695 The Queen's were fighting the French in Flanders and gained themselves a battle honour at Namur. A price was paid, however, in the form of 55 killed and 46 wounded.

1705 Luttrell's Marines (later The East Surrey Regiment) having already gained a battle honour at Gibraltar in the previous years continued their success on the Rock by successfully assisting in repelling land and sea attacks by Spanish and French forces. The Queen's were in Spain besieging and storming Valencia and the frontier fortress of Alberquerque whose massive walls were breached by mining the wall of a church near the ramparts.

1725 The Queen's in Scotland were engaged in public order duties by suppressing riots which had resulted from the Government's imposition of excise duties on ale. It seems that the 31st Regiment (as they were now titled) were in Ireland although that actual part of their history was lost. Certainly they were reported as being placed on the Irish establishment in 1714 and taken off it in 1739 after a "*long period of service*".

1745 One campaign of The Queen's was in Bermuda where, as Treasury officials were doubtless pleased to know, establishment and costs "remained as before". The 31st, fighting the French at the battle of Fontenoy sustained heavy losses, largely due to murderous crossfire plunging into red coated Infantry lines advancing with "*measured step - silent and stately as if on parade*".

1775 The Queen's were in England, after lengthy overseas service, and after landing at Portsmouth marched to London where they were quartered at Kensington. The 31st Regiment, at Glasgow, received orders for overseas service in the American War of Independence.

1795 The 70th were at Gibraltar with a strength of 22 officers and 488 other ranks. At Martinique The Queen's were suffering man power shortages in both officers and other ranks. Some of the former were from independent corps.

1805 The Queen's at Gibraltar furnished a Guard of Honour to receive Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson. It is to be hoped that they properly responded to the prestigious occasion as the Governor-General was expressing concern about the amount of drunkenness in the Regiment. He attributed it, among other things, to the "*great poverty of officers*".

The 70th, by now, were at Martinique where they had been stricken by an epidemic of yellow fever. The 31st Regiment, arriving at Portsmouth from Jersey, marched to Winchester where it received a number of recruits to bring its numbers up to strength.

1825 In February The Queen's embarked at Gravesend for India, arriving at Bombay in June. Six men had died on the voyage. Even more unfortunate were members of the 31st Regiment who, similarly embarked at Gravesend, were en route to India in the troopship *Kent*. In the Bay of Biscay she caught fire and foundered with heavy loss of life. The loss would have been even greater had it not been for the fortuitous arrival of the brig *Cambria* whose crew rendered prompt and efficient assistance. A valuable picture of the *Kent* disaster is in the Regimental Museum at Clandon.

1845 Saw a return journey of The Queen's from Bombay to Gravesend. 319 non-commissioned officers and men elected to remain in India and were transferred to other regiments by way of an exchange system. The 31st, in India, were fighting the powerful Sikh army in the Sutlej campaign. A ferocious battle at Moodkee occasioned heavy losses but also gained the regiment another battle honour.

1865 Far from home, the 70th Regiment were fighting in New Zealand against the Maoris. The nature of the campaign resulted in the necessity of the Regiment operating in the form of small detached and dispersed companies.

The Queen's, freshly home from Bermuda, landed in Ireland for a short spell of duty due to the rebellious state of the country.

1885 Still adding to their battle honours, The East Surrey Regiment (as they were now titled) distinguished themselves at the battle of Suakin. The Queen's at Calcutta furnished detachments in relief of The King's Regiment and Royal Welch Fusiliers who had been ordered on active service to Burma.

1905 The Queen's in India gained praise from the Military Secretary and the Commander-in-Chief for their general efficiency and particularly their excellence when providing a guard of honour for the Prince and Princess of Wales on their visit to India. Also in India, the East Surreys passed the hot weather season at the hill station of Ranikhet.

1915 Heavily involved in the First World War, The East Surrey Regiment distinguished themselves at Ypres, where they gained yet another battle honour, and particularly at Hill 60 where Lieutenant (later Brigadier) G R P Roupell, Second Lieutenant (later Major) B H Geary and Private (later Corporal) E Dwyer all gained Victoria Crosses for their leadership and spirited resistance against enemy attacks. The Queen's were equally determined in their gallantry, gaining notable battle honours in France and at Gallipoli. Other battle honours were gained by both Regiments but at a price of hardship, privations and suffering of casualties numbering thousands.

1935 The East Surrey Regiment were again at Ranikhet training in mountain warfare, often with the Gurkhas. Back home in England, in the Jubilee year, The Queen's took part in the main pageant at the Military Tournament at Olympia and also in the Royal Review at Aldershot.

1945 Saw members of both Regiments scattered in various parts of the globe, including Europe, the Middle East and the Far East, sometimes in combat, sometimes in garrison or support duties and sometimes in Prisoner of War Camps, but all of them welcoming the end of hostilities. More battle honours had been gained but thoughts and footsteps now turned homewards. Regretfully many would never return but lay at rest in "*some corner of a foreign field*". There they were and there they still are remembered by old comrades and by a vastly re-organised regiment which, with many glorious pasts, marches towards a hopeful future.

RF

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

IF IN DOUBT-PAY!

Mouscron and back

Some time ago the Regimental Secretary received an invitation from the Ypres Branch of the Royal British Legion to send representatives to an obscure commemorative ceremony which was to be held in Mouscron, Belgium. The invitation was sent at the request of the townspeople from a suburb of Mouscron called Risquons-Tout. Initial enquiries into any military action which may have taken place in the area revealed little. Our only real clue was that the East Surreys had played a most important part. A small battle at Mouscron was recorded that had taken place in 1837 but we were looking for something a little more recent.

The fact that the East Surreys were involved explained why both Surrey based A (Salerno) Coy 6/7 PWRR from Farnham and A (Anzio) Coy 5 PWRR from Guildford had been invited to attend. We were soon to learn that a bren gun carrier manned by men of The East Surrey Regiment had remained ingrained on the memories of two young boys who had witnessed its destruction. This little known action was to epitomise one of many which are still clearly remembered by the older generation of Belgium.

In May 1940 the 1/6th Surreys together with other units of the BEF with orders to delay the enemy advance to Dunkirk were occupying a defensive position on the Franco-Belgium border at Risquons-Tout. After some fierce fighting a number of bren gun carriers arrived to reinforce the defensive positions. On Saturday May 25th 1940, a detachment of German soldiers who had arrived by bicycle were observed occupying the crossroads a mile inside the Belgian border. Three young soldiers from the Surreys were quick to mount an attack in a bren gun carrier.

The initial attack caused many casualties amongst the enemy, but the Belgian eye-witnesses noticed the carrier withdrawing probably to get more ammunition. Within what only seemed like minutes the same three young men came at great speed down the road with bren gun blazing. Unfortunately the short delay had given time for the Germans to regroup and position an anti-tank gun near the crossroads. The first round from the anti-tank gun struck the carrier killing the young driver. The two remaining crew debussed and taking cover in some nearby trees, continued to fight armed only with rifle and bren gun. Both died where they fought, taken out by overwhelming fire power.

Great battles are remembered but what is very often forgotten is the cocktail of action, which, when put together form a battle. The individual soldier who by his supreme sacrifice can collectively dictate the outcome of a battle and in its turn a war. Almost uniquely in Europe this is what the commemoration at Mouscron is all about, remembering three individual soldiers from The East Surrey Regiment who willingly gave their lives defending foreign soil for the freedom of others.

It was a moving experience for those serving members of the Territorial Army who were privileged to have taken part in the ceremony, to hear at first hand stories from eye-witnesses about the bravery of these three young men from overseas and many others who both lived and died during this period. The Belgians tell of long lasting friendships and marriages, promised before Dunkirk but fulfilled only after liberation.

Following the ceremony those who took part had the honour to attend a civic reception given by the mayor in the Town Hall. Later they were invited to a wonderful banquet which was provided by the organising committee. During the speeches all ranks were humbled when the Dunkirk veterans, members of the Royal British Legion and the citizens of Mouscron gave the Territorials a standing ovation. The Belgians said they were reminded of the Territorial soldiers who died in their village displaying spirit, courage and discipline so many years before.

What is extraordinary about the whole event is the perseverance and dedication of the townspeople who after many years of disappointments eventually obtained an actual bren gun carrier

by firstly procuring a tank and swapping it for the much sought after carrier. Permission was given by the local authority to mount it on a plinth on the spot where the original carrier was knocked out by a German anti-tank gun.

A Battlefield Tour took place the day after the parade, Major Paul Watton MBE ADC RMP diligently guiding the party around Ypres and Paschendaele. Visiting and seeing so many cemeteries of British, Allied and German soldiers killed in the Great War was a poignant reminder to the visiting Territorials of the previous day's events. The tour eventually led to Talbot House or TOC H as it is known in Poperinge, where the visitors were welcomed with a nice English cup of tea, just as the soldiers of the Great War had been welcomed decades before.

A most hearty rendering finale to the weekend was provided by the Menin Fire Fighters as they sounded the Last Post at the Menin Gate. The Gate somewhat similar to Marble Arch, is set on the site where the vast majority of Commonwealth soldiers marched forward to the front, some never to return. The staggering number of names painstakingly engraved on this beautiful monument belong to soldiers whose bodies were never found or identified.

The Last Post is sounded daily together with wreath laying by visiting branches of the Royal British Legion and schools. On the evening of our visit the British contingent of the Korean War Veterans Association were parading with Standard. A large crowd witnessed the standard bearer, who was not young, struggle as he fought to keep the lowered standard off the rain drenched road, while school children unexpectedly walked forward a number of times to lay flowers. To the spectators delight and our pride the standard bearer, though painfully struggling, maintained his station throughout.

Should people question the significance or the need for the Territorial Army, encourage them to visit both Mouscron and Ypres, look at the number of Territorials who gave their lives, remind them of the fifty years of comparative peace in Europe maintained by a NATO presence and the immense commitment to the Organisation by the Territorial Army and Reserve Forces. The history and sacrifice of our Reserve Forces remains an enigma to the general public but thankfully will not have gone unnoticed by any potential aggressor.



A (Salerno) Company 6/7 PWRR

Donald Green's Diary

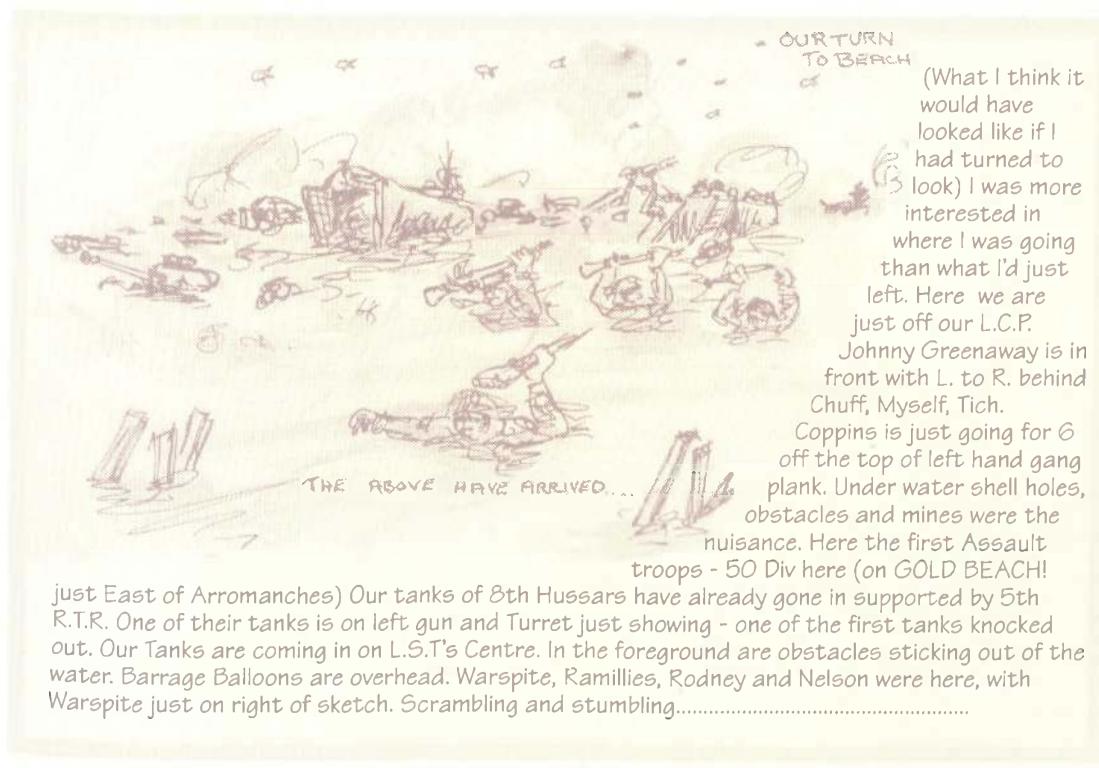


Private Don Green was serving with B Coy 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and sailed on the Leopoldville from Tilbury bound for the Normandy landings.

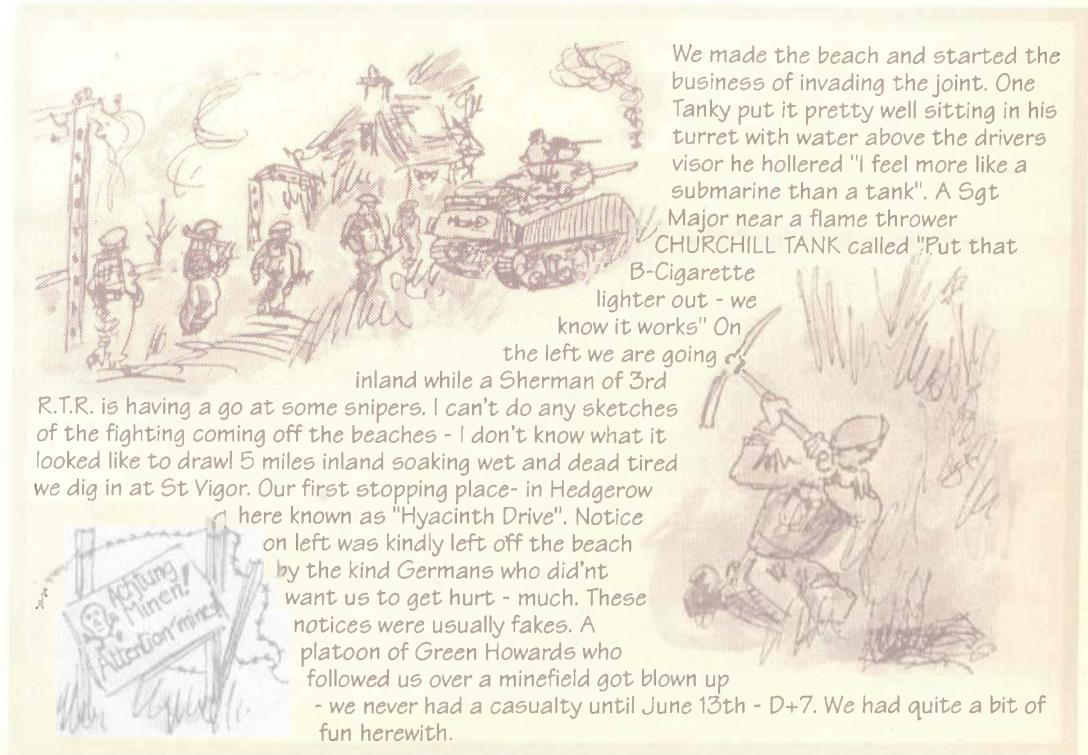
He writes:- "During my brief sojourn in France I scribbled notes and did little drawings on odd bits of paper. I afterwards made these into a (sort of) diary. I put them in the attic and forgot them for 49 years 10 months. They are grotty little drawings but not all that bad considering they weren't drawn under ideal studio conditions. A slit trench is a touch limiting to artistic expression! I just wondered if someone might be interested in them".

Donald Green was wounded after a shell hit a wall and he was buried underneath the rubble. Fortunately he made a full recovery and after treatment in hospital in the UK, he returned home with his sketches, cartoons and diary.

After the war he completed his apprenticeship in printing whilst drawing for many magazines including The Field, Country Fair, London Opinion, Men Only, Radio Times and Lilliput. He was the Tatler Magazine's theatrical cartoonist for twelve years. He has been (and is) commissioned by many units to draw caricatures and at 70 years of age still sketches and draws cartoons. Mr Green's diary and drawings are now with the Regimental Museum at Clandon.



7th June 1944



12th June
1944



At 15.00 hrs
12th June the
Bn. goes under
the command of
22nd ARMD
BDE. to move
right flank with
30 Corps Villers
Bocage was the
objective - from the
west. 16.00hrs 12th
June and the Bde is
on the move - 4 C.L.Y. in
the lead. 3rd rate narrow
winding roads were the route,
it was dusty and no kidding, anyway
good progress was made and every minute of
daylight was used and on meeting up with No. 1 Combat Group U.S. Army. we had collected
a gravel pit in our.....

13th June
1944



In The Fields of
Villers Bocage
there is a richer
dust concealed...



13th June
1944



3 DIVS. Met
us here. 21st
Panzer. 12th
Panzer Gren.
And the Hitler
Youth
Fanatics -
Panzer Lehr.
We knocked
them out of
the war here.

BATTLE FOR THE MAIN STREET

2 Tigers were here in this street and the first fired through corner of house (left)
hoping to hit something - he didn't - instead a 5th R.T.R. Cromwell came up fired
through the hole and knocked the Tiger out. Paddy Sinaleterry "A" Coy is firing PIAT
from roof on right. Tank officer on corner - right, had umbrella and was singing
"Hold that Tiger!".



throats. The ARMD RECCE. boys went out and found TIGER and PANTHER. Tanks in places they had no business to be, they turned up on our left flank shortly after they were on our right flank. Before the Tanky's had got through saying "Tigers to the left of us, Tigers to the right of us", they could also add "Tigers to the front of us and Tigers to the rear of us but onward rode the gallant 7th Armoured At. 22.30 hrs owing to the fading light

12th June
1944

we were told we could kip down. After the Bn. Leaguer had sorted us out from the Americans it was 01.30 then the cooks truck got lost so I had my dinner of the.....

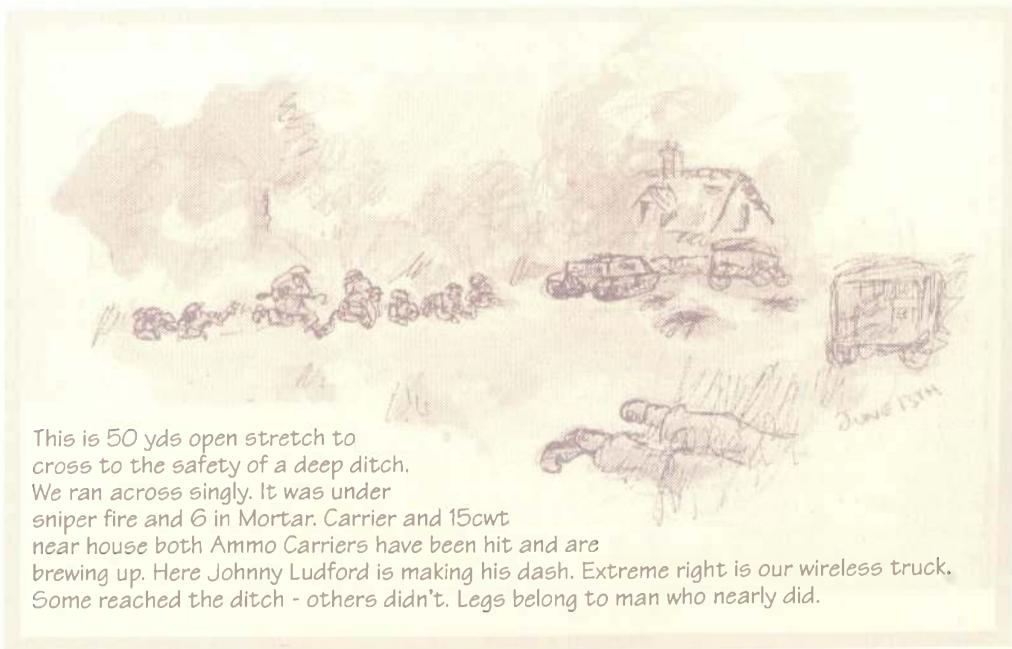
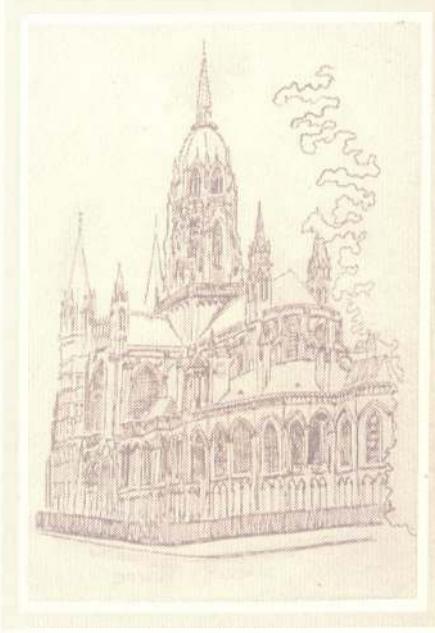
day before at 04.00hrs in the morning when I did stag with Hoppy. So it was 13th Day of June.

What a day!

The tanks went in early to form a line then we kicked off at 05.30 first we got strafed by American Planes. we got moving and by 10.00hrs 4 C.L.Y. had reached Villers, passed through and were near their objective



Bayeaux
Cathedral



This is 50 yds open stretch to cross to the safety of a deep ditch. We ran across singly. It was under sniper fire and 6 in Mortar. Carrier and 15cwt near house both Ammo Carriers have been hit and are brewing up. Here Johnny Ludford is making his dash. Extreme right is our wireless truck. Some reached the ditch - others didn't. Legs belong to man who nearly did.

13th June
1944



June 13th
1944

Our Orchard
in Villers, why
we are looking this
way no one knew,
except we knew Jerry
was that way he was also
all around us. Here we couldn't see

anything except Cider Apple trees, hedges - and rain. For 3 hrs we were in here, sniped
at with Spandau M/C Guns, and rifles, Mortared and Shelled nobody knew where
anybody else was. Foreground is Johnny Greenaway and Bill Thorpe with PIAT Gun. Left
to Right in front. Myself Jimmy Sowman, Chuff Inge, Tich and George Richardson.



June 13th
1944

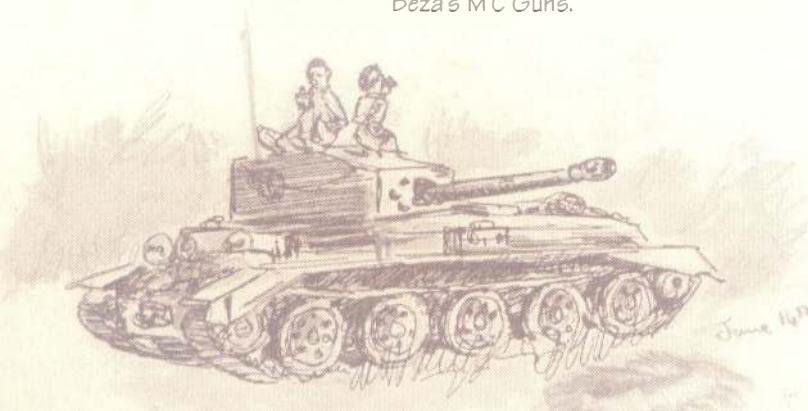
What is left of Div trying to get together,
crowded on road. We are here being
shelled by 88mm's. American
press bloke is here talking
to Hoppy, Bill Dodridge
and Myself. He told us
not to panic it was
only the R.B.'s. Shortly
after that he hit the
road, so did Jerry.

Lt Lofty Lofthouse came back out of
the spinney and also led us out
along with UPH. Here we are coming
out via hedge and bokke 4th from
right has just been sniped at 3
behind are ready to take up
protective fire, 5th from right is
Chuff, 4th from right myself 3rd,
2nd and 1st are Bill Thorpe, 2nd Jake
Kiggins 3rd and Tich.



Our only Armour Defence while we were cut off were 2 knocked out Cromwells whose
guns still worked. Here 2 8th Hussars of the crew are spotting for Enemy tanks.

Cromwell is a Cruiser Tank with 7.5 gun, and two
Beza's M'C Guns.



June 14th
1944

Tommy Marshall

Alfred and Florence Marshall moved to Buckland, in Surrey from South Wales in 1929. They had five children; Bill, Nancy, Violet, Rob and Tommy. This is Tommy's story of the Second World War and VE Day.

Before the war Alfred and 14 year old son Tommy worked for a Mr Saunders at Buckland Sand Quarry. Tommy was a "Grease Boy". The family moved to Strood Green when the houses were built in 1934. Later Tommy worked at Buckland, cycling to work. However, he soon changed jobs and worked at Newdigate as a hod carrier.

When the war crisis loomed Tommy and brother Bill joined the Territorials in Dorking. They were joined by other local lads including Reggie Glanfield. They were all called up on September 3rd 1939. Florence was deeply upset about both her sons joining up and amid the tears was told by the boys father "*stop crying Flo, let the boys go*". Their introduction to service life was a forced march to Guildford in full pack and uniform. They joined the 1st/5th Queens Royal Regiment. Bill was a cook and Tommy a bren gunner. They trained in Sussex and Dorset before leaving to join the British Expeditionary Force in April 1940. They set off from Southampton and landed at Cherbourg.

Their battalion set a new Territorial Army record covering 75km in full kit in three days. They dug in on the Belgian border. When the Belgians capitulated they moved forward to hold back the Germans, digging in once again. Allied air cover was minimal and their trenches were continually strafed by enemy aircraft.

Tommy recalls the fear and "*hell*" of a thirty six hour bombardment put down by both sides. He feared for his brother's safety hearing that the cook house had been destroyed. To his joy his brother Bill had found a hole in which to shelter. When the bombardment ceased they were ordered to "*up and go*". They pushed the Germans back several kilometres and recalls the encouragement given to him by one of the officers a Captain Jack Blanch. He was a fine officer easily recognised by his pipe that seldom left his mouth. During this advance he was with Corporal Wren who lives in Buckland. They were under continuous fire from snipers and lived in fear of being killed. After being pinned down for some time Tommy recalled one of the tricks his father had told him. He raised his tin hat on the point of his bayonet above the trenches and as bullets flew into his hat he just managed to spot the area from which the bullets were coming. In the dark he fired off a magazine into the target area. The enemy guns were silenced. He lost a close friend killed by sniper fire. It soon became apparent that the remainder of Tommy's section had either been killed or had withdrawn. By now the Germans were advancing again. Hiding in long grass, knowing that his position was about to be over run Tommy lay motionless. The sharp prod from a German bayonet in the back of his neck made him realise that his fighting days were over. Tommy was now a Prisoner of War. As he was led captive through the German lines he was jeered at by the enemy. Tommy recalls proudly giving the Churchill V sign. He feared execution but the German officer who had captured him stepped in and saved his life. He was fed and treated kindly by some, hated by others. He was advised that the Germans expected to be in London within two weeks. His reply to this was "*perhaps in the Tower of London*".

Setting off with his captors for the inevitable interrogation, firstly on a bicycle and then made to walk he asked for a drink and was given a welcoming bottle of lemonade. His interrogators wanted to know where he landed and what the strength of British and Commonwealth artillery forces were. Tommy of course knew nothing. The interrogation ended with him being told "*typical British, know everything, but know nothing*".

Very soon he was joined by hundreds of other prisoners. They were herded from place to place but were treated kindly by German Nuns. Belgian civilians risked their lives throwing bread to the captured soldiers. "*It was a period of survival, trying to*

get enough food to live", Tommy sadly recalled. They were eventually imprisoned sixty men to a cattle truck.

The train headed in sweltering heat towards Berlin. In stations they passed through they asked German civilians for water. He recalls it being thrown in their faces. Men were dying of starvation and dysentery in the appalling conditions. After two days and nights the train stopped at Thorn in Poland where they were ordered off the train. They lived on meagre rations. There were no cigarettes or Red Cross parcels. He was soon moved to a farm village called Wossitz 18km from Danzig. Here he had to work on farms and repair roads.

In 1943 he recollects German soldiers scanning the skyline. The allies were bombing Danzig. The prisoners were made to pay for this, especially when a school was hit - his face was regularly spat upon. Many months later the German soldiers and civilians learned that the Russian Army were advancing towards Danzig. The 1500 prisoners were assembled in April 1945. Deep snow lay on the ground and it was minus thirty degrees centigrade. Now began a historic march covering over a thousand kilometres. It was every man for himself trying to survive, begging, stealing and scrounging food. Under escort they covered 26km a day for five weeks, resting on Sundays and sleeping in barns and open fields. It was bitterly cold. Tommy was spotted by a German soldier stealing some milk. He was severely beaten with the butt of a rifle. They were fed three "*pig potatoes*" each and one small loaf (between five) per day. The march ended near Hamburg. Here they were marshalled into railway sidings and slept in cattle trucks. Their job was to clear up the mess from bombing raids.

US planes were attacking the railways so they wrote P.O.W. in large letters on the truck roofs and even laid themselves in patterns on the ground to read the same. Sometimes it worked, others it didn't. Tommy during one raid, moved to the other end of his truck just before it was hit. A "*blue on blue*" incident followed with one of his colleagues suffering a mortal injury.

The allies attacked an ammunition train which was heading for the German front lines. Some while later the ammunition train exploded. The following day Tommy and the other lads had to go and clear up the mess. Death was all around them. Much to their surprise the small kitchen on the train where food to the Germans was prepared was still partly intact and burning. Amongst the carnage they found a quantity of black and burnt potatoes. On these they gorged themselves. Back at the sidings the P.O.W.s and their guards were suddenly aware that they were surrounded by the US Army. He recalls they were nearly all black soldiers. "*You can imagine the joy, we were all tired and weary but the adrenaline soon flowed*", recalls Tommy. The US officers, guns to hand wanted to know where the Germans had gone and what they were like. Most treated the P.O.W. well. The one that attacked Tommy with his rifle butt was captured and shot.

The British were armed again and were deployed to round up all the Germans. Tommy recalls the pleasure in capturing and searching Generals and other senior officers. On May 4th the round up of Germans was completed. It was time to leave. But how? The Americans promised to arrange transport and told Tommy and his colleagues not to leave on foot. No one trusted the approaching Russian Army and they all feared for their safety again. Trucks eventually arrived and they headed towards Luneberg where there was a large SS Barracks. News soon arrived that transport was available to take them to waiting planes at an airport 50km away. The trucks were full. Tommy had to cling onto the outside whilst standing on the running board. At the airport they had to turn a Dakota into the wind ready for take off. Not a memorable way to travel home after being away so long - sitting cramped on the floor for a three hour flight. One soldier had "*acquired*" a German despatch rider's motorcycle, he intended bringing this on the plane too. Squashed thirty-six to a plane it had to stay behind. Tommy recalls thinking that the plane was not even going to clear the hedgerows and

trees on take off. However, it did and they eventually landed at Wing Airport near Leyton Buzzard. He was deloused and got a train to London. It was VE Day. From London he travelled to Dorking. He got off the train onto a near deserted platform. Two local people stood there, one the porter the other a Mr Glanfield said "It's Tommy isn't it, God bless you". Five years had passed. He was now thirty years of age and no one knew he was coming home to Brockham. He walked to the roundabout carrying his kit. A car stopped and gave him a lift. He had a ride to the top of Brockham Lane and set off again on foot. At the end of Kiln Lane he was aware of something happening on the village green. As he got onto the bridge and rounded the corner he realised that VE Day celebrations were taking place. He just wanted to get home and tried to walk unnoticed. He was spotted by a group of girls. A shout went up "Tommy Marshall's home". He was smothered in kisses and lipstick and offered drinks and invited to light the bonfire on the green. He declined, his sister who was in the pub, the Royal Oak, flung her drink and glass in the air as she rushed through the excited crowd to meet him. He was led onto the village hall steps where the crowd could all see him. A motorbike and sidecar was summoned and Tommy with seven or eight others all climbed on. He was on his way home to see his Mum and Dad. At home there was much crying and hugging. He remembers his Mother made him an egg and milk pudding.

Tommy Marshall was home.

John Sears' War

"I joined the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry at the age of twenty for six months compulsory training as a shilling-a-day militia man. I was transferred to 1/7th Queens Royal Regiment (Signals) at the end of October 1939 at Milborne Port as L/Cpl. Inspected by HM King George VI in March 1940 (in the pouring rain, see photo in Clandon museum) 1/7th Queens, then joined the British Expeditionary Force to France and Belgium.

I arrived back in England in May 1940 via Dunkirk, then spent three months in hospital and convalescing. In July 1940 I was transferred to D Company 2/6th Queens as Corporal at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey. From there we went to Minster where we put in two mock attacks on Eastchurch aerodrome, at the same time there were two real air attacks from the Germans. Then on to Swalebridge and under canvas in bitter cold and snow. After about four months in Selling, we went to Wood of Pan where I was promoted to Sergeant. A few weeks in Hamstreet saw me transferred to the mortar platoon followed by further training in Ipswich and Long Melford.

On my 24th birthday, 24th August 1942, we boarded *MV Franconia* for service abroad. We called at Freetown and Capetown, disembarking at Bombay for a short stay at Deolali, re-embarking at Bombay on the *Rajula* and sailing for Basra. Next, to Kirkuk, by rail, where we trained as part of the Persian and Iraq forces for several months. I then took part in the longest journey by an army from Kirkuk to Enfidaville on a Matchless 350 motorcycle, over 3,000 miles and was my backside sore! At Enfidaville we went straight into a short battle. I particularly remember being under a stonk of Nebelwerfers (moaning minnies) which was not pleasant. Soon afterwards the enemy surrendered and we returned to Tripoli to train for the invasion of Salerno.

The crossing to Salerno was very rough. On arrival, as Mortar Platoon Sgt under Lt Jack Frost, who was made rifle co-commander after a few days. I took over command of the mortar platoon. Two detachments fired mortars from the right flank of Hill 210, where there was a large gap to the nearest troops. We fought our way through Italy across the rivers Volturno and Garigliano to Mt Camino and the Defensa Feature where the mortar platoon was on a carrying party to a forward rifle company, which stayed under cover during the day and patrolled at night. On one particular night the password was "Lucky Strike", a brand of American cigarettes. On the return journey, smothered in mud, and exhausted, after wading the river

in the pouring rain, we reached the top of the riverbank and a voice came out of the darkness "Lucky" and a Cockney next to me told him just how lucky we were in unprintable language. The voice from the darkness was a soldier from the Ox and Bucks. He rammed a round up the breech and I quickly answered "Strike. What an unfortunate password! We returned to Naples to support the bridgehead at Anzio.

Who will ever forget Anzio. Certainly no one who ever fought there. I was aboard one of the two landing ship tanks which rescued the 200 survivors from the cruiser *HMS Penelope*. It was a dreadful sight with the men struggling in the thick oily water. On accompanying the survivors to Naples, I was issued with new uniforms before returning to Anzio. At this time Lt A C Row was in charge of the mortar platoon. He was mortally wounded at Anzio. When I resumed command of the mortar platoon, I went forward with Sgt Blomley, the cartoonist, to an observation post on the Ox and Bucks frontage where I ranged onto six targets. We fired 1100 rounds of mortar bombs in three days, as a consequence I was congratulated by Brigadier L O Lyne who said "*Enemy surrendering, complained of the mortar fire*". After Anzio the 2/6th Queens had a lovely interlude on the Island of Vis. Then to Egypt to re-equip, where I spent a month in Heliopolis hospital near Cairo.

On returning to Italy we were near Rome for a few days. I wished to visit Rome, so I wrote my own leave pass and on it I forged Capt (now Brig.) G B Curtis' signature. I met Brig. G B Curtis (Author of *Salerno Remembered*) at the 2/6th Queens Reunion fifty years later and told him what I had done. The Brigadier now has a copy of "that" pass.

I went back into battle in the Gothic Line at Croce and Gemmano, finally going into an attack with B Company at Savignano, where Major Campbell was mortally wounded a yard or two from me. I was one of three survivors of Company Headquarters and taken prisoner on 28th September 1944. I was taken to POW camp VIIA in Moosburg and 383 Nuremberg. I was released by the Americans on 1st May 1945 after a march of 300 miles. I was flown to France in a DC3, then, courtesy of a Lancaster bomber bomb-bay to England. I was released from the Army on the 1st April 1946 after almost seven years of service and I must say I enjoyed most of it. There might be one or two errors, the memory gets rusty after fifty years.

JS

The Boche or 'Nipper'

In September 1940 the German invasion was expected at any time. By this time 1/6th Surreys had gone into Brigade Reserve at Lavant House near Chichester. We were supposed to remain in camp at all times. However, one Sunday evening John Strode and I decided that we would not be strictly absent if we had a quick bicycle ride into Chichester for a quick pint at the Dolphin Hotel - our favourite haunt. We were just finishing our drink when the air raid siren went. The landlord, an ex Army man had a strict rule that all must remain in the pub until the all clear. John and I had to decide to obey this and face the wrath of Colonel 'Nipper'. The solution was clear. Face the Germans rather than the 'Nipper'. We quietly made our way through the hotel to the cellar and then with great difficulty climbed up the chute down which the barrels of beer were delivered. Raising the lid carefully whilst John supported my legs I took a quick shufti to see if the coast was clear, and then hauled John up. A quick bogwheel back to Lavant just in time to get with the platoon as Charles Barham came round.

A few nights later a bomb did fall on Lavant Park. Searching for survivors we found our cook missing. Thinking him a victim we were about to give up hope when plaintive cries were heard from the top of a tree. The unfortunate cook had been blown there minus his pyjamas. Otherwise unscathed. Language unprintable.

RSNM

Panheel Revisited

The last action in which the 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment took part was the successful capture of the Panheel Lock in the Province of Limburgh in Southern Holland on the 14th November 1944.



The Panheel Lock, captured by the 1/7th Queen's

To commemorate this, a group of former members of the Regiment attended official celebrations on the 4th and 5th May 1995, at the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. J.J.M. Simons, and the Aldermen of the local municipality, Gemeente Heel. On the first day all military and civilian victims of World War II were remembered and on the second, the 50th Anniversary of Dutch Liberation Day was celebrated.



The warmth of the reception, the efficiency of the arrangements made by the Organising Committee at Heel (led by Mr. Chris Clout) and the wide range of the activities, surpassed the expectations of the visitors. Furthermore, the excellent organisation by Peter McArthur ensured that the arrangements in the UK went with military precision.

The first day's activities included a visit to the lock, now much altered by the widening of the canal and the construction of a second lock. The object of the battle, in which one officer and five men were killed and six officers and twenty-five men wounded, was to support a major operation to clear the West bank of the River Maas by the 53rd Welsh Division and 51st Highland Division. It was essential to secure the lock gates to prevent any sudden alteration in the water level in the canal, over which pontoon bridges were to be placed. It was very interesting for the veterans to learn of the experiences of those on the other side of the canal who remembered the battle and whose liberation had been deferred for many weeks.

Wreaths were laid at the well kept War Cemetery at Nederweert. The graves of members of the Regiment, who had died in a number of actions in Holland, were visited. The day ended with a church service and a procession, led by a band, through Heel

to a memorial in memory of two resistance workers. Wreaths were laid with due ceremony.

In brilliant sunshine the following morning, the regimental guests were seated with the mayor and dignitaries in front of the Town Hall and witnessed an impressive parade of three bands, rifle drill in historical costumes and traditional flag waving demonstrations. The parade ended with speeches and the presentation to the Mayor of commemorative plaques in English and Dutch by Roy Lugg, who commanded the Company which led the attack. The municipality then hosted a very convivial lunch and the guests spent the afternoon at various functions meeting local citizens. Throughout the visit, the guests were billeted with private families, who treated them royally.

The fourteen visitors were James Allen, Ted Bussey, Roy A. Lugg, Peter L. McArthur (with the Battalion 1939/41), John McArthur, Mr and Mrs George Mathis, Mr and Mrs W. Murfitt, Bill Pitman, Dennis Summers, Mr and Mrs Joe Wadge and Rex Wingfield (1/6th Queen's).

The visit originated from a conversation two years ago when John McArthur, who lives in Hong Kong, was visited by his Dutch nephew, Rutger Buddingh. A private tour of the area was discussed, but subsequently an extract from the Regimental History was sent to Rutger's father, who forwarded it to the municipality. Peter McArthur was asked to liaise with Chris Clout in making the arrangements. The result was a memorable visit which generated a lot of goodwill, which hopefully will be long lasting.

PLMcA

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St Valery Association 2/6th Surreys

On May 8th members of the 2/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, St Valery Association pictured at the Royal British Legion HQ Richmond, Surrey, where they held a dinner to celebrate the V.E. Day Anniversary.

After a speech from the President, Major J A Thomson MC TD, members, their wives and guests enjoyed a very happy social evening, all made possible by the hard work of the Treasurer, Mrs Kay Williams and her committee.



CW

Fond Memories

Your publication of the booklet on Stoughton Barracks awoke so many memories. In 1956, on commissioning, I became Assistant Adjutant to Alan Jones whilst awaiting the return of 1 Queens from Malaya, having been held up by the Suez crisis. The CO was David Lloyd Owen, Training Company Commander Charles Rodger, and training subalterns Brian Farris and George Redfern, the latter having taken over from Mike Doyle who was still in residence before becoming ADC to GOC Eastern Command, Lieutenant-Colonel (very retired) Joe Bathgate was PRI etc. Jimmy Kemp was QM and the RSM was "Copper" Kettle. Three sprogs were temporarily lodging - John Silley, Robin Rattle and me.

Casting my now failing memory back, the chief amongst events was a major Guest Night. Four elderly retired officers Brigadier-General More-Molyneux-Longbourne, Brigadier Pickering, Colonel Nobby Clarke and Joe Bathgate were celebrating the winning of the All India Polo Cup in 1924. The Bishop of Guildford was the chief guest. After a scintillating dinner, that impressive but frightful hunk of silver "The Flying Tits", with the rampant mermaids as handles was filled with champagne. It should have been passed from officer to officer to drink to the winning of the Polo Cup. Unfortunately, the passage of years had resulted in a certain decrepitude and inability to hold the cup. It was therefore decided by the Depot Commander that the cup be replaced in the centre of the table and that the aged, victorious Polo Team should lap champagne by crawling on to the table. History does not, to my memory, record what the Bishop of Guildford thought of this demonstration of Regimental esprit, except that, gaiters and all he joined in. The evening gathered pace and as the junior ensign I was despatched to arouse the Mess Colour Sergeant, Larry Larcombe, who lived above the Canadian Moose, to produce more champagne. Magnums were found and, after initial protest, Larry Larcombe was heard reluctantly to announce that this was "*more like the old days in India*".

On another occasion, I recall Colonel Joe Bathgate, who was an expert on pink gin, sitting on the bum-warmer having summoned the waiter by bell. The new waiter - Pte. Rodmell, later Corporal in the Mortar Platoon, arrived. Joe ordered a "*large pink gin*" to which Rodmell responded "*Do you mean a double sir?*" Joe Bathgate went the colour of sloe gin: "*Boy*" he said "*In an officers mess you have large drinks and small drinks - and I always have large ones*". Yet again, with Colonel Joe at lunchtime. He was sitting on the bum-warmer without a drink in his hand. The Commanding Officer asked him what he would like, to which Joe replied "*A beer, I've been craving a beer ever since I woke this morning. What's wrong with me, Doctor?*" The Doctor, a dour Scot, Alex Smellie (pronounced Smiley), replied with aplomb,: "*Without examining you Colonel, I couldn't say for sure, but it is indubitably something to do with your sexual desire*". Whereupon Joe changed his mind and reverted to the usual large pink gin!

Those were the days of the Generation Gap - much favoured by all generations! But the most revered of all my early experiences was when dear Joe said to me before lunch one day in his office "*I think the time has come, Tim, for you to call me Joe*". I said "*Thank you Joe*" I never called him "*Joe*" again but loved him all the more for having told me that I could!

Those were the days!

TLT

2/7th Queen's "Victory" Lunch

A number of members of 2/7th Queen's with wives lunched in style at Jesus College, Cambridge on Tuesday 13th June 1995 to mark the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Italy. Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam, who served with the Battalion throughout the War and was in command from 3rd September 1944 - The Gothic Line - presided. The date of the lunch coincided with a visit to England by Captain George Oats and his wife. George was one of the South African officers who volunteered from the



Left to Right: John Mills, David Blum, Edward Dudley, Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam, George Oats, Mrs Oats.

U.D.F. and joined 169 (Queens) Brigade in October 1943. Arrangements for the lunch were made by Major Alan (Sandy) Sanders at the invitation of John Mills, who hosted the occasion in his College. John is an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College, and the lunch was supervised by David Cockram, the Butler of the College, who within The Queen's Regiment will be remembered as a member of The Queen's Own Buffs and then 2nd Queens. 24 sat down to the lunch.

JWS

Old Contemptible

Mr P Moren has sent the photo below taken on leave during the First World War. His Father, Private Albert Moren served with the 2nd Bn The Queen's in B Company. The battalion were part of 22nd Inf. Bde a unit of the 7th Division. Mr Moren has recently researched his Father's service at the PRO Kew. He writes "*I noticed an article in the Times recently suggesting that there are only eleven Old Contemptibles still alive. The accuracy of this statement must be questionable, but they must now be very few*". Albert Moren is still alive, living in a nursing home, and we have three other old soldiers from the First World War still soldiering on.



Editors note: An article on Albert Moren's service will appear in the May Newsletter.

Memorial Seat

The memorial seat to the memory of WO1 (BM) E Manley The East Surrey Regiment and his wife has now been returned to its original position in the Light House Court at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. After the last Founders Day several friends of In-Pensioner Sam Dickason went to view the seat but sadly it had been moved. Sam Dickason then went to see various officers and he now reports that the seat has been moved back and will be restained and polished in the spring. Old Surrey readers will recall that Bandmaster Manley died as a prisoner of war in Japan.

LETTERS



J Jeffrey writes:-

I was delighted to see the letter on page 40 from C.Smith of 2/5th Bn., I was M.T.Sgt. of 2/5th and if memory serves me aright (and these days it does not always do that !!), "Smithy" was driving the Signal Platoon truck, and would have been located at Battalion H.Q., which would have made him an obvious candidate for the arduous task of portering up Monte Camino.

The photograph taken in Venice was, if I remember correctly, taken in the railway marshalling yard, or somewhere similar. Bob Attwell (centre, front row) was M.T.O., I am on Bob's right. We all marvelled that after a long and difficult campaign, our best battle dress turned up in such a wearable condition!! Bob Attwell, who lives in Cranleigh, and I are regular attenders at our excellent OMA dinners in Sandfield Terrace Drill-Hall, where I first joined the 2/5th in 1939.

There were about a dozen of the 2/5th at this year's dinner, and C.S.M. John Dunkley, C.S.M. Arthur Steadman and I have every intention of attending the Cathedral Service on June 11th.

A W V Domoney writes:-

Once again the Newsletter has proved to be the medium where by all ranks have made contributions of great interest. It must be gratifying to you to know of the success of your efforts over the years and I am delighted that you will still be operating as Editor of the Newsletter.

I was born into the Regiment 80 years ago and, like my father, have the greatest pride in having served in it. The Association keeps me in touch and although the obituary column reminds me of many fellow service men, there are still a few left to tell of their experiences. Long may you enjoy your semi retirement you have earned the respect of all ranks.

Don Papworth writes from India:-

I write this in reference to John Sheppard's letter in the last Newsletter, page 38, and his most kind and considerate request to the regiment on my behalf in regard to Kohima 1994. I, in fact, did nothing and very sincerely regret my inability to get a permit to be there on the day. More particularly as I had written of being there in a private capacity. To avoid misunderstanding I would like to explain that I have received letters from those of 1st Queen's who took part at Kohima, and many other battles

before and later in the campaign, and to say I am more than grateful for their interest and appreciation to The Assam Rifles.

As a matter of interest the second senior regiment of the line in the Army was honoured by The Assam Rifles one of the most senior regiments, albeit paramilitary, in the Indian Army. I have to qualify the seniormost as they were raised in 1835 as the "Cachar Levy". Sorry about that, but still Indian Army and senior. Thought I had better write to acknowledge the kindness of all and especially John Sheppard who has unfailingly been in touch all these years.

With best wishes on your retirement - nevertheless you will be with us still as Editor of this excellent Newsletter and, no doubt, awaiting my retroactive advice in previous correspondence on Royal divorce and winning wars!!

L Fish writes from Ontario Canada:-

My visit, the second, to Clandon House to meet former members of 1st East Surreys was the handiwork of Len Wood MM, a section leader in my platoon.

Almost a year ago, Len had come across, "The History of the Ontario Rifle Association", which I had written in 1973, and realized we had been in the same platoon. Len tenaciously tracked me down over a period of six months. His first letter came like a bolt from the blue; the beginning of a stream of trans-Atlantic correspondence and telephone calls. The culmination came at Heathrow airport where Len and I were reunited after more than fifty years. That was followed by an assembly at Clandon House where I met Daphne and Peter Hill, Anson Squires, Tony Ramsey, John Woodhouse and Bill Attewell. Shortly after, we also met Frank Gage and Tony Moody.

What a memorable reunion! The unique kinship of men who have fought together and survived is truly unparalleled. Len Wood and his delightful wife, Wanda, made us supremely welcome, with treatment and consideration fit for royalty. I cannot begin to thank them for such hospitality. So, that gives you some idea of events on my recent trip to England and Clandon House, how it was initiated and how tremendously rewarding it was.

D (Busty) Howe writes from Hemel Hempstead:-

In the current edition of the Association Newsletter it was an extra joy to turn the page and see three old service buddies staring back at you - I refer to the three former sergeants of The East Surrey Regimental Band.

I was a contemporary of these three gentlemen when we were all 'common' bandsmen under the direction of Bandmaster Cyril Harriott. The naming of the three was not far out: they were "Ginger" Hunter of clarinet fame, "Tomo" Thompson, who during our Greek days was affectionately known as 'So Tired' - yes, he was originally involved in maritime gunnery hence the Atlantic Star, but we considered him a fair bass player. Finally, Ron Horne (Flute & Violin) and answered to the name of "Porky", he went on to become a Bandmaster after passing through Kneller Hall.

The burning question is "where are they now?" Members of the wartime and post war bands of The East Surrey Regiment are a very elusive lot. I would be very pleased to hear from any of them or to hear any news/information about them. Contact telephone No. 01442 - 213085.

L G Barnard writes:-

I was very pleased to read the letter in the May edition of the Newsletter, on page 16 from Mr T Nolan, and the photo of his signals platoon. I never knew Mr Nolan but I recognise at least four faces who were in my rifle company prior to them joining H.Q. company and the signals, and I am sure I can put a name to two of them.

F W Perchard writes:-

My father, former Lance Corporal 6080476 William F. Perchard 1st Battalion, Queens Royal Regiment (West Surrey) 1922 to 1930, is now in his 91st year. He is a widower and lives alone in his flat at 32, Ellen House, Clarendon Road, Hove, where he looks after himself in a most capable manner. Recently he was standing outside the Co-op in Hove when he was approached by an elderly gentleman who had spotted his Regimental tie. Despite his suspect eyesight, Dad identified him as former Lieut. Bottomley, who was his Company Commander in Hong Kong in 1924! Furthermore, these two old soldiers between them named the entire Battalion football team of that year, which included my father, whose name Mr. Bottomley also remembered! I think this encounter and feat of memory is worthy of note.

In 1986, on the occasion of my parents' Wedding Anniversary, the Association very kindly sent him a Regimental tie and lapel badge, and I have to tell you that he never appears on the streets without wearing these two items (and he still gets about a lot). He is a very proud old soldier. He was a little confused at the first amalgamation and when the new Queens Regiment marched through Hove he couldn't understand why the band wasn't playing 'Braganza'. Now this second amalgamation has confused him even more. He tells me that he would very much like one of the new cap badges to go in his memorabilia file. Would this be at all possible? If it is he would be delighted and I would be very grateful.

A H Whitmarsh writes from Hatfield:-

I was recruited into The East Surrey Regiment (No.6145557) on the 15th February 1940 at Kingston Barracks and was released on 13th May 1946. Due to war wounds I lost all contact with the regiment on 4th January 1944, in the Northern Appenines. Recently however, I acquired a book entitled "My God, Soldiers" which gives some details of the journey made by the Eighth Army from Alamein to Vienna which includes the "East Surreys".

This has made me want to find out more - not only about what happened after I had left them but more about the regiment, and its history which goes back to India.

L Richards writes from Exeter:-

I remember, Fred Parkyn, G Johnson and myself trying to buy a chicken from a French lady at, I believe, "Neuvalais" France. Fred who had a speech hesitation and used the word "like" when in difficulty, did the talking. Although he knew the French word for egg, he knew no others. He started to flap his elbows and said you, you, know, like, like, oeuf's mother. Of course the lady did not know what he was talking about. In the end I think we got the chicken! I know Fred has gone on but I often wonder about George and if he survived the war. I would like to know if there is any way I could find out?

Editors note: If any reader knows of the present whereabouts of G Johnson please write c/o RHQ PWRR, Canterbury

K A Honeyman writes from Romford Essex:-

I have enclosed an old programme of 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment Victory Dinner, as you can see the entertainment, as well as the band was a cabaret called 'Jerboa Follies', these are the young ladies in question shown on page 20 of the May 1995 Newsletter. I did not see their show as I was called away in the middle of dinner. I have also enclosed a menu and ticket of Guildford's public welcome to the 1/5th Queen's when we came back to England from Italy.

F J Potticary writes from Addlestone, Surrey:-

With the help of the book, 'Salerno Remembered', I was able to recall some officers' names. I have only one funny story as

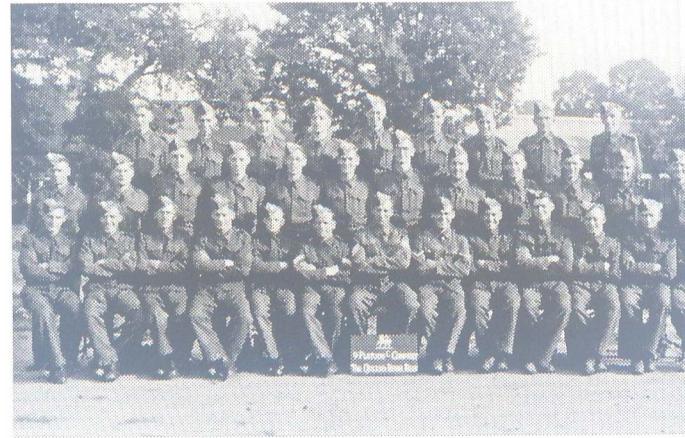
I can remember. We were mounting Bn HQ Guard in Dover Castle in 1940, when a sudden thick fog descended on us just as the Orderly Sergeant said open order march, for inspection, the rear rank disappeared completely and we had to hunt around to find them, the order was given to march off, we couldn't see a darned thing, what a shambles that was, but eventually we found the guard room at the main gate. I am leaving England on 14th of October for N.Z to live in Rotorua. My address will be 3/50 James Street, Rotorua, NZ.

R Gates writes:-

In the recent Newsletter W Oliver mentioned his father and this revived memories of 55 years ago, when in June 1940, I was 'called up' and with 30 others formed No. 9 Platoon, E company at Queen's camp Guildford.

The platoon sergeant was Tom Oliver with Cpl Clain and L/Cpl Brody as the other NCO's. With their training and Tom's cheerful personality it was not many weeks before we were transferred into a smart platoon, in friendly rivalry with Nos. 7 and 8, all under the eagle eye of RSM Tasker.

In the enclosed photograph I can remember several names - Davy, Jefferies, Jones, Leighfield, Lewis, McKie, Mills, Nightingale, Parker, Peacock and Crossman.



I believe the latter must be the Private Crossman mentioned in the article on the Medenine Gun in Newsletter No. 53. I am the tallest in the photo, standing behind Sergeant Oliver. Shortly after the photograph was taken we dispersed in several directions but Tom Oliver had by then instilled in us pride to be Queen's men. As a surveyman, born at Faversham, I was privileged to serve in both county regiments as I ended the war with 1st Bn, East Surreys in Italy.

Finally, may I add my good wishes to the tributes paid to you in the current Newsletter. It is good to hear you have agreed to continue as Editor, ensuring the present high quality will be maintained.

F Watson writes:-

I am enclosing a few old cuttings and photos which you may find of interest and perhaps some could go in the museum (one day I hope to visit) or if not perhaps in the Journal. Especially those of the New Cathedral at Kohima, apparently its on the site of the famous Tennis Court.

I communicate annually around Xmas with the Bishop and have donated towards its cost. I am sure members who remember that locality would be interested. As a point of interest I have just finished reading "No Ordinary Man" by John Cohen.

At last I have learnt what our battle plans were in taking Kohima - in fact 'B' Company got a mention under the then Major Lowry. Our objective in the first instance was "Jail Hill". 18 of us "stood to" the first night, 28 the second. I was also with Pte Easton



when his action won him the MM. What a pity no mention was made of the amusing incident a day or two later when 2nd in command Lt Col Grimston was having a look around and got fired at by a sniper - took cover diving in a nearby trench - the latrine! I won't repeat what was said.

At present I am not making any arrangements for attending any commemorations - but would like to hear of any that are made. I have very mixed views. But I think both theatres should be as one in August. Perhaps we are

once again the forgotten ones. We must have lost hundreds between May and August 1945.

Pat Cummins writes:-

Thank you so much for the May edition of your Newsletter which I read with considerable interest particularly the article on Kohima. I recall seeing the Queen's pinned down by small arms and mortar fire and it was obvious that they were in deep trouble and suffering casualties. What I was doing at the time and where I was I cannot remember but I would guess that I was acting as a FOO probably on Punjab Ridge.

My regiment was in action from day one to the end of the Kohima conflict and called upon for supporting fire both day and night. There were so many incidents and so many demands on the guns that I couldn't absorb it all at the time and fifty years on it is even more difficult to remember although I have found books on the siege most enlightening. It may be of interest to you to learn that Major Roger Richards, the son of Brigadier Richards who commanded the Kohima Garrison, lives in Cheltenham and has in his possession his father's personal notes, reports and documents associated with his command. I had access to them for several days and was fascinated to read what actually went on outside my own experience. I have been an active member of the Cheltenham Branch of SSAFA for the past ten years and note the excellent co-operation which exists between SSAFA and your Association.

Mrs Penny James writes:-

I should like to say how delighted I was to be made an Hon-member of the Regimental Association. Everyone has always been welcoming and supportive to me but the Hon-membership makes me feel thoroughly "accepted". Please would you convey my gratitude and pleasure to Brigadier Doyle and the other officials and members of the Regimental Association Committee whose support I value greatly.

Jack Parkinson writes:-

Thank you for sending me the November 94 Queen's Newsletter. What a splendid publication that is and I'm sure you are proud of your work. It's passed around my chaps and they read it avidly. Lots of the personalities mentioned are known - however slightly - to us, as we (particularly 268 Bty) operated closely with the Queen's of 169 Brigade.

We were sorry to note the passing of Lt Col Graham Abbott who was the last CO of our 57th Regiment. He was a pre-war TA officer of 5th Bn. East Surreys, and remained with 57th

Regiment after the conversion to RA in Nov 1938. Curiously enough, in 67th Regiment a similar set of circumstances occurred with Lt Col R E H Hadingham ("Buzzer" Hadingham of Wimbledon Tennis fame), who was also a pre-war TA officer, and ended up as the last CO of 67th Regiment.

Thank you also for sending me my membership card of The Queen's Surreys Association. I am very proud to be a member, through our little Associations connection via our forebears.

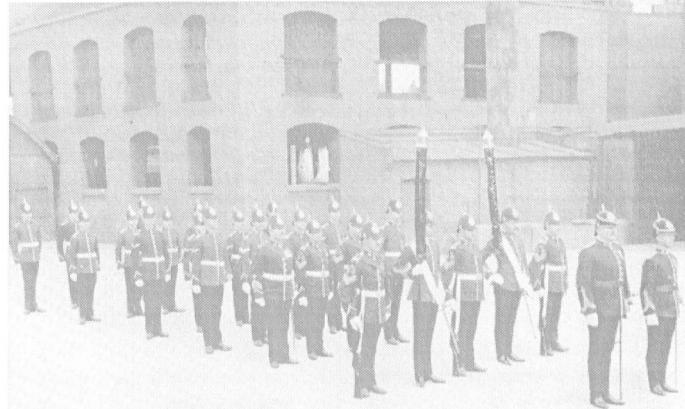
With kind regards and good wishes

Jack Parkinson is the Hon Sec of 57th/67th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment RA Old Comrades Association.

A E Nye writes:-

I served with 4th Queen's for a short period before joining the Royal Air Force. I enclose a copy of the photograph of which I spoke to one of your staff when I made a most enjoyable first visit to your admirable museum last weekend. To cap a very happy visit, I watched Surrey beat Gloucester at the Oval next day - albeit in fancy pyjamas!

My father C/Sgt J C Nye, appears on the right of the front rank in the photo, the original of which was annotated in his handwriting - "Colour Party, 19 June 1909 - Lord Rodney in Command" I do not know the occasion, but I believe the colour guard was provided by 2/24 London Regiment (The Queen's) from which my father was detached to the Volunteer Service Company with the 2nd Battalion during the Boer War - to which he always referred as "*The Second South African Campaign*".



The Colours and the Colour party. This photograph was taken outside the Drill Hall in the yard at Nev (now Braganza) Street after the return of the Colours and the Colour party from Windsor Castle where King Edward VII had presented the Colours on 19 June 1909. The Colour party was dressed in scarlet; this was one of the earliest occasions on which it was worn. Those present include: Front rank: Lieutenant Colonel Lord Rodney (the Commanding Officer) and Major G A Buxton Carr (on extreme right) who commanded the Colour party at Windsor Castle. Second rank: Colour Sergeant W J B Nye; Second Lieutenant J T Harley; Colour Sergeant A R Tutt; Second Lieutenant H L F B Nadaud and Colour Sergeant P Clark.

During his time in South Africa, my father completed a scouting course under Col Baden-Powell, recently relieved from Mafeking, and returned to the Battalion wearing slouch hat, and, on his arm, a silver fleur-de-lys. He was allowed to keep the latter, but was marched off parade to be issued with 'proper soldiers headgear'. He was very proud of this and the fact that the Regiment never lost a prisoner to the Boers, and, despite an army order allowing beards to be worn so as to conserve water "we never did so" "you might die of thirst" the colonel is reputed to have said, "but you'll die properly shaven"!

Discharge papers and warrant of 12/9/21 refer to the 2/24 Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's), but former also lists 2/22 London Regiment as "*units in which previously served*". You will know, of course, that this became the 6th Battalion but might not be aware that their nickname was the "Bermondsey Bloodworms".

B F Keogh writes from New Zealand:-

I was very pleased to receive the May issue of the excellent Newsletter, I look forward to each issue.

I was sad to read of the passing of my very good friends Leo Duncan and Harry Drayton. My wife and I spent three happy days with Leo in Ipswich on our last visit to U.K. in 1989 and also spent some time with Harry at his home in Luton. I was also interested to hear of Roy Kalinski, Sid Pilch, Tom Major and George Dibley all of whom I served with in 1 Queen's.

I keep in very good health although I have spent the last 6 months in and out of hospital recovering from complications to a gunshot wound with compound fractures of my left tibia and fibula (this has been mostly trouble free for 51 years) received in September 1944 while serving with 1/7th Queen's at St. Pol on the Belgium frontier.

My wife and I have lived in New Zealand for the last 43 years and find it a great country with nice people and a lovely lifestyle. We are looking forward to visiting U.K. in 1996 and meanwhile I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my former comrades of The Queen's Royal Regiment all the very best. Kind regards to you.

A F Chambers writes:-

Thank you again for sending me the Newsletter. In this issue for May is a photo of the officers with the 1st Bn at Bangkok, January 1946. In the back row is as stated Capt Ford who was promoted to Major and was my company commander with D Coy. I recognised most of them.

Talking of Bangkok it is fifty years ago next month when we moved there into part of Chalalongkorn University. D Coy had a spell on outstations at Jap POW camps, screening them and also we had a spell at Bangkok Gaol guarding Jap prisoners. Most of the time it was guard duties, drilling and sports. I remember having a weeks holiday at the seaside with the company. Each company had a week there one at a time under canvas. I can't remember the name of the place but it was lovely, the sea, the sandy beach and the palm trees. I remember seeing the hundreds of little red crabs running about. The battalion completed a year in Bangkok and then moved on to Malaya (I think the place was called Sungei Patani) under canvas in a disused and what was left of an airfield.

Whilst here I met a school pal of mine who was then with the R.E.M.E. stationed nearby he was a warrant officer, so we went out a couple of evenings and had a beer and measure of roasted salted peanuts. Like me he came home alright and still lives here in the village. I still have my Jap officer's sword here beside me which was given to me by the battalion when I came home, it annoys my sister, the times I've heard "you want to get rid of that boy, you don't know how many heads that has chopped off". When my father first saw it when I came home he said "what ever have you brought that home for, still I suppose you can cut hedges with it!" Well will close now. Kindest regards to you all.

Bill Goff writes from Horsham:-

I thought that this photo may be of interest to our readers as a friend of mine was spending a holiday at Battapaglia I asked him to give this area a look. I explained to him the scene on that day when the 2/7th Queens were involved with Pugliano, Tarello, (page 80 in "Salerno Remembered") I can remember getting to the start line at night, only to be told the attack on Tarello was off. Then the next morning back again to the same area. D Coy under Major Hugh Scammell were going to take Tarello, 18 platoon were up on the terraces, another platoon across the road and the other in the village, I was with 18 platoon overlooking the road and village, later in the day, we saw the

tank come round the corner followed by a half track full of Germans. The centre span of the bridge had been blown so the tank stopped some way back and began to shoot up Pugliano.



My friend says the tower of the church has been renewed and Tarello hasn't changed much, but there is a new hotel by the bridge, this is where 18 platoon were positioned. I am sure the lads of D Coy will remember this site. The tobacco factory in Battapaglia is now flats. The Cemetery is well looked after at Salerno. - Hoping this will be of some interest.

L D Brown writes:-



I enclose my cheque, payment for my Newsletter which I greatly enjoy. I wanted to let you know about my visit back to Cassino last October, which was very moving for me, I was accompanied by my wife, youngest daughter and her husband. We were very impressed by the Cemetery at Cassino and met the men who look after it. I found the graves of my mates, who lost their lives on the night of 11th/12th May, also the grave of Major Maggs. Our company commander was Major Plaistow "a great man". I have in my possession the battalion casualty list from 11th to 18th May, I was then a Corporal and lost several of my mates, killed or wounded on the River crossing, including my L/Cpl (wounded) Brazier, we were in the assault on Point 36, which we took and held! We were then in the fighting up through Italy as far as Florence, then switched to the Adriatic side and went as far as Foley. Then we were sent to Greece with the battalion and I was demobbed in 1946. While at Cassino we visited the Abbey and the Rapido River where we made the crossing, we had a most helpful and nice taxi driver.

Don Papworth sent the enclosed newspaper cutting from The Statesman of India 100 years ago

As the river at Agra is infested just now with crocodiles and huge turtles, it is suggested that Private Peterson, of the East Surrey Regiment, who plunged into the river from the Taj, must have fallen a prey to them. Privates Poynter, Hibbert, and Sweeney, who accompanied Peterson, declare they were so much the worse for liquor that they remember nothing. The search for Peterson's body has so far proved ineffectual.

Richard Woolcott alias Joe Lancaster writes:-

During a recent visit to England, I had the pleasure of being introduced to the regimental Museum at Clandon. Viewing the many artefacts and photographs brought back countless memories of places and faces I used to know when I served with The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1946-1959.

I joined the 2nd Bn The Queen's as a bandboy in 1946, at the age of fourteen, and was soon after posted to Japan. It was a short stay of only four months before we were sent home again. 1948 saw us with the regiment in Dortmund and then to Berlin in June of that year. (I have just read of the death of Col Hart-Dyke in the overseas Telegraph, he was commanding officer at that time). I vividly remember the Trooping of the Colour and the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Seeing those same colours at Clandon reminded me of watching one of the colours officers desperately trying not to let the colour fall during a bout of obvious faintness. 1949-1953 saw Iserlohn as our home and then on to Singapore until 1957. My last two years were spent back in Iserlohn. In 1958 the battalion won the BAOR hockey cup and then competed for the Army cup in Aldershot. In 1959 despite the efforts of Lt Col David Lloyd-Owen, Major John Davidson and the bandmaster Mr Lyons I transferred to Civvy Street. For the last twenty five years I have been living in Canada, and where I have recently retired from the teaching profession.

I would like to become a member of the Regimental Association and to receive the Newsletter. Could you please supply me with further details. One of the staff at Clandon gave me an old Newsletter dated Nov 1994. I saw a photograph of Eric Lockwood. Eric and I were on boy service together. I still have a photograph of the two of us together in the Berlin Olympic Stadium 1948. Could you please give him my regards if you have any contact with him.

I have enclosed some copies of some of the old photos I collected during my days with the Queen's. I have written a short description on the back and given names where I could remember. Since leaving the regiment I have changed my name. When I left I was Sgt. Joe Lancaster and now it is Richard Woolcott. I expect there will be someone who remembers me.

Thank you for your help.

Toby Sewell writes:-

A very fond memory of Fergus Ling was how he marked the news of his DSO, I think outside his dug-out at Tac HQ near the lateral road at Anzio. As IO of 2/7th I was with my CO Dave Baynes on a liaison visit, and we were entertained to champagne (probably actually Asti Spumante, which would have been equally as difficult to get hold of) and then how no-one dived for cover when we heard one of "Anzio Annie's" 240 mm shells thundering in our direction - it would have been impolite and inelegant for the host to have become prone before his guests, and the guests felt they couldn't move unless the host did - anyway too the "champagne" might have been spilt. It was the first lovely day of spring too, and Fergus made it a delightful social interlude. *

Tommy Atkins writes:-

I noticed that in your covering letter, you mention Major Jock Haswell. Is this the same Major Haswell who was Company Commander of the Training Company, No 2 Primary Training Centre, Stoughton Barracks 1946 - 1948? If so, then I was his Colour Sergeant at the time. The late Charlie Cronk MM was his Company Sergeant Major.

I wonder, does he remember a very special accolade that he received from the then Quartermaster at the time of the closure of No 2 Primary Training Centre, Major Bill Watford. The accolade was for the Company Commander's excellent 'Hand-over' of all stores, equipment, barrack room furniture,

etc, with no deficiencies. To have received an accolade from any QUARTERMASTER would indeed be an honour, but to have received it from Bill Watford was indeed worthy, for he was known for not being too generous with such accolades.

I made the mistake on one occasion on returning a discharged man's clothing to the stores, Major Bill Watford was present at the time, so he inspected the clothing for serviceability. One pair of socks had a hole in them he asked me had I made the man pay for this pair of socks, I replied I had not, and my reason was, "*well sir, the socks have been well worn and wouldn't be used or issued to any one else, holes or not*". "*Not the point*" was the Quartermasters response, "*You Colour Sergeant will be invited to pay for these socks*". I offered to take the socks away and have them darned and this must have touched his tender side, and he relented on the invitation to pay.

Needless to say, that I was on alert everytime I had dealings with the Quartermasters, after that I always took special precautions to see that all stores were returned with no deficiencies, I won't go into details on how that was accomplished, but the motto was, if you see any thing left unattended, take it into safe custody. The late Dick Merritt said to me on becoming his Colour Sergeant way back in 1943, "*Colour Sergeant, welcome to the Company, the bigger the rogue you are in the interest of the Company the better I will like you but don't get caught*", enough said!

If this is the same Major Haswell, please will you send him my kindest regards.

Editors note: Quartermasters' do not have a gentle side!

The British Battalion - Kampar remembered

Mr Chye Kooi Loong, the author of 'The British Battalion Malaya 1941-42' has written to say he has been interviewed by two lecturers from the (Malaysian) National University in Kuala Lumpur. As a result he has been invited to give a lecture to their History Department. Furthermore, two officers from the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College (MAFSC) in Kuala Lumpur will be going to inspect the Battle of Kampar sites as a prelude to a series of talks on the main battles in the Malaya campaign, firstly to the Staff College in Kuala Lumpur and later to various divisional headquarters.

MAFSC intimated that the Battle of Kampar was the best fought battle in the Green Ridge as a historical site. At Mr Chye's instigation, the CO of the Royal Malay Regiment stationed 12 miles away at Tapah has promised to send some platoons to clean up the area and to remove the scrub and undergrowth. Lt Col Hasny, a graduate of the Staff College Camberley is taking a personal interest in the project.

Readers will recall that after severe casualties incurred during the first ten days of action in the North of Malaya, the depleted ranks of the 2nd Bn East Surrey and the 1st Bn Leicestershire Regiments combined at Ipoh on December 20 1941 to form **The British Battalion**.

The main road to Singapore passed through steep slopes at Kampar, 24 miles to the south of Ipoh, and formed a natural defensible position. Here the British and Indian Troops, although heavily out-numbered by the crack Japanese 5th Hiroshima Division, held firm for four days from December 28 to January 1, 1942 against continuous assaults. Withdrawal was ordered only after infiltration by sea-borne troops threatened to cut off their retreat.

Mr Chye is rated as one of the leading Malaysian war historians.

The British Battalion Malaya 1941-1942

PS: Anyone wishing to acquire a copy of Mr Chye Kooi Loong's book "The British Battalion Malaya 1941-1942" (HB 206 pages with 29 coloured maps and diagrams) cost £21 including P&P should contact Harold Ruoff, tel. 01992-622350.

VE Service - Guildford Cathedral

The Service of Thanksgiving and VE Day Commemoration organised by the Surrey County Council under the Chairmanship of Mrs Cecilia Gerrard DL took place at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, 7th May, supported by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and the Commander of the Deepcut Military Garrison. A large congregation filled the Cathedral to capacity. Processions included senior members of Civic and Military bodies accompanied by Standard Bearers of The Royal British Legion and other relative organisations. Two minutes silence, heralded by military trumpeters, was observed and the sermon was preached by The Lord Bishop of Guildford.

Afterwards a military parade took place outside the Cathedral, followed by tea on the lawn. Among the crowds were seen Queen's men Doug Mitchell, Ron May and George Peake who was with his wife Mary. Present in the Cathedral and active in organisation was Eric Saunders.

The event was blessed with warm weather and brilliant sunshine - much of which was reflected on the glittering medals and decorations of war veterans.

RF

VJ Day Commemoration Service

A Service of Thanksgiving for peace-commemorating the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day and the final cessation of hostilities at the end of the Second World War was held at Guildford Cathedral on the morning of Sunday, 20th August under the auspices of the Chairman of the Surrey County Council, Mrs Cecilia Gerrard DL, together with The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral in association with Mr R.E. Swabey, Chairman of the Royal British Legion (Surrey County).

As at the VE Celebrations, the Cathedral was packed to capacity, many bemedalled veterans being among the congregation. Senior members of civic bodies were present. Processions included standard bearers of the Royal British Legion and other relative organisations. The sermon was preached by the Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend A.G. Wedderspoon. Two minutes silence was kept with Last Post and Reveille being played beautifully by a musician of The Inns of Court Yeomanry. The service ended with the Kohima Epitaph being recited by Mr W.J. Knight, National Assistant Secretary of the Burma Star Association.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say For your tomorrow we gave our today".

Afterwards to the music of the Army Cadets Band, a parade took place outside the Cathedral followed by refreshments on the lawn. Seen among those present were Colonel Tony Ward, Lieutenant Colonel Foster Herd, Doug Mitchell and Stan Blay.

R.F.

Annual Church Service

The Regimental Association Annual Church Service took place at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 11th June. The unusually dull weather did not mar the brilliance of the occasion as bemedalled members gathered and renewed old acquaintances and comradeships.

The Dean of Guildford, The Very Reverend Alex Wedderspoon, MA, BD, welcomed not only the Regimental Association but also members of the Old Contemptibles Association and the Guildford Branch of The Royal British Legion whose national President, Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton KCB was present with Lady Dalton. Particular mention was made of the attendance of Chelsea Pensioners. In-Pensioners Whiting, Jock Henderson

MM and John Kershaw, all of The Queen's, were accompanied by two Pensioners who proudly were Old Contemptibles. Choral effects in the service were enhanced by the presence of the visiting Reading University singers. The Lesson (Luke 7, 1 - 10) was read by Brigadier M J Doyle MBE, President of the Association.

In his address the Very Reverend Alex Wedderspoon, Dean of Guildford, spoke of the heroism of those who served in two World Wars. Speaking of the First World War he said that soldiers described by the Kaiser as "that contemptible little army" had "stopped in its tracks" the forces of German aggression. Quoting from Jock Haswell's "History of The Queen's" he told of early battles of the war where, after Mons and the Marne, the effective strength of the 1st Bn The Queen's had been reduced to 2 Corporals, 3 Lance Corporals and 27 men. By the same time the 2nd Battalion had suffered 676 casualties. Continuing, he said that commemorative of those times, the Guildford Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association had planted an oak tree in 1949 in the grounds of the then unfinished Cathedral. The tree, now well grown and standing beside the completed Cathedral which had been consecrated in 1961, was to be subject of a scroll to be dedicated in the course of the service.

Of the Second World War the Dean spoke of the sacrifices and heroism of Dunkirk, the Middle East, the Far East and Europe. Referring to the question, so often asked nowadays, of "was it all worth it?" he said that we need look no further than the ashes of 6 million Jewish men, women and children who died in concentration camps for our answer. With the approach of the VJ Day Anniversary, and speaking of those who served in the Far East, he quoted the words on the Kohima memorial

*When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.*

Reminding the congregation that the purpose of the service was both remembrance and thanks the Dean concluded with a final quotation from Martin Gilbert in his book about the Second World War:-

"He who forgets history is condemned to re-live it".

This year's service was prestigious in that it was held on the day when Brigadier M J Doyle MBE and Colonel W E McConnell TD retired as President and Chairman of the Association respectively to be succeeded by Brigadier R W Aeworth CBE and Colonel P R H Thompson OBE TD DL. As has been previously commented, it is not many Regiments that hand over their duties in a cathedral. After the service many members made their way to the refectory for refreshments and a few final words together before departing, some for home and some for Clandon Park.

RF



The Italy Star Association 1943-45

Here is another update on our activities during the past year. Despite sad losses of many comrades who have passed on, our recruiting drive has helped to maintain a figure of 1500 members, with over 36 members of The Queen's Royal Regiment enrolled. In May last, we saw the First Anniversary of the dedication of our memorial in the Westgate Gardens, Canterbury, which was marked with a service, attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Canterbury. Over 150 members made the journey to attend.

Our Annual Parade and luncheon this year was also held in May, this time our Northern branch at Tyne and Wear hosted and laid on a marvellous event. Those of us from the south enjoyed three days of 'Geordie' hospitality and the week-end was attended by 250 members.

Our annual trip abroad this year was part pilgrimage and part holiday for the lady members who support us so well during the year. Our destination was Austria with two day trips to Northern Italy, Venice and Trieste and the Commonwealth Cemetery at Udine. Our numbers were smaller this year - only 26 were able to make the trip which lasted 12 days. We were based in Feldkirchen, a small town near Villach. Several members had spent time in Austria after the war finished and were pleased to revisit. Villach, Klagenfurt, Spittal an Drau, the famous Groslocken Pass, Worther See and other famous lakes. At Klagenfurt we held a wreath laying ceremony at the Commonwealth War Cemetery. Our hotel in Feldkirchen - the 'Germann' was absolutely first class and we were made most welcome by all the Austrian people we met in this small but interesting town. The local tourist officer visited us one evening to pay his respects and to thank us on behalf of the Austrian people for the British participation in the liberation of his country. He presented us with a bottle of local brandy which was soon consumed!

Our visit to the Commonwealth Cemetery at Udine was most moving. Amongst the graves we found that of Johnny Rose who was the 2/7th Queen's C.O.'s driver, (then Lt Col M E M MacWilliam). Johnny was known to several of us in the party, which included Ron Field, Alf Morris, Ralph Braham - all from 2/7th Queen's. This particular day was dull and wet and reflected the sombre event we were taking part in.

Our visit to Venice was particularly memorable for myself and Ron Field. We sought out the exact spot in St Marks Square where we had been photographed in May 1945 and as we stood there, the years seemed to fall away. The four of us shown on the attached original photo Lt to Rt are Graham Swain, Ron Field, "Curley Collett", "Chippy Woods", all from the 2/7th Queen's Signal Platoon. We can't recall the names of the two onlookers! Can anyone help? Sadly, "Curley Collett" is no longer with us, but I kept in touch with him for many years. The second photo is myself and Ron Field '50 years on'. We did fancy a trip in a gondola but it was too expensive. As one member remarked - someone has to pay for the mobile phone which every gondolier seemed to have. Our trip along the Grand Canal in the water-bus had to do instead, but it was most enjoyable.



Trieste, which was our next day visit found Ron Field and myself tramping round the streets looking for the school which had been our billet for some time in 1945. After quite a search - it's surprising how memory can play tricks, we found the school and were duly photographed standing on the steps.

After the battalion was disbanded in 1945, Ron Field was posted to the Allied Information Service, and operated from a lock-up garage near the Railway Station. This was located without any difficulty and photographs taken. The Miramare dance hall, the site of the guarded car park at Piazza Del'Unita, the old NAAFI building were all located. The hills leading to Opicina will be familiar to all 2/7th Queen's men who read this. The tram still runs up the hill and it really gave us a thrill to locate those places from the past. Returning to Austria via Grado (remember the swimming parties?) past Castle Miramare ended a day of nostalgia for us. We returned to the U.K. with some regret - we had enjoyed marvellous hospitality from the Austrian people and dipped into a font of memories, for some, sadly realizing that this may well be the last time they could undertake such a strenuous journey - some 3000 miles in 12 days.

The Association is open for membership to any holder of the Italy Star Campaign Medal and our aims are to maintain that spirit of comradeship which existed in the war years, to hold an annual reunion and parade, to further support the descendants of fallen comrades, and to promote a true history of the Italian campaign. These are now all over the country as well as New Zealand together with 19 East Surreys and several Buffs and Royal West Kents. The National Secretary is Graham Swain (2/7th Bn Queen's Royal Regt) 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants. BH25 5EN. 01425 614884. Do join us.

GS.

The British Red Cross POW Reunion

The Surrey Branch of The British Red Cross held a reunion for ex-POW's on 5th August 1995 at their Conference Centre, Barnett Hill near Guildford.



Stan Raynor went along and to his delight he met nine Surreys at the reunion. Among those pictured with Stan are Rex Bessell, Glwyn Davies, Reg Drive and Jack Shuttle. Readers will recall that both Stan Raynor and Jack Shuttle have written books on their war time experiences.



Benevolence

Printed below are extracts from letters received. Some of the letters are from charity workers working for The Royal British Legion, SSAFA etc. Readers are reminded that if they know of a comrade or widow requiring help please contact your nearest RBL - SSAFA or FHS. The telephone numbers can be found in the BT telephone book.

If in doubt contact the Hon Sec at Canterbury.

— ooo —

I wish to send my most sincere thanks for the grant of £400.00 which you have sent to me through the War Pensions Welfare Department towards the cost of installation of a downstairs toilet in my home. The work has now been completed and what a relief it is for me not to have to go dashing upstairs all out of breath in emergencies. Again many thanks.

— ooo —

I am writing this letter to thank you for the generous cheque for the amount of £300.00 to help towards my outstanding debts. Also thank you for the booklet on the history of the Regiment. It makes a man feel proud to have been a member of such an old and illustrious Regiment.

— ooo —

It is with regret that I inform you of the death of Mrs A who died in her sleep this morning. Your generous assistance in paying her telephone and her lifeline bills gave her great peace of mind. The subsequent annual grants eased considerably, the worry of paying household expenses, from a limited income. Mrs A was a cheerfully independant lady, who really appreciated all you did for her. She told me on my last social visit that the help you gave had made her last few years so much easier to bear. I derived much pleasure in assisting and visiting this lady, and she spoke with pride, of her husband's service with The Queen's Royal Regiment. May I add my own thanks to you, for the help you gave.

— ooo —

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your Committee for the kind gift you allocated to me through S.S.A.F.A. Due to recent ill-health I lost a great deal of weight and, as a Senior Citizen, I was not able financially to purchase a new 'wardrobe'. Your Association's kindness has resolved this problem for me. I have read the Newsletter that you sent me and I must say that I found it very interesting reading. It brought back a lot of memories, both good and bad! I look forward to the next issue arriving!

In closing may I once again express my gratitude for the Association's kindness, it really was appreciated.

— ooo —

On behalf of the Royal British Legion and all concerned, I would like to express our grateful thanks for the very generous grant made by The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association towards the nursing home fees for the above. This has been much appreciated by all concerned. Thank you.

— ooo —

I am sorry that I am rather late in writing to you, but I do feel that it is my duty to do so, to thank you and all members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association for sending me the grant. My wife and I cannot thank you and all members enough for this very kind act. The RBL did say they were writing to you on our behalf, but we did not expect anything like your donation, we still cannot really believe it. Yourselves and the Royal British Legion have really done us proud, please accept our most sincere thanks, we will never forget this.

— ooo —

Another year has passed and once again I'm saying Thank you, the wheelchair has had a couple of hiccups, which have been

sorted out, but I am eternally grateful to you, as this chair is my lifeline. Unfortunately my husband Alan had an operation for an implant on his left eye, which went wrong, and it has taken us some while to get it corrected, fortunately this has now been done but he has had to be registered as partially sighted. Once again my most grateful thanks to you and your Association.

— ooo —

I wish to thank the Regiment very much indeed for the help in getting a telephone installed at my home also SSAFA for arranging to contact the Association. My wife has been having treatment for mental illness the last seven months and to save cost etc., the hospital prefer one to go in twice a week and have a nurse call once a week. This means close contact with the hospital and social services who suggested a telephone especially for emergencies, your help is greatly appreciated. Having been retired for ten years one's funds get low, especially when illness strikes. I have always been proud of my old Regiment and even more so when help of this kind is given. I was rather saddened when I heard of the amalgamation of the regiments but to me its The Queen's Royal Regiment which I enjoyed serving with from 1937-1948. Very many thanks to you all.

— ooo —

Thank you for your letter and grant. I was taken aback by the quickness of your reply and I am afraid tears came to my eyes to know that the Association had come to my aid. Thank you for every thing once more.

Berlin 1945



To the victors the glory: 1/5th Queen's, Victory Parade Berlin 1945.

Indiscretion

Capt John Hancocks, the Adjutant of 2 Queen's stayed back in Dortmund when the battalion moved to Berlin in June 1948 and I stood in as acting Adjutant until such time as John Hancocks rejoined. The Officers Mess and accommodation were a little way from the Olympic Stadium where the battalion were based. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col East, lived in Mess and on this particular morning I had seen him set off for the office. In an attempt to arrive before him I set off on a spare bicycle that was propped against the wall and entered the Stadium at the second level. The oval shaped Stadium had a wide walkway behind the seating at each level. On this particular morning three events combined to cause an unmitigated disaster. Firstly, the Commanding Officer and I had both entered the Stadium at the same level - secondly, we were going in the opposite direction to each other and thirdly, we met - forcibly, on a corner. For those who knew Colonel Lance will know that he had an arthritic hip and having been knocked over he needed help to get to his feet. Not a word was said by him and a deep feeling of fear and dread set in on my part. The Commanding Officer's office was in what had been Hitler's retiring room - a long (40 feet plus) narrow room with a marble desk on a raised platform at one end. The bell rang to summon me and in I went. Not a word was said about the recent collision and the subject was on an entirely different matter - and it was not mentioned again until some forty years later.

Rupert Goes Colonial

I am not sure what started it. One moment I thought it would be a good idea to go off and serve with a 'foreign' army, the next moment the approved application was returned saying that I could choose between Sierra Leone or Jamaica. Now I ask you - is that a difficult decision to make. Of course not; I did not even know where Sierra Leone was and I had heard plenty of good tales about the Caribbean. But before I could send the form back some evil minded friends persuaded me to have a party. At the party a coin was tossed which would decide my destination. It was a very stupid idea to which no sensible mortal would ever have agreed.

My luggage labels said that I had a Stateroom aboard the *SS Calabar* bound for Freetown, Sierra Leone from Tilbury. As usual the travel industry had gone a tad over the top with their description of my accommodation. The stateroom turned out to be the top bunk of a kennel sized cabin with a fan that refused to fan. But the two weeks cruise passed pleasantly and it was not long before I could smell the amazing variety of scents wafting towards the ship from Freetown itself. All too soon I was standing in front of Lt Col 'Fuzzy' Sanderson KOSB and trying to stutter my way through his first awkward question. "What made you choose Sierra Leone?" I couldn't very well say "Because it came down Heads." But for the life of me I couldn't think of a plausible tale. It was easier to develop a violent coughing fit.

I was kitted out in Slouch Hat with a Green and Black hackle (now part of Dover museum hat display!), khaki shirt and shorts and some electric blue stockings - very fetching. Life settled down and all was going well until the German Navy came into sight, paying a courtesy visit with their ship the *Hipper*. I was detailed to entertain a party of 20. I took this seriously and organised a full afternoon of shooting and sporting competitions finishing up with a barbecue on the beach. At the end of the afternoon the German Officers were most insistent that I and a lady friend should come to their party that evening aboard *Hipper*. I explained that this was out of the question. Firstly the party was only for the Glitterati of Freetown and secondly, I would not be able to find a partner and change into mess kit etc. without being extremely late. They insisted.

We arrived at the docks well over an hour and a half late for the appointed party. We approached the gangway with its attendant sentries and banks of flowers. As we ascended, I explained to my lady friend that the party would be at the other end of the ship but that at the top of the gangway we would be received by the officer of the watch. I would be required to return the salute and pay compliments to the ship. When we reached the top, things were not quite as I had imagined. Six sailors were either side of the gangplank and then there was a petty officer, the officer of the watch and at least three other officers. I had forgotten that foreign officers boarding a 'Man O' War' get the full treatment. I was piped on board. As I stood to attention and saluted the quarter deck, the next horror hit me with a very nasty jolt indeed.

The party was not at the other end of the ship. It was within feet of where I was standing. Furthermore it was evident that the assembled crowd of dignitaries thought that the twittering of the pipes signalled the departure of the Governor General, Sir Henry Lightfoot-Boston. There was silence and all heads turned towards the gangway to see, as they thought, His Excellency depart. All they saw was a pink faced young officer standing at the salute wishing that "Abandon Ship!" be implemented immediately.

The following day I received a letter delivered by hand. It was from the Brigadier. It read: "If in future an invitation necessitates you arriving after His Excellency The Governor General, The Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet, your own Commanding Officer and not to mention myself, would you kindly refuse such invitations."

It was signed R D Blackie, Brigadier SLMF

Leaving Sierra Leone, again by boat, was a memorable and tearful occasion. As the last lines dropped from the ship, six buglers from The Royal Sierra Leone Regiment suddenly appeared on the Quay side and sounded the 'Hausa Farewell.' Alone, with a great lump in my throat, I stood at the ship's rail and acknowledged this most moving tribute. Sierra Leone faded astern.

We docked in Liverpool on a typically grey cold day. The customs man handed me a clipboard to read. "Anything to declare?" "Apart from two cameras, I have a snake. Here are the relevant health certificates." He asked me to show him the snake. I opened the large bag in which Charlie, a royal python, was coiled. As daylight entered his hiding place Charlie decided to have a look at his new surroundings and rose slowly out of his lair. The customs man leapt about seven feet vertically. "Jeez, the bloody thing is alive. Put it back! Close it up! Shut it!" He also lost all interest in my cameras when told that Charlie was on top of them. Why he should think that I would have health certificates for a stuffed snake mystified me.

Regimental Headquarters was not amused when I said that I would very much like to go to the Trucial Oman Scouts. It was pointed out that I stood no chance of going on a second secondment. What they did not know was that I had found the little office in the MOD where two charming retired officers looked after all secondment postings.

My first few minutes with the TOS were a little disappointing. Having passed my Arabic language exam I was now keen to use my new skill. An officer was talking to one of the mess staff, I moved closer to listen in to their conversation. It was dreadful, I could not understand a word. It was to be several days before I realised that they had been speaking Urdu! Feeling just a mite dispirited I went off to be kitted out in yet another strange uniform. This time a red shemagh headdress, blue muzri shirt worn outside a pair of cord slacks and then a pair of sandals which would have made a Roman Centurion feel quite at home. I was finding it difficult to put on the shemagh and get the headropes to sit straight. They kept falling down round my eyes. "What on earth do you think you look like. I thought I trained you better than this! Grief! You must have been sent to haunt me." It was RQMS Les Wilson. Good to see a friendly face. At least, I suppose it was friendly.??

There were some very strange characters in the TOS. They were professional eccentrics. The deputy commander Lt Col Rodney Green slept in a tree. Major Ian Craig-Adams rode around in a large leather arm chair that was installed in the back of a Dodge Power Wagon. Major Richard Dinning would sometimes walk from the Depot to Sharja, about six hours across the desert. He said it was healthier than using the Landrover. And on exercises Major Ken Wilson would switch off all his radios. He and his Squadron would disappear into the desert for days at a time. It drove the HQ Staff into paroxysms of fury. Capt John Gouriet smuggled a Peregrine falcon on board the aircraft taking him home on leave. When they were safely airborne and at about 20,000ft John was to be seen sitting in his seat with the falcon happily perched on his wrist. The senior air hostess had a fit and informed John, in no uncertain language that he was not allowed to bring a bird on board. John looked duly humbled "So sorry, if you open a window I'll bung it out."

Two years passed all too quickly. I enjoyed the life, the people and the space. But the regiment was calling and saying that I should join them as soon as possible in Münster after I had attended a course in Bordon, to learn all about the FV432 armoured personnel carrier. Armed with my new driving qualification and chitty to say that I could test others I arrived back with the 1st Battalion. It was good to see many old friends. On the way to meet my new Company Commander I decided to make a courtesy call on the RSM. "I thought I left you safely

in the desert. What have I done to deserve this?" etc. etc His voice was still as quiet, his manner still as shy as ever. But it was good to see that the Battalion was in good hands. RSM Les Wilson made me feel that I really was home.

The company was commanded by Major Geoffrey Strong. To get to his office you turned left inside the main door went past the Company Office and then CSM Bert Quickenden's office. Well, you did that if you were mentally retarded. Sane people went straight ahead, up the stairs, along the landing, down the back stairs and then to the OC's Office. To pass CSM Quickenden's office was to invite dramatic and dreadful changes to your lifestyle. So all day long there would be a continuous trail of soldiers, NCO's and young officers tramping up the stairs and along the landing. Bert was without doubt the most intimidating thing that the British Army has ever produced.

Geoffrey Strong was away running or lifting weights and I was deputed to lead the company in a night approach exercise. I led the company through the German night. It was a complicated route over some difficult terrain. One of the junior officers became convinced that we were lost. He made his way forward with the idea of putting me right. Bert intercepted him. "*Get back to your platoon Sir! Now! If the Company Commander says we are not lost then we are not lost. How dare you Sir!*" Exit ashen faced platoon commander. Later when we had safely reached our destination on time, I chatted with Bert and learnt of his great interest and knowledge of the Napoleonic campaigns. The rain started to fall as dawn came up over our position. It was freezing cold as well as wet. "*I think it's time to go and do a little internal recruiting Sir.*" I, like many others, had become a great fan of CSM Quickenden. He tolerated but one standard - the best.

It was quiet by the water's edge. The blackness and the cold enveloped us. We had managed to get the ungainly assault boat down to the edge of the river in near silence. Now heads were bowed, the breathing was deep and laboured, but the effort had not been in vain, we had reached our positions by the river without being detected by the enemy on the far side. Final preparations were being made with whispered instructions being passed from man to man. Occasionally a flare from behind the far bank would arc its way up into the night sky. All movement would cease on the instant, even though faces were blackened, all would be turned down to avoid reflection and save night vision. The instant the flare sputtered out, the action would start up. We were nearly ready to start the trickiest part - the crossing. The river was about two hundred yards wide with a fairly strong current. We would have to make a large allowance for this, since our motive power was paddles. Our only hope of success lay in silence and surprise. A paddle banged against the side of a boat and all would be lost.

The last checks of men and equipment were completed. It was always wise to carry out this check slowly and carefully, if only to avoid the awful mountain of paper work and enquiries at the end of the exercise if something special went missing. All was set. The order went down the line of eight boats '*Launch.*' In the blackness the shapes of the near boats could just be seen as they were inched carefully into the water and then writhing bodies slipped over the sides to take up their paddling positions. Just before they set off, another flare arched through the blackness, fired by an enemy probing the night for any sign of life. A hundred paddlers instantly froze and sank below the gunwales. Then came the whispered order '*Paddle!*'

A moment after the boats set off into the darkness, the reality of the current hit them; it was stronger than they had expected. To get maximum purchase on the paddles several men had to half stand up and adjust their positions. It must have been during one of these manoeuvres that the trouble started. A big lad was getting into a better position when the force of the current in the centre of the river struck and caused the boat to lurch. In trying

to regain his balance quickly, he spun round and grabbed the man behind him. But in doing so his paddle hit the ear and the rifle of the man in front. In the silence of the night the splash of the falling rifle sounded much louder than you would have imagined. It was followed by the rather squeaky voice of the platoon commander "*What was that?*" "*My rifle Sir*" he hoarsely whispered "*its fallen in the water*".

"*KEEERHHST, Y O U - S T U P I D - S I L L Y - S O D!!!*" All reason had deserted the platoon commander. All he could see was a never ending vista of Boards of Enquiry, Himalayan ranges of paperwork and cascades of rebukes from high above. The Army is not keen on him who loses a rifle. It is the ultimate in bad form. His voice rose to a shrieking crescendo of abuse. In an instant the sky was alight. Flares and Verey lights poured up into the heavens. And there was daylight. A moment later came the chatter of machine guns and the plop of mortars. The noise was fantastic. It was all over. But through the columns of spray and flashes, you could still see three soldiers trying to hold back their officer who, armed with a paddle was trying to carry out a lobotomy on one of the soldiers. I looked on sympathetically. How well I understood his angst.

Next day saw us deep in the German countryside on the outskirts of a forest. My job was to trundle along in the rear of the company picking up broken down vehicles or stragglers. There was a lull so I, Corporal Shreeve and the driver had a nap on the top of the FV432. All was peace and quiet until something brought me to my senses. Through the shrubbery a Red Hat was advancing on our position. Hastily I kicked the others awake. It is not every day a General pays you a surprise visit in the field. It was none other than Major General Tony White, whom I had last seen when he was my commanding officer in Bury St Edmunds. He had a very flustered ADC in tow. It was not too difficult to see what was up. ADC had got his General well and truly lost but neither was going to admit it. General Tony with his usual charm, suggested that I must be lost and that if I was not, I should prove it by showing him on the map, where I thought my present position was. "*Oh no Sir! I know exactly where we are.*" With that I jabbed a pencil at the map. The ADC was anxiously looking over my shoulder at the indicated position. A few minutes later they left, with a much relieved ADC.

Cpl Shreeve looked at me balefully. "*I don't think that was very kind, Sir. The position you showed them is about 1,500 yards away from our real position.*"

I suppose General Tony worked it out eventually. But then again, I have not seen him since that day. You don't think

Rupert

Discretion

I Queen's, completed their tour in Berlin stationed in Brooke Barracks, Spandau. The barracks was grouped around a square with the entrance/exit gate on one side with the Officers Mess up in one corner above the entrance gates. We had had a very good dining in night and being the Orderly Officer I set off to turn out the quarter guard. As I left the Mess the Commanding Officer- Lt Col Trevor Hart Dyke, got into his staff car, a rather ungainly Humber station wagon, and set off around the remaining three sides of the square toward the gates. As it drew up and waited for the barrier to be raised I was astonished to see the near door of the station wagon being opened and Major "Trottie" Lennon, who always rode the Company bicycle, pushing the bicycle into the rear of the vehicle. This was closely followed by the other door being opened and the Commanding Officer falling out on to the cobbled roadway protesting furiously. I heard the driver being told to drive on and away the vehicle went, out of barracks. I decided that I had more pressing duties other than at the guardroom at that time and I never knew what the outcome of that particular episode was.

PAWGD

5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OMA

5 OMA held their annual reunion dinner on May 13th at Sandfield Terrace, Guildford with a record number of 175 members attending. Harry Gaffori attended for the first time and was delighted to be reunited with his old mate Ron May. Both had commenced their service at Stoughton Barracks and had not seen each other for fifty years. Fred Potticary came from New Zealand and Tudor Davies had made the trip again from Sunderland.



Among the guests was the Mayor of Guildford, Mrs Catherine Cobley accompanied by her husband in one of her first engagements as Mayor. Colonel Amadec Mieville; Deputy Colonel of Surrey The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was invited by the Chairman, Lt Col Foster Herd to say a few words on the Regiment today.

During the year 5 OMA had been invited to send a party to Lille, France to take part in their 50th anniversary of their liberation. To assist the Association the Kent Messenger Group had assisted with a large financial contribution and amongst the guests was Brian Godwin their Promotions Manager. Another distinguished guest was Dr Elliot GM whose brother, Major Russell Elliott was killed at Villers Bocage serving with the battalion shortly after D Day. He was able to talk to men who were in his brothers company (A Company) when his brother was killed. It was a pleasure to see 'Clarrie' Jarman, 99 years young and we look forward to seeing him on many occasions in the future.

Once again thanks were given to O C A Company, Major Mark Whelan and Captain Brian Scripps who do so much for us each year to make our annual dinner such a popular event. Finally a big thank you to Doug Mitchell and his Committee for their hard work during the year and in particular their efforts in arranging another wonderful reunion.

RM

Major Russell Elliott remembered

Colonel Hugh Harris while on holiday recently discovered during conversation that he was talking to the brother of Major Russell Elliott and consequently had the happy idea of bringing Dr John Elliott G.M. to the 5 OMA reunion dinner as his guest. At my request, I was seated next to Dr Elliott so was in the first place able to present him with a photograph of Russell's grave in the War Cemetery at Tilly sur Seules taken in poor light which has been deciphered:

Major Russell Elliott - 1/5th Queen's Royal Regiment - Killed Villers Bocage 19 June 1944 aged 31. "Beyond the immediate future is sunlight joy and happiness".

Subsequently I was able to describe the details of Russell's service in action with the 1/5th as known to me and as to how he was killed.

1/5th Queen's, then part of the 44th Division was given the objective as the first part of the battle of Alamein of crossing a

minefield and establishing a bridgehead on the other side to enable the sappers and the tanks to follow through in due course. Accordingly the "thin red line" formed up - Lt Col Lance East, that gallant regular officer, in the centre just behind Captain Napper who was to lead us on a compass bearing with a lucky lad equipped with wirecutters and gloves.

I was stationed just to the left of Russell, A Coy Commander with my No 7 platoon. We were to keep close behind a creeping barrage of 1000 guns. Some three hours later nearly all of us had achieved the objective and had dug in. We held the position for nearly 24 hours until those of us who had survived intact were given the order to withdraw. In the official history Monty sums up our efforts "*44th Division staged a diversion to the south*".

However I must fill in some of the details of the horror, the chaos and the casualties during those 24 hours.

Of the 1000 guns, one gun was firing short almost eliminating the platoon on my right. There were two formidable fences of barbed wire and on our front only one gap so we had to form an orderly queue and then run to catch up. When daylight came we were heavily mortared causing extensive casualties until presumably the mortars ran out of ammunition. Mid-day 30 Italians of the Folgore Parachute Division surrendered. Later Lt Col East gave the order "*we will withdraw at last light*". Later still Germans were seen gathering and then came on with a rush. They were too late for most of us - one or two of the 'rearguard' mingling with the enemy in the confusion eventually joining the majority in the safety of the tanks.

After Alamein, Russell was promoted to Major and led his Company in the race for Tobruk, the attack on the Mareth line and the "*gallop*" into Tunis and some 250,000 prisoners. Then came the Salerno landing, the crossing of the Volturno and home to England for the D Day landing.

We landed in Normandy without undue incident and then A Coy with tanks and the RHA in close support fought a most successful battle against a Panzer-Grenadier Regiment which advanced in close order across open country in front of us. Divisional intelligence subsequently counted 700 German bodies and the Brigadier sent us a congratulatory message. At last light we were ordered to withdraw - there was no one behind us because of a storm at sea. The Infantry were brought out riding on the tanks and some of them asleep but one or two having to be almost dragged away because of their eagerness to continue to engage the many German targets. A Coy settled down for the night in bocage country just north of Villers Bocage,

Next morning Russell received a visit from Major Burton the acting CO issuing the inspiring order. "*you will hold this position to the last round and the last man*". Major Burton was then driven off posthaste to BHQ where he received a message "*Major*



Elliott has been killed" spontaneously he shouted "*he can't be - I've just been speaking to him*" However it was sad but true.

In the First World War the troops had a saying "*if your number's on it.....*" Russell was sitting on the edge of his slit trench writing a letter on his lap when a solitary shell hit the top of a tree just above him and he was killed immediately by the blast. Several dug in near him were seriously wounded. He was highly thought of by the men he had led for so far and so long.

During the dinner Dr Elliott was reticent about the circumstances in which he was awarded the George Medal. From information I have gleaned he dragged the RAF crew members from a burning plane with complete disregard for his own safety in spite of being injured and deafened by explosions. It was particularly appropriate that we have honoured him on the occasion of the dinner and I was able to give him details of Russell's lengthy service in action with the 1/5th Queen's.

DJW

On Wheels

The photograph in the May Newsletter of disabled patients in wheelchairs at The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home reminds one of how such vehicles have improved in design, construction and power in recent years. Between the wars The Star and Garter Home for Disabled ex Servicemen at Richmond had a detached wing at Sandgate near Folkestone, Kent. Vacated by Star and Garter during the Second World War, the premises later became a Home Office District Police Training Centre. I served there as an Instructor in the 1950s and '60s.

The exit drive was at the bottom of a steep hill leading towards Folkestone. Just inside the gateway was a shed known as "*the donkey shed*". The purpose of this shed during the Home's time had been to house donkeys which were used to pull the disabled patients' wheelchairs up to the top of the hill and then send them on their way along the level road to Folkestone. In my time at the Centre we still had a man working in the gardens who had started his career there as a "*donkey boy*"



No. 6 District Police Training Centre

The Home must have been self supporting to a degree. The grounds contained large vegetable gardens as well as some disused pig-sties. Sadly reminiscent of the original use, there was also a mortuary.

RF

Those were the days

Extract from the London Illustrated News August 4th 1877. Unfortunately the illustrations referred to were missing from the paper. Please note that the spelling of certain words are reproduced exactly as printed in 1877. The Regiments referred to in the text were (1877) known as the following: 13th Light Infantry - First Somersetshire Regiment, 27th - Inniskilling Regiment, 42nd - Royal Highland Regiment, 64th - Second

Staffordshire Regiment, 71st - Glasgow Highland Regiment, 78th - Rossshire Buffs, 79th - Cameron Highlanders, 98th - Prince of Wales's Regiment, 101st - 1st Bengal European Fusiliers, 104th - 2nd Bengal European Fusiliers, 108th - 3rd Madras European Fusiliers.

Troops for the Mediterranean

The Illustrations on our front page show the second battalion of the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment leaving Aldershot, on Thursday week, and going on board the transport-ship *Euphrates* at the Watering Island Jetty in Portsmouth Dockyard. This battalion numbered twenty-four officers, thirty-six sergeants, and 835 rank and file, with seven horses. The men were mostly very young, but had a soldierly appearance. They were in heavy marching order, and each man carried the new pattern valise, mess-can, water-bottle, top coat, and haversack, with the Martini-Henry rifle, and side-arms; but the shako was left behind, and a light Glengarry cap worn instead, to be replaced by a pith helmet at Malta. The troops marched from the Factory Gate through the dockyard in fours but without any music of the band, which had been found to distract the dockyard labourers from their work. An hour or two later came a detachment of the 104th Regiment, from the Curragh, part of which embarked in the *Euphrates*; and the same vessel had already received, on the previous day, about 500 men of the 64th, the 108th, and the 27th Regiments. These troops did not, like the 2nd Regiment, carry their own kits and rifles on board the ship. At seven in the evening, when all the detachments had come on board, the *Euphrates* was towed from the jetty amidst the cheers of assembled spectators, the band playing and troops cheering on her deck. These forces are to join the head-quarters of the 27th and 98th Regiments, forming the garrison of Malta. The transport-ship *Crocodile* also takes out from Portsmouth some draughts from the 104th Regiment, at the Curragh, the 79th Highland Regiment, from Fort George, and the 78th and 71st Regiments, from Edinburgh. These arrived at Portsmouth and embarked in the *Crocodile* the same evening. The *Malabar*, the *Jumna*, and the *Serapis* will convey other detachments of troops.

The strength of the garrison of Malta about ten years ago, before the reduction of our military establishments in the colonies, was eight batteries of Artillery, with an aggregate strength of 805 non-commissioned officers and men; two companies of Royal Engineers numbering 178; six battalions of Infantry, 4232 strong; and the Malta Fencible Artillery, 591; the whole garrison numbering 5854 non-commissioned officers and men. The establishment of the present garrison, including officers, is 5098-viz., Artillery, seven batteries, 1022; Engineers, two companies, 198; Infantry, five battalions, 3440; and the Malta Fencible Artillery, 371. The additions now being made consist of the second battalions of the 2nd Queen's and the 13th Light Infantry, each 902 of all ranks, or 1804 altogether, with draughts as follows:- 195 to the 27th Regiment, 288 to the 42nd, 245 to the 71st, 239 to the 98th, and 231 to the 101st, making the total reinforcements 3002, and bringing the strength of the garrison up to 8100 of all ranks.

The Army established strength, 1995 is 120,000 and we now have 38 battalions!

The Salerno Trophy

Readers who served at Salerno will perhaps be interested to know that each year 6/7th Bn PWRR Sergeants Mess celebrates the Battle Honour. The article below was written by RSM A G Layzell.

My choice of Salerno for a Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess day were manyfold, having been brought up on a diet of Sobraon in 1 Queens I felt that it was important that a Mess has a focal point, a Regimental day of its own.

On the recent amalgamation, Sobraon was to be celebrated by the two regular battalions and not the Territorials. When I was selected for the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of 6/7th PWRR I decided to have Salerno as a Regimental day for the Sergeants Mess. "Salerno", why Salerno? It is a unique battle in many ways, not only were there two Brigades made up from the same Regiment fighting alongside each other but Regiments that were to amalgamate some 50 years later fought together. More importantly for us in the PWRR it was predominantly a Territorial Army Battle Honour. The Salerno Trophy was presented to the Mess by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers, Mr D Alan Foster in 1993 to whom we as a Mess are truly grateful. The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers presented the Battalion with a sword to be presented to the best Subaltern each year. For the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, they initially wished to present a pace stick! However after hearing of my plans to celebrate Salerno it was decided to produce a Sterling silver statuette. With the help of Lt Col Wilson MBE a cast of a sergeant in No 2 Dress carrying a cane was found, and agreed on by myself and the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers. The statuette was duly produced.



I was honoured to be invited to the annual court luncheon of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers in June 1994 to be presented with the Salerno Trophy on behalf of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. The Salerno Trophy is presented each year to the best Senior NCO of that year at the Salerno dinner which is held on or as near as possible to Salerno Day. The selection of the Salerno Sergeant and the conduct of the dinner is on the same lines as that of Sobraon Day. Each year the Mess invites a guest speaker from one of our antecedent Regiments that served at Salerno to give the Mess a short talk on his experiences at Salerno. So far we have invited Brigadier G B Curtis OBE MC and

Wing Commander G A Minigan DCM MM who was a Sgt with the carrier platoon of 5 Royal Hampshire. This year in addition to a guest speaker I intend to invite those In Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea who served at Salerno with our antecedent Regiments.

AGL

Streatham Modern School

In June the Headmaster of this school wrote to the Museum asking if they could have a speaker for their Annual Speech Day and Prizegiving on 11th July. He mentioned that this independent preparatory school for boys aged between three and twelve years had had special permission since 1908 to wear the regimental tie and badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment. This was news to most people though our Assistant Honorary Secretary, taking

it in his stride as usual said he thought he had heard about this special case. Finding no one else to whom the task could be suitably given the undersigned decided that he would take it on and in due course met up with the Headmaster for a preliminary discussion. It transpired that though the boys were curious to know why they wore the 'Paschal Lamb' on their cap and blazer pocket it was the parents who had pressed for some general enlightenment. Unfortunately the early records of the school had been destroyed in the blitz of WW2 but after talking to people and carrying out a little research the background unfolded as follows.

The school was founded in 1908 by Arthur Albert Gunnis. He was born in 1871 and in the late 1890's joined the 3rd Volunteer Battalion The Queen's as a volunteer reservist. In 1908 on formation of the Territorial Force it was retitled 22nd (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's) and he served with them in France in WW1. It is not known at what stage permission was given for regimental colours to be worn and no reference has been found in any regimental archive in the Museum. The school provided special preparation for professional and commercial life. In 1912 school fees ranged from 6 to 9 guineas per annum with special reduction for brothers. Major Gunnis was a special constable during the General Strike of 1926 and a churchwarden in the local church. In WW2 he commanded the area detachment of the Local Defence Volunteers, later renamed The Home Guard and was the Hon. Commandant and Treasurer of the Streatham Division of the Red Cross. He died in September 1957 at the age of 86.

Today there is a high proportion of boys from Asian and West Indian families but I was impressed by their keenness to learn of the Regiment's history. A regimental plaque was presented to the school and a quantity of Museum Guides and brochures handed over. The school is arranging for visits to the Museum after the summer break and at the end of the prizegiving many parents said that it was their intention to come and learn more at the Museum; so it is to be hoped that the link between the Regiment and the school can be renewed and reinforced. Most of the boys go on to Dulwich College, Alleyn's or Emmanuel School. Although there are a number of schools with Cadet Corps who wore our cap badge, I know of no other school that wears the regimental tie and Paschal Lamb of the former Queen's Royal Regiment as part of their school uniform. The present Headmaster and two other members of the teaching staff are the son and daughters of Mr and Mrs Russell Owen who purchased the school from Major Gunnis in the 1920's.

PAWGD

The Pink Column

The Pink Column was presented to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment by Colonel F J Pink CMG, DSO on relinquishing command of the battalion in 1908. The original was badly damaged in Lingfield and a replacement

was commissioned by 1 Queen's, Sergeants Mess whilst serving in Berlin in 1970.



This piece of silver has now been returned to the Museum at Clandon where it is on display in Room 1 case 7. Members who served with 1 Queen's Surreys and 1 Queen's will recall that this piece was 'shot for' annually between the Officers and Sergeants messes. Most of the time it was won by the Sergeants mess!

Golf Society

This year the Society has been celebrating the 65th Anniversary of its formation. It is therefore particularly appropriate that both President Peter Mason and Captain Peter Roupell are sons of Founder Members.

The Spring Meeting was held on Thursday 11 May 1995 at the Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, a venue the Society has used for the past 60 years. The course was in excellent condition, and once again we were blessed with fine weather.

The entry for the meeting was the best for some years, and we were pleased to see a number of new faces amongst the 21 members who participated. We were also delighted that five members who are unable to play joined us for lunch at future meetings.

The AGM was held at the end of the day's play, HP Mason presided, and 19 members attended, apologies being received from 16 members.

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

Challenge Cup	Col JGW Davidson	71
Dodgson Cup	GR Robertson Esq	64 nett
Heales Memorial Trophy	J W Farrar Esq	37 points
Veteran's Halo	Maj L E Penn	46 points
Harry Adcock Trophy (putting)	Lt Col F B Herd	35 putts
PM Greensomes (14 holes)	J W Farrar Esq	24 points
	A W Fuller Esq	

Our thanks to our President, H P Mason for organising the special commemorative prizes for the 65th Anniversary Meeting, and also the memento's presented to all who attended the meeting.

The winners of the society sweep run on the morning round were: **1st** Major F V Shepperd **2nd** Lt Col J Sherrard **3rd** Major R A Green.

Royal Marines Match

The Society match against the Royal Marines Golf Society was played at the North Hants Golf Club on Wednesday 24 May 1995. As always the matches were keenly contested, and at the end of the morning Foursomes the Society went to lunch trailing 3-2. After a congenial lunch we felt confident of reversing the morning result; however this was not to be and in spite of some very close matches the afternoon Greensomes were also lost 3-2.

AM	QRSRGS	RMGS
	Maj Gen G A White	0 Maj Gen P R Kay
	Lt Col PGFM Roupell	Capt D E R Hunt
	Col J W Sewell	0 J Anderton Esq
	M J Power Esq	Sgt M Tayler
	Col J G W Davidson	1 Maj Gen M J P Hunt
	H P Mason esq	R A Humphrey Esq
	Capt B M L Scripps	0 J D Francis Esq
	Maj R A Green	WOII J R Brown
	Lt Col F B Herd	1 Lt J A Cook
	C C Surtees Esq	Capt A B Gordon

PM			
Maj Gen G A White	0	Maj Gen P R Kay	0
C C Surtees Esq		Col S D Smith	
Lt Col PGFM Roupell	0	J Anderton Esq	0
H P Mason Esq		Sgt M Tayler	
Lt Col J G W Davidson	0	Maj Gen M J P Hunt	0
Col J W Sewell		R A Humphrey Esq	
Capt B M L Scripps	1	WOII J R Brown	0
M J Power Esq		Lt J Cook	
Lt Col F B Herd	1	J D Francis Esq	0
Maj R A Green		Capt A B Gordon	

Golfers Diary 1996

9 May 1996 Spring Meeting Richmond Golf Club

21 May 1996 Royal Marines North Hants

2 October 1996 Autumn Meeting

P.J. Carpenter, 1st East Surreys

The little village of Chawton in Hampshire, near the Surrey boundary, was for some years until 1817 the home of authoress Jane Austen, and the house is now a well cared for museum. There is a tablet on the house that reads:

"Jane Austen's Home. Given by Thomas Edward Carpenter JP of Mill Hill in Memory of his son Lieut. Philip John Carpenter, East Surrey Regiment, Killed in Action, Lake Trasimeno, 1944".

Second World War Queen's and Surreys who served in Italy will be well conversant with Lake Trasimeno, situated about half way between Rome and Florence. It is also about half way between the East and West coasts of Italy, and forms an obvious component of any across-Italy defence line. Hannibal ambushed four Roman Legions around the Lake's shores in 217 BC, and the Germans were not slow to see its defensive possibilities.

The 1/6th Surreys reached the corner of the lake in June, 1944, when they tragically lost their Colonel, his Intelligence Officer and Signaller, after the CO's jeep ran over a mine. The 1/6th, with a new Colonel quickly supplied from outside the Battalion, made its move round the south end of the lake where they found themselves serving immediately beside their 1st Battalion. (The 1st being in 11 Brigade, 78 Division, the 1/6th in 10 Brigade, 4 Infantry Division).

Both Battalions had tough jobs during June, 1944, in clearing an area of small farms - "The Battle of Chiusi". Lieutenant Carpenter was killed by mortar fire during an attack on 29th June. His death was to be almost the last casualty for 1st Surreys, 78 Division being withdrawn on 1st July for rest and refit. (From a talk by Mr. John Stevens to The Surrey Military Collectors Society on 8th March 1995. Mr. Stevens spent a month near the Lake with 4th Air Formation Signals July/August 1944. 4th AFS was mainly converted from the North Somerset Yeomanry). The Italian campaigns of 1st and 1/6th Surreys are described in detail in the booklet, "The Surreys in Italy 1943/45" obtainable from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum, Clandon Park.

The Drop in Crime

The bungled execution of "half hanged Maggie" as recounted in the May 1995 issue of the Newsletter was not the only failure of its kind in history.

In February 1885 John Lee mounted the scaffold at Exeter Prison to be hanged for the murder of his employer, Miss Keyes, at Babbacombe. When the lever was pulled the trapdoors failed to operate so Lee was taken off and made to wait while repairs and adjustments were carried out. (Presumably he was in no personal hurry anyway). A second attempt was then made but again resulted in failure so Lee was taken off and returned to his cell. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and he later became famous as "the man they couldn't hang". Many people believed that the failure was due to Divine intervention.

The hangman was James Berry, an ex-Yorkshire policeman, who for many years made himself an honest penny by carrying out executions for the Home Office on a contractual basis. He supplied his own ropes which were measured before and after hangings to thwart the efforts of any souvenir hunters. Kirke's rope chewing soldier at Maggie's execution was obviously not the only one of his kind. With the abolition of capital punishment in later years, and the consequent redundancy of hangmen, ex-policemen had to look elsewhere for jobs. One of them, Richard Ford, became Curator of Clandon Museum.

RF

Regimental Deaths

Anderson - On 1st October 1995, Private A L Anderson, aged 77 years. 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Bateman - On 30th December 1994, Private Eric Bateman, aged 79 years. 2/6th Bn, The East Surrey Regiment.

Campbell - On 5th April 1995, Private George Campbell, aged 73 years. 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Chivers - In July 1995, A Chivers 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Coyle - On 28th February 1995, Corporal R. Coyle, aged 86 years. 1/6th Bn, The East Surrey Regiment and 4th Bn, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Dimond - On 4th May 1995, Company Sergeant Major George William Dimond aged 81 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Greenfield - On 1st September 1995, Private Ted Greenfield, aged 74 years. The East Surrey Regiment and Commandos. He was a founder member of the 2/6th East Surrey St. Valery Association.

Hart-Dyke - In February 1995, Brigadier Trevor Hart-Dyke DSO, aged 90 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Harvey - In October 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Gowland Gaskell (Dick) Harvey DSO, OBE, DL, aged 93 years. The Leicestershire Regiment. Harvey was Second in Command of 1 Leicesters and then The British Battalion in Malaya. He was a POW of the Japanese. He will be remembered as an officer who always did his best for the POW, particularly those who were sick and dying on the Burma - Siam railway.

After retiring from the Army he was Secretary of The Territorial Army for Londonderry Fermanagh and Tyrone. He was closely associated with The Royal British Legion.

James - On 24th August 1995, Major Geoffrey Neville James TD, aged 89 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Jones - In July 1995, J F Jones 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Knight - On 30th June 1995 In-Pensioner D A Knight The Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Lewcock - On 12th September 1995, Private D A Lewcock, aged 72 years. 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. A regular soldier he served in the Sudan, China and Malaya. A Japanese POW he worked on the Burma Siam railway.

Mathis - On 8th August 1995, Lance Corporal G. A. Mathis, aged 75 years. 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Mitchell - On 14th September 1995, Major Philip Dale Mitchell OBE TD, aged 78 years. The East Surrey Regiment. Major Mitchell served with the 11th Bn and with the 2/6th Surreys in the BEF. He was attached to the RAF during the war ending his wartime service as GIII (Air) 2 Army A. L. Group.

Monckton - In July 1995, Major David Monckton MC TD, aged 75 years. 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The Parachute Regiment.

Nice - On 25th July 1995, Colonel C.H. (Nick) Nice TD, DL, aged 83 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Parsons - In August 1995, J C W Parsons 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Parsons - On 22nd September 1995, Private Sidney Parsons 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Parsons was the Secretary of the Limbless Association in the Guildford area, he lost a leg at Alamein.

Pickett - On 16th October 1995, Private W G Pickett, aged 77 years. 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. A regular soldier Pickett enlisted at Kingston in 1937. Served in the Sudan and Malaya. Was a Japanese POW and worked on the death railway in Siam.

Rooke - On 11th September 1995, Lance Corporal Christopher William Rooke, aged 76 years, The East Surrey Regiment. Rooke served with the 2/6th Surreys and was made a POW on 12th June 1940 at St Valery-en-Caux. He was one of hundreds who were marched to Poland and remained a prisoner of war in Stalag XXA. In his last years he worked tirelessly for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Richmond Branch.

Sandover - On 12th August 1995, Brigadier Raymond Ladals Sandover DSO, aged 85 years. Late The East Surrey Regiment and Australian Military Forces.

Stenning - On 21st June 1995, Colour Sergeant Eric Stenning aged 53 years. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Stopford - On 12th June 1995, Major M R H Stopford, aged 74 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Sutcliffe - On 16th September 1995, Colour Sergeant F.C. Sutcliffe, aged 78 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment, in Malawi Africa.

Titler - On 18th September 1995, Private Cedric Titler, aged 77 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment. Titler was a member of the Cranleigh Company Queen's Comfort fund.

Vercoe - On 28th August 1995, William Henry Middleton Vercoe, aged 86 years. The Queen's Royal Royal Surrey Regiment.

Waters - On 5th May 1995, Colour Sergeant David Waters. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Regimental Families

Maye - Mrs Anne Maye, beloved wife of Colour Sergeant Peter Maye. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Veasey - On 18th May 1995, Mrs Iris Ethel Veasey, aged 96 years. Widow of the late Brigadier H.G. Veasey DSO, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

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Holy Trinity Church, Guildford



The Rector of Holy Trinity, the Reverend Dr Kenneth Stevenson has been appointed Bishop of Portsmouth. He is to be enthroned in Portsmouth Cathedral on 16th December 1995. Kenneth Stevenson has been Rector of Holy Trinity since 1986 and during his time has been a special friend and support to the Regiment and the Association. He has overseen a major refurbishment of Holy Trinity improving the Church and Chapel greatly, and has dedicated for us a number of new memorials in the Chapel.

To mark his care and our appreciation a set of wine goblets engraved with the Paschal Lamb was presented to him on behalf of the President and the Association at his final Evensong Service on 24th September. The presentation was made by Colonel Toby Sewell accompanied by the Chairman, Colonel Peter Thompson.

JWS

Obituaries

Further tributes are recorded below to Major General Fergus Ling whose death was recorded in the last Newsletter.

Michael Forrester writes :-

Toby Sewell's admirable obituary on Fergus Ling, in the previous Newsletter, stirred many memories spanning the fifty years and more that I had been privileged to know him, both as soldier and paterfamilias. At our first meeting in August 1943, a month or so before the Salerno landing, when officers of the Queen's Battalions in 169 Brigade entertained their counterparts in 131 Brigade at their camp outside Tripoli, I well recall being immediately impressed by his warm and generous personality and his courtesy and thoughtfulness as a host.

The intensity of the fighting precluded any meeting during the three months that 7th Armoured Division was in Italy, and we next met in 1948 when, on a visit from Washington DC to the US Infantry Centre at Fort Benning, Georgia, where Fergus was British Liaison Officer, I was invited to stay with him and Sheelah whom he had married in 1940. For me this was a very happy interlude - Fergus was enjoying his job at which he excelled, and he and Sheelah had clearly won the hearts of their American hosts. Anthony, born in 1941, was at school in England living with his grandmother; so with them was Philip, who had been born in Tripoli when Sheelah had joined Fergus following his course at the Middle East Staff College after the war in Italy ended, and Ginny was well on the way; when the time came for them to return home, Libby and Didee had also been born. We next found ourselves together as members of the Directing Staff at Camberley in 1953 which marked the start of what I shall ever remember as "the Grove Cottage years" during which Fergus and Sheelah entertained their many friends in their delightful house and garden at Shalford - summer lunch under the age-old mulberry tree being just one of the very special treats. In more recent years at Mystole Coach House, the same tradition of hospitality continued, always against the background of a united and very devoted family. And linking their lives in

these two houses was the cottage in Cumbria which gave them great joy. Small wonder therefore, in addition to his military achievements, Fergus was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey in 1970 and Vice Lord Lieutenant in 1975. Our final meeting was at Mystole shortly before he died, where, despite his frailty, Fergus's main concern was for the comfort and well-being of his guests. We came away very conscious we had said good-bye to a man gifted with enormous generosity of spirit and deeply revered by his large and loving family.

Hugh Harris writes:-

I first met Fergus when he was appointed to command the 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1954. Because of his distinguished service with the 2/5th Queen's in the War, he understood the peculiarities of the Territorial Army, and with tact and good humour he soon enhanced not only our military activities, but with the help of his charming wife, Sheelah, our social activities also. The high point of his three years with us was Exercise "Dover Castle", when the whole of the Territorial Army was deployed on Salisbury Plain. National Service was still in being, the Battalion was near full strength, and many excellent young officers and other ranks had become enthusiastic Volunteers. Fergus conceived the slightly unorthodox idea of pooling all the Battalion Jeeps and Trailers to convert one Company into a kind of Lorried Infantry, with the result we were on our objectives almost before the enemy had got there. The Colonel of the Lothian and Scottish Horse, the Yeomanry Regiment supporting us, told me that the 5th Queen's was the best Infantry he had ever worked with. When Fergus left us for rapid promotion, I thought we might not see much of him again, but he always kept close contact with the Battalion, and its old members, and in retirement he gave me valuable support in my private life on several occasions. As his granddaughter read out at the moving Thanksgiving Service for his life, I am sure that "all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

HMW

John Hunter remembers Major General Fergus Ling

Fergus and I were at Stowe together but being 3 years junior I could only admire him from a distance on the rugger or cricket field. Although we both fought in Tunisia together, our paths did not cross. But towards the end of the Italian campaign, we found ourselves at the Staff College in Haifa and it was there we celebrated VE Day just 50 years ago and started a lasting friendship. We soon found we enjoyed doing the same things. We shot duck on Lake Hula, north of Galilee, saw Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, and spent leave at the Dome Hotel, Kyrenia. We swam, and played tennis and bridge. After our course we were luckily both posted to GHQ in Cairo where we shared a flat beside the Gehzira Club. VJ Day came and we unashamedly enjoyed the fleshpots of Cairo - unbelievable living after 4 years of war. Towards the end of our posting, Sheelah came out with Anthony. I immediately realised that I had only got to know one half of an exceptional couple. From then on I could not think of one without the other. They complimented each other brilliantly. Sheelah was bright-eyed, vivacious and enthusiastic about everything. Fergus, calm, unflappable and deep thinking but always with a twinkle in his eye. They shared many endearing qualities. A great sense of humour. A great love of and interest in people. Fergus had a wonderful memory for service people and cricketers and their achievements. In his reminiscences one got the occasional throw away line on some distinguished person he had met which brought: 'Oh! Ferg you're name dropping' from Sheelah. They were such fun together. We parted. They to Tripoli and I back home. Philip was born and I was honoured to be his godfather. America and the birth of the girls followed and it was not until Newark, Grove Cottage and Colchester days that our families were able to see more of each other. Fergus always kept himself well briefed on current affairs (not only on the cricket) and on retirement he was fascinated by his job in the Study of Conflict - an organisation which could brief anyone on local tensions in any part of the world. All this time the young Ling family was steadily growing. They were Fergus and Sheelah's pride and joy. The culmination of a wonderful married life was the golden wedding with many friends and nearly all the family present. Family and local friends were a tremendous support to Fergus when he had to face life without Sheelah and with his health deteriorating. Characteristically he kept marvellously cheerful towards the end which he faced as the good Christian he was. Now Fergus and Sheelah are re-united. We thank God for all the happiness and joy they brought to so many family and friends. May they rest in peace.

JH

Brigadier Trevor Hart Dyke

Trevor Hart Dyke, son of Colonel P Hart Dyke DSO, of the Indian Army was born on 19 February 1905 at Chaman on the Pakistan - Afghan border. Educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1924. Posted to the 2nd Battalion he saw service in both India and the Sudan before in 1930, electing for a seconded tour with The King's African Rifles. After a year with the 4th Battalion in Uganda he was attached to HQ Northern Brigade and became Secretary of the Kenya and Uganda Defence committee.

He returned home in 1936 and after brief spells at the Regimental Depot and with the 2nd Battalion attended the 1938 Staff College Course at Camberley. On graduation he was posted to the War Office and on the outbreak of World War II was actively involved in the despatch of the BEF to France. Subsequently he held further staff appointments as Brigade Major 18th Division, GSO2 (special) 5th Corps, Secretary Gibraltar Defence Committee and GSO1 Hants and Dorset district. In between these staff tours he was 2ic 2/7th Queen's and CO 13th Queen's. In 1943 he took command of the Hallamshires, the senior TA battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, and trained and led them in Normandy and NW Europe. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership at the battle of Fontenay-Le-Pesnel in June 1944.

In March 1945 he was posted to Burma where for six months he was a GSO1. He then commanded 25th East African Brigade but when the war ended reverted to Lieutenant Colonel to command 5th King's African Rifles in Somalia. In 1948 he took over command of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment then Berlin based and during the famous airlift. He handed over command in Iserlohn in February 1950 on his appointment as commander 168th lorried infantry brigade (TA) in London. His final appointments, before retirement in 1958, were as Brigadier General Staff, first at HQ BAOR and later at HQ Western Command in Chester.

On retirement he settled at Bamford in Derbyshire and later became a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. At one time or another he was a diocesan representative on the General Synod, Assistant County Scouts Commissioner and President of the local Branch of The Royal British Legion. He married first Eileen Niblock-Stuart, who pre-deceased him; they had a son and daughter. Later he married Mary Lockwood, the widow of a Hallamshire officer killed during the Normandy campaign. A Queen's Royal of the old order Hart Dyke was a fine leader and a superb administrator. It surprised many that he never made it to General rank.

HCM

Colour Sergeant E H Stenning

Colour Sergeant Eric Stenning joined The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1960 and after training he was posted to the 1st Battalion. He served in Aden, Hong Kong, Münster, Lingfield and Bahrain. On the formation of The Queen's Regiment he served with 1 Queen's in Berlin, UK and Northern Ireland. He completed twenty two years service in June 1982. During his service Eric was very proud to have been Colonel Eric Woodman's driver when he was in command of the 1st Battalion and to see him again when he visited the museum at Dover Castle.

He will be remembered by many Queen's Surreys for his service in the Quartermasters Department. He was a first class administrator and many colour sergeants owe him a great debt of gratitude for the assistance they received from him over the years. In November 1983 the post of museum attendant of The Queen's Regiment museum became vacant and Eric began a further period of devoted service to his Regiment. He was a tower of strength when the museum was relocated at Dover

Castle from Howe Barracks, Canterbury in 1987. Once established in the Castle his office and storeroom was a regular haven for a cup of tea to all members of the staff at the Castle, and members of the Regiment who visited were always given a very warm welcome. He took great pride in the museum and worked long hours to ensure that the high standard achieved was maintained. He was devoted to his Regiment and was very proud of its traditions. His enthusiasm, dedication and wonderful sense of humour is a tragic loss.

He will be sorely missed by his widow Sheila and daughters Tracy and Wendy. They have lost a loving husband and father and the Regiment has lost a true friend and comrade. He leaves a gap in the lives of all who knew him.

LMBW



Editors note: When I took over as Editor, Eric always assisted twice a year in the despatch of your Newsletter. This photo would have been published in the May edition but had to be left out due to lack of space. It is published now as a tribute to him for all the hard work he did on your behalf when mailing time came round.

Major Godfrey Barnsley Shaw

Godfrey Shaw was born in Rio de Janeiro, educated at Downside College and joined the TA before the war. Initially in the East Surreys he joined 1 Queen's in 1942 in Peshawar on the N W Frontier of India.

He very shortly took over command of D Coy and remained OC D Coy throughout his stay with the Battalion. He led his company during the campaign in Arakan in 1943, and through the battle of Kohima in 1944. In this battle D Coy spearheaded the first attack on Jail Hill (the battle for which was so graphically described by Colonel Lowry in the May 1995 edition of the Newsletter). During the attack D Coy came under intense fire not only from Jap positions on Jail Hill but also from the hills on his left flank and right rear, to such an extent that during the afternoon Major Shaw reported that, whilst two of his three platoons had managed to reach the top of the hill, only 14 of his men remained unwounded, and the remainder of the troops on the hill were pinned down by intense crossfire. To prevent the decimation of the company, the Brigadier approved the CO's decision to withdraw Major Shaw's company, and abort the attack. It had become evident that a second attack must depend on the enemy flank positions being simultaneously neutralised.

Godfrey Shaw was always courteous, quietly spoken and calm even under the most difficult conditions, and he led his company throughout with the greatest efficiency and success. He was awarded a Mention in Despatches. He was a very devout Roman Catholic which belief sustained him particularly after the death of his wife Joan, and when, although by then completely blind, he lived alone with the help of a trusted neighbour. Whatever the circumstances in both war and peace his very high standard of personal conduct never deserted him, and he will be much missed by all those who had the good fortune to know him. Our sincere sympathies go to his family.

RFK

Colonel C H (Nick) Nice TD DL

Colonel C H Nice, affectionally known to all ranks as "Nick", died following an emergency operation at Kingston Hospital on 25th July 1995. The Funeral Service was held at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on 10th August 1995, followed by Cremation. He is survived by his wife, Rosalind. A man of great compassion, renowned for a subtle sense of humour, he was held in high regard in all of the areas of activity in which he was involved.

Embodied for Service with the Auxiliary Fire Service in 1939, it was not until the following year that he enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment. Posted to 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1941, he rapidly rose to the rank of Sergeant, before being commissioned into the Regiment as a 2/Lt. On commissioning he returned to 1/6th Queen's, who at that time were serving in the Western Desert as part of 131 Brigade, 7th Armoured Division. Initially he served as a Platoon Commander before moving on to the A/Tk Platoon in Italy and the Mortar and Carrier Platoons in France, Belgium and Holland. By this time in 1944 he had been promoted to Captain and was 2i/c of a Rifle Company. Shortly after taking command of a Rifle Company in 1945, he was posted to GHQ at Caserta in Italy to be Staff Captain, (A) Branch, where he was involved with the repatriation from Italy of Czech, Polish and Palestinian Nationals. After promotion to Major, he remained at GHQ, until his release in 1947.

With the re-forming of the Territorial Army in 1947, he returned to 6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) to take command of a Rifle Company. Appointment as Second in Command of the Battalion in 1955, was followed by promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and command of the Battalion until its amalgamation with 5th Queen's and 565 LAA Royal Artillery to form the 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).

With his service in the Territorial Army at an end he turned his energies to work on a number of committees involved in the activities and welfare of young people and it was in 1967 that he was appointed Colonel Commandant, SW London, Army Cadet Force. He was also a Vice President of T.S. Trafalgar, Sea Cadet Corps. Further recognition followed by his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London and Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Merton.

With the formation of 6th Queen's Old Comrades Association, he became Vice President, a position which he was to hold until his death. His support and guidance was instrumental in making the Association an active and viable organisation.

After his release from the Army in 1947, he was employed by a number of Companies in the Textile Trade, dealing with Wholesale Specialists and Exporters.

For all who knew Nick Nice, a light has gone out of their life, which will be difficult to re-kindle.

MRN

Serving in the T.A., one makes friends and one meets people one admires. For all of us who knew him, Nick Nice was both. As a friend he shared in our joys with his own pleasure in them and his humour. In times of difficulty or trouble, Nick was never too busy or preoccupied to devote time and consideration to help. As a regimental officer he set a pattern of devotion to duty and his regiment for all of us to follow.

He used occasionally to say, and in the light of recent events, the words are worth recalling: "*Whatever they say, whatever they do, you were once in The Queen's Royal Regiment and they can never take that away from you.*" From Nick Nice we learnt the standards of our regiment.

A H Le Q C



Book Reviews

Countdown to Cassino - The Battle of Mighano Gap 1943 by Alex Bowlby, published by Leo Cooper.

In all the celebrations and remembrances of VE Day and VJ Day the forgotten theatre of war could seem to have been Italy where the British and Allied Armies fought through from 10th July 1943, the Invasion of Sicily, to 2nd May 1945. This campaign involved for varying times many battalions of the now Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, including 131 and 169 (Queen's) Brigades and 128 (Hampshire) Brigade.

This book by Alex Bowlby who himself served as a rifleman in 2nd Rifle Brigade in Italy during the summer of 1944 covers the battles in November and December 1943, which broke the Bernhardt Line and cleared the way to Cassino and the Gustav Line. For the British Army this period included the two battles of Monte Camino and, in the second, the book particularly records the determination and gallantry of 2/5th Queen's, led from the front by Lieutenant Colonel J Y Whitfield: the Second-in-Command of the Battalion being then Major F A H Ling. In writing the book Alex Bowlby has been in contact with many soldiers who took part in the fighting from all the Armies involved, British, U.S. and German. It is a story mainly of Infantry action, some of it under appalling conditions of weather, which had to be faced with unsuitable and hardly weather proof kit in rugged terrain: the summit of Monte Camino is 3158 feet high. Inspiration may still be gained from the story.

As with any book there are some minor inaccuracies and misprints, but nothing detracting from the story. It is a pity however that a map showing the route of 2/5th Queen's attack is wrong 2/5th Queen's attack was up the steep and almost precipitous east face of Monte Camino direct from Campo.

JWS

Fall Out The Officers by Charles Millman, Published by the Pentland Press - £4.99

Charles Millman, a former Brigadier, has drawn on his extensive service life to bring together 30 lighthearted anecdotes in a handy pocket size book of 119 pages. I would describe it as one of those versatile books - just as much at home in the briefcase (or pocket) for reading on journeys as in the guest room. It could easily be read at one go or selectively dipped into. It is written in such a way as to have universal appeal but I would imagine the loudest laughs would come from someone with a service connection. I would be delighted if I were to find a copy in my Christmas stocking!

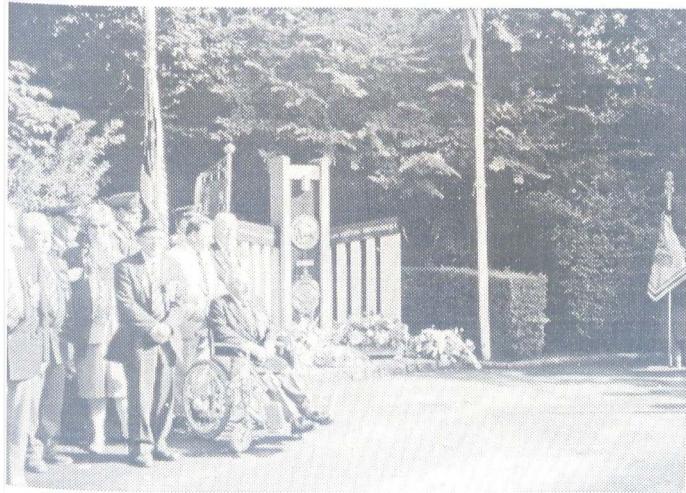
HN

Iserlohn in the fifties

Aldershot Barracks, Iserlohn was an old German barracks with a labyrinth of cellars and underground passages. During 1 Queen's stay there in 1952-53 the Adjutant and the RSM (Joe Simmons) would explore this underground area. One occasion emerging up one of the shafts Joe saw a couple of idle soldiers and gave them a right rollicking. Shortly afterwards emerging up another shaft they overheard the same two soldiers exchanging views. One remarked: "*what a B**** Regiment, they even come up out of the ground to catch you!*"

1/7th Queen's Old Comrades visit to St Niklaas

On Saturday afternoon 2nd September 1995, the people in the town square were nowhere so excited, and vociferous, as on that fateful day in 1944. However, the welcome we received from the Burgomaster, his council, and members of The Patriotic Committee, at the restaurant "Het Gildenbuis" in the evening, was as warm and generous as ever. The food and wine were excellent, and many old friendships were renewed.



Some of Queen's party at The Queen's Memorial St. Niklaas, September 1995.

On Sunday the 23rd September the serious purpose of the annual visit, began with a church service, and the formation of a parade to place wreaths, at the various "Monuments to the Fallen" at different points around the town. - five in all. Each ceremony was a moving experience. But as always, the most memorable being to the "Fallen Members of the Resistance". Many of the bereaved families still attend to pay homage.

Throughout the morning wonderful music, and anthems, were provided by combined local bands. Afterwards, the reception and pre lunch drinks, at the town hall hosted by the Burgomaster, - followed by lunch at the "Saint Joseph Klein Seminarie", organised by the "Secret Army", were equally impressive. In the afternoon a "Carillon Concert" and an "International Tattoo" took place in the town square.

It began with yet another wreath laying ceremony. This time at the graves of British pilots in the cemetery of "Tekeren". On Monday we went to Breendonk. It seemed innocent enough - little did we know that the next two hours would become an indelible memory. Breendonk was, before the first world war a Belgian Defence Fort - but, after German occupation in 1940, was changed by them into a fully fledged Nazi Concentration Camp. It was supposedly a transit camp, to house political, and resistance prisoners, before onward transportation to even worse horror. However - the torture chamber - the execution posts - the hangmans gibbets - and the evidence everywhere of brutality and total degradation, told the terrible story, that many thousands never made the onward journey

Their names are all recorded.

It is understandable that the Belgians and Dutch are grateful to their liberators. A much needed drink was then taken at Rupelmonde before going on the "Westakers" a Belgian Army Camp, where we were welcomed by the Camp Commandant and a past Burgomaster of St Niklaas. The lunch was excellent and more friendships were formed. The afternoon was a visit to a very large factory on the outskirts of St. Niklaas which seemed to produce everything from floor, to roof tiles, and many other things besides. The final evening was at the restaurant "Het Gildenbuis" again more good food and wine - but much more important - more good company and friendship - sadly however the parting of the ways. On behalf of the 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment - Thank you again St. Niklaas.

Back Page. Centre: The Cross of Sacrifice, 1: Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand, 2: Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand, 3: El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt, 4: Cassino War Cemetery, Italy, 5: Salerno War Cemetery, Italy, 6: Uden War Cemetery, Netherlands, 7: Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan, 8: Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore.

The numbers of burials in the Cemeteries depicted are: Chungkai 24 Surreys. Kanchanaburi 51 Surreys, 4 Queen's. El Alamein 156 Queen's. Cassino 59 Surreys. Salerno 146 Queen's, 3 Surreys. Uden 44 Queen's. Yokohama 4 Surreys. Kranji 41 Surreys, 3 Queen's.

The numbers of casualties recorded on panels in the various cemeteries are not recorded in this article. It is hoped to produce a full list of War Graves by numbers and panels in a later issue of The Newsletter.

Readers will appreciate that space prevents the showing of all the War Cemeteries where our comrades lie. The Editor wishes to thank the staff of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and in particular Miss B A Webb for all the information given and for the permission to publish these photographs. We are very grateful for this and all the other work they do on our behalf.

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson



The Price of War

