

NOVEMBER 1996



NUMBER 60

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

President
Brigadier R. W. Acworth CBE
Chairman
Colonel P. R. H. Thompson OBE TD DL
Honorary Secretary
Major J. C. Rogerson
Assistant Secretary and Editor
Lieutenant Colonel L. M. Wilson MBE

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

Tel: Canterbury (01227) 818053

NEWSLETTER



The former Stoughton Barracks, now Cardwells Keep, August 1996. The new housing development now nearing completion. The Keep, Officers Mess, Administration and Peterborough Blocks are now flats. Most of the trees which were a feature have been retained. Road signs bearing the names of former Colonels of The Queen's have now been erected. It is hoped to feature an aerial view of The Barracks at Kingston upon Thames in a future edition. Photo courtesy of Eagle DP.



Regimental and Association Events

1996



20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

1997

10th February

SOBRAON DAY (1846).

28th February

Queen's Surreys Museum Trustees meeting - Clandon.

7th March

Queen's Surreys Regimental Council meeting - Clandon.

8th March

Queen's Surreys Territorial Trustees meeting - Clandon.

15th March

Queen's (Southwark) OCA Annual Lunch Reunion, U J Club. Details from J T Brown, 6 Lawrence House, Millbank Est., London SW1P 4ED.

22nd March

Queen's Surreys Association and Charity Trustees meetings, - Clandon.

23rd April

YPRES DAY (1915).

23rd April

23 London/42 RTR Annual Luncheon, Clapham Junction. Details from Major D H Conran TD, 5 Cherwell Lodge, Walter Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QH (01865 53587).

8th May

Golf Society Spring Meeting, Sudbrook Park GC.

10th May

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

16th May

ALBUHERA DAY (1811).

20th May

Golf Society, Annual Golf Match versus The Royal Marines, North Hants GC.

23rd May

Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors of Surrey - Clandon.

1st June

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

8th June

Queen's Surreys Association Church Service, Guildford Cathedral, 11am for 11.15am Service.

30th June }

Presentation of new Colours to 1 PWRR by HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark - Canterbury. Further details later. (TBC)

1st July }

1st August

MINDEN DAY (1759).

9th September

SALERNO DAY (1943).

9th September

Laying up of 1 Queen's Colours, Guildford Cathedral. Further details later.

12th September

Laying up of 1 Royal Hampshires Colours, Winchester Cathedral. Further details later.

21st September

Museum Open Day - Meet your mates! - Clandon.

1st October

Golf Society Autumn Meeting.

7th November

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

5th November

Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey - London.

9th November

Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Southwark and the Cenotaph, London.

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

Editorial

Observant readers will note that this edition of your Newsletter is Number 60, it therefore marks our Diamond Anniversary! In Newsletter Number 2, Major Peter Hill the then Editor, asked for your views on the style and layout that readers wished to see. He also asked for any suggestions for future editions and ended up saying that he welcomed letters but reserved the right to shorten where necessary letters or articles submitted. I also welcome letters and articles adding that the same rule still applies. Keep the articles coming in!

I am pleased to record that Peter Hill is still working as hard as ever for his old Regiment. With his co-author Anson Squire they have just produced a book 'The Final Years 1938-1959' which is reviewed on page 36 of this issue. Peter is an authority on the history of the Surreys and many of us have been very grateful for his wise advice on all regimental matters over the years.

Looking back to the first issue of 'The Queen's Surreys Journal' in May 1960, just after the Amalgamation the then Colonel of The Regiment, Major General Metcalfe wrote at length on the subject of Army reorganisation and amalgamations and exhorted us all not to dwell on the past but to look ahead and to forge a new future for our Regiment. Sadly, since those words were written many more changes have taken place. Our Regiment is now part of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and we have contributed unstintingly to its formation and future. General Metcalfe wrote - *"If we are ex-soldiers our duty is to help and support those still serving in fostering the spirit and traditions that we have helped to build. All of us must therefore accept changes and make the most of them"*.

I believe our Association has done that, and has continued to support the living Regiment. Our main role for the future is to continue to look after our old comrades and their dependants. This your Association will do.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

Best Wishes
Les Wilson

President's Notes

1996 has seen another busy and successful year for the Association. Perhaps the most notable occasion was Clarrie Jarman's 100th birthday which was celebrated several times, but for us in Sandfield Terrace on 9th May. Clarrie lost a leg at the Battle of the Somme and has been a great example to us all. He has faced up to adversity without complaint, with very good humour and great courage, we wish him well as he embarks on his second century. Your Trustees continue to make grants to service related charities and hospitals, to regular and territorial battalions and to our old soldiers and their families in times of hardship. Our thanks for the considerable work this involves - some 280 cases investigated in 1995 and so far 160 in 1996 - are due to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Finally members of the Association will be sad to hear that General Francis Piggott, the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, died recently. He was a distinguished soldier and we hope in due course to remember him with a memorial plaque in Holy Trinity Church Guildford.

Best Wishes
Bob Acworth



The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Regimental Policy

"You will be aware that Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales has decided to step down from her appointment as our Colonel-in-Chief. This is, of course, a great sadness for us all. The Colonel in Chief has been very supportive during our formative years and we are very grateful for her interest and involvement. We will miss her".

Since May 96 the Regiment has been busy. It was with regret that we had to cancel all the parades and perhaps thought that it might lead to a quiet period. This was proved wrong.

The 1st Battalion has been backwards and forwards to Northern Ireland twice. The first time was to carry out the duties of the much needed reserve after the breakdown of any trust between the RUC and Protestants. It was the marching season and many high profile confrontations needed firm support - this was supplied by the 1st Battalion to the RUC.

The Second deployment to Aldergrove was also in support of the RUC and other units. The Battalion was back in time to prepare for the main events of the year. The visit by the Allied Colonel-in-Chief Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and the Laying Up of the Old Colours of 3 Queen's.

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II visited on Monday 9 September. She was met on arrival at RAF Manston by the Colonel of The Regiment and then visited Canterbury Cathedral. She met many Association Members of The Queen's Own Buffs Association and turned the page at the Daily Turning of The Page Ceremony. Afterwards she visited the 1st Battalion in Howe Barracks Canterbury. She was greeted with a very smart Quarter Guard and then met members of the Battalion at various stands. After lunch in the Officers' Mess she departed for a private visit to Canterbury Cathedral.

The 1st Battalion also provided the Colour Party and Escort for the Laying Up of 3 Queen's Colours in St Pauls Cathedral on Friday 13 September. This was a moving ceremony, very well attended with a reception afterwards in The Haberdashers' Hall.

The Battalion is now part of 5th Airborne Deployment Force which means they remain at 7 days notice to move to anywhere in the World.

The 2nd Battalion are now half way through their Northern Ireland tour. They Arms Plot to Tidworth in August 1997. At the moment the soldiers work a cycle which takes them away for one month to man the border patrol bases in Fermanagh (these are in sensitive areas, have been attacked on numerous occasions in the past and demand a constant state of alertness). During their tour the soldiers leave only to go on patrol, moving across country to avoid obvious places for terrorist bombs.

The second part of the cycle consists of guarding base camp and mounting deterrent patrols with the RUC to prevent a Downing Street style mortar attack. The third company is a Brigade Reserve and frequently deploys on 'surge' operations whenever the RUC feel the threat of a terrorist attack in a particular area has increased. The fourth company takes three weeks leave and brushes up on its Northern Ireland tactics, particularly shooting and first aid. During the three months when they are in the Province the soldiers have an average Nights Out of Bed figure in excess of 60%; they and their wives certainly earn the additional £126 per month NI pay.

Despite high operational commitments in the last year the Battalion has sent nearly two hundred men on exercise to Kenya, sent thirty to the USA, taken part in the Swiss Raid Commando Competition (beating 3 PARA - again), done well

at the Nordic Ski Championships in Norway and France, sent an expedition to climb/ski/walk in Italy. Last year four men ran the NY Marathon raising £6,000 for Tusk Force, in October a team of sixteen are entered and will raise in excess of £25,000. A further sixteen men go to Norway to ski again in November.

The two Territorial Battalions continue to thrive. The 5th Battalion is over 100% recruited and therefore is in a strong position to support the undermanned Regular Army. They currently have six soldiers in Northern Ireland and five in the Falkland Islands and one in the former Yugoslavia. There are also ten soldiers on attachment to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The Battalion also won the 4 Division Sports Trophy in May. The 6/7th Battalion also has soldiers serving with the Regular Army in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, The Falkland Islands, Canada, Cyprus, Kenya and Belize. The Battalion Orienteering Team continues to excel and is currently the Territorial Army Champions, the Regular and Territorial Infantry Champions and the Divisional Champions.

Last but not least a composite team representing the Regiment led by the Deputy Regimental Secretary won the Infantry Sailing Championships in the IOW and were selected to sail for the Army.

AM

Congratulations and Best Wishes



Congratulations to:-

Colonel Jonathon Riley on a very successful tour as Commanding Officer of 1 RWF culminating in the award of a DSO for services in Bosnia. He has now relinquished command and has been promoted to Colonel. Now serving in BAOR as Chief of Staff 1 Division.

Diamond Wedding congratulations to:

Arthur and Ding Carter who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September 1996.

Golden Wedding congratulations to:-

Graham and Nancy Swain who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 14th 1996. Graham is the National Secretary of the Italy Star Association.

Harold and Jeannette Wakeford who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 8th December 1995.

Bob and Doris Bookham who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 21st September 1996.

Best Wishes to:-

Frank Beville recovering after a spell in hospital

Doug Mitchell, the hard working and devoted secretary to 5 OMA Guildford after a hip replacement operation.

And to all other members who have been ill or in hospital.

'Clarrie' Jarman who readers will recall celebrated his century is sadly in hospital (October). We wish him a speedy recovery.

Birthday greetings to:-

In-Pensioners Whiting and John Kershaw who celebrated their 80th birthdays on 25th September 1996, (Rock on John!).

Museum notes

Much of our time during the past 6 months has been occupied in attending meetings and writing briefs to fend off the Adjutant General's stated intention to reduce MOD funding for military museums.

The funding that we receive from the MOD is not that great and amounts to the salary of one museum attendant only. The MOD's objective is to fund one museum per Corps or Regiment in the Order of Battle only and possibly additional museums located in an area where there are no other military museums or barracks. Fortunately we have a vigorous and supportive Association that is committed to preserving the Museum. We are fighting our corner hard and we should know the outcome by the time of the next issue of the Newsletter.

We have recovered to the Museum a relatively rare Ashanti Medal, awarded to Lt A M MacDonell of the Surreys for the campaign of 1900. It was stolen from the Museum in Kingston in 1976.

The number of people visiting the Museum is much greater than we had previously thought. With the installation of an electronic head counter on 8th May we now have an accurate count and it is an average of 5,500 to 6,000 people per month. Roy Harding maintains that a tall man, pushing a pram and swinging his arms registers as three! We send him off to the attic 92 steps up with no lift when he has such wild thoughts.

We were delighted to welcome Nanny Syer to the Museum on 29th May together with Brigadier and Mrs O'Connor (the donor of the Syer drawings, see p.41 of Issue 59 of the Newsletter). On the same day we were pleased to have Mrs Mairi Store and her husband visit. Mrs Store is the great granddaughter of Lt Gen Sir E O F Hamilton, Colonel of the Regiment from 1914-1920. I had been writing to her father in America for some four years and through him received all the General's private papers, diaries etc reflecting his service in India, South Africa, West Africa and the UK.

We benefit enormously from the generosity of individuals. The recent past has been no exception. Mrs Tasha Hannaford presented her late husband's medals and Lt Col Les Wilson with Ian Chatfield have given two splendid Queen's Royal Regiment teaspoons.



The Open Day on 29th April was not well attended this year. Do try and come if you can and enjoy the pleasure of meeting up with old comrades. All our old films of varying sizes have now been presented to the Imperial War Museum and in turn they have given us VHS tapes copied from them which is much more useful for us.

We were very sorry to say au revoir to Mrs Rachel Roupell who decided to move nearer to a niece. Rachel has been a staunch supporter of the Museum since its inception at Clandon and we shall miss her company and skills as an expert needlewoman. Such was her skill that using thread from her wedding dress she repaired 1 Surrey's Colours. Having married

into the Surreys in 1932 Rachel accompanied the Regiment during its service in Shanghai, India and Khartoum. We wish her every happiness in her new abode near Weston-super-Mare.

Members of our weekly Working Party and our volunteers who are very important to the efficient functioning of the Museum continue to give so freely of their time and energy whilst Mrs Penny James and Mr Roy Harding (plus Mrs Joy Harding on occasions) work hard to improve our standards of documentation, information retrieval and presentation. I am grateful to them all, together with the support of my fellow Trustees for everything they do.

NEW MUSEUM OPENING HOURS AT CLANDON AS FROM 30TH MARCH 1997

**OPEN: TUES, WED & THURS
SUN & BANK HOLIDAYS**

12-5 pm

CLOSED: MON, FRI & SAT

STOP PRESS:- John Woodroff our honorary archivist, was gravely ill recently and we sincerely hope he will continue to make a good and speedy recovery.

PAWGD

Medal returns to Museum

The Ashanti medal awarded to Lt A M MacDonell of 3rd Bn The East Surrey Regiment has come "home" to the Regimental Museum after 20 years. It had been stolen in 1976 from the Museum when it was at Kingston but in May of this year it was donated back to us here at Clandon.

Lt Alistair Maxwell MacDonell was "appointed to the Battalion" on 14th February 1900 and his name appears again in the list of officers who accompanied the Battalion to Perham Down Camp after its embodiment on 12th May 1900. He was appointed Lieutenant in August 1900. The Battalion embarked for South Africa on HMT *Idaho* in June 1901 but before this, in November 1900, Lt MacDonell was approved by the Secretary of State for War "as a Special Service Officer with the Ashanti Field Force in place of Captain Symes" and was to be provided with "a free passage to Cape coast by the steamer leaving Liverpool on the 21st instant" (November 1900) and would "not be required to sign the usual agreement as to the repayment of the cost of the passage". He was to receive his "ordinary Army pay plus 10s a day during voyages to the Colony and 20s a day while in the Colony".

The Ashanti Campaign took place between 31st March and 25th December 1900. Though not well known as it was eclipsed by the Boer War, it was a hard fought campaign lasting nine months and resulting in casualties of 58 British Officers, 10 British NCOs and 900 natives. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded. The Boer War was at its height and demanded the engagement of many British troops and so only 183 European Officers and 80 NCOs received the silver Ashanti medal for service in the Ashanti Campaign. This medal was the first to be issued in the reign of Edward VII in 1900 and for these two reasons it is considered a rarity and its eventual return was a cause for much excitement.

After several changes of rank and unit, MacDonell finished his Army career with The Army Service Corps during World War I, he was mentioned in Despatches three times and awarded the OBE (Military Division). He was recorded as still living at the age of 85 in 1965. He can be seen in several group photographs of 3rd Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the period 1906 - 10 wearing his Ashanti medal or the ribbon.

PJ

Annual Church Service

The sun shone, medals glittered and old comrades met and chatted as members gathered for the Annual Church Service at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, June 9th. The presence of In Pensioners of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in scarlet attire, also provided their usual distinctive flash of colour. Commencing the service the Dean of Guildford extended a warm welcome to the Association. The Lesson was read by the President, Brigadier R W Acworth CBE.

A moving address was given by The Reverend T B F Hiney MC, Chaplain, The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who spoke of the gratitude the nation owed to the Armed Forces of the Crown for their sacrifice, example and service. He made special mention of his connection with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by way of his own Regiment, The Leicestershire Regiment, who joined forces with The East Surrey Regiment to form The British Battalion in the defence of Malaya in 1941 before surrender and years of captivity. He continued by mentioning two notable characters of The Queen's Royal Regiment-the late "Nutty" Edwards, who was an In Pensioner of The Royal Hospital, and Clarrie Jarman who recently celebrated his 100th birthday and who has led a full and active life despite losing a leg at the battle of the Somme in 1916.

Such service and sacrifice by members of the Regiment, he said, was comparable to that of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Address concluded with expressions of thanks to all who served and of honour to those who did not return.

The Collect of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association was spoken and the service concluded with the singing of the last verse of the hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" followed by the National Anthem. Afterwards many members gathered in the refectory before departing for home, either directly or by way of Clandon Park.

RF

2/6th East Surrey St Valery Association



A group from the 2/6th East Surrey St Valery Association attended the funeral of their first President, The late Major Peter Spearing at Hove Sussex, on June 17th. Major Spearing was held in great esteem and affection not only by members of his association, for which he did so much, but throughout the regiment.

2/6 Bn ESR - St Valery Association's day out at Clandon

We assembled at Richmond at 10 am on Wednesday July 3rd. Everyone got there on time and we were in good heart. Unfortunately the weather was not very good. Normally on previous outings we go first to that lovely spot Newlands Corner but the weather being so bad we decided to skip that

and adjourned to a very nice pub called "The Compasses" in Gomshall.

On our arrival at Clandon we went into the restaurant and had a marvellous lunch. The menu being good old roast beef. The service was excellent and we were accommodated altogether and the atmosphere was terrific being surrounded by all that history. After lunch everybody dispersed into the museum and found it most interesting. I would like to thank all concerned for making this a very enjoyable occasion. The staff at the museum and the restaurant for providing such a delightful meal with first class service. I would also like to say a word of thanks to Hughes Mini-Coaches for providing such a good driver and good service.



Everybody agreed it was a successful day. I enclose a photo of our departure at Richmond.

Italy Star Association 1943-1945

You have been good enough in the past to publish articles about our Association in the Regimental magazine which has generated much interest and has brought us many new members - one of the most recent being Col David Blum. We are most grateful for your support.

The VJ parades seemed to stir a desire to join in again by those old comrades who had not taken much interest until then. The Association had the honour of parading our National Standard on the stage, alongside HM Queen at the final event on Horse Guards Parade in October. We also took part in the massive march past of veterans down the Mall and the feeling of pride at taking part is something which will live in our memory for ever.

Our Annual parade in May was held in Portsmouth and we were grateful to the City Council for their practical and moral support for what turned out to be our most successful parade yet. Despite the worst weather for many years, nearly 300 members spent the weekend in Portsmouth and Southsea. On Saturday the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps and The Hampshire Army Cadet Band (a most professional and smart band of youngsters) performed the ceremony of Beating Retreat in the Guildhall Square.

On Sunday, we held our annual luncheon attended by all members and families. Our Guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, The Chairman of Hampshire County Council, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach GCB and the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and the Lady Mayoress. Following the lunch we paraded and marched to the Guildhall Square where a Drumhead Service of Remembrance was conducted by our Padre, Rev. George Glew, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. The day concluded with a march past and salute taken through the Guildhall Square and the most moving part of the day ~ accompanied by the Adjutant General's Corps band - we 'exited' the Square, singing at the top of our voices our own song, 'We are the D Day Dodgers'.

To those who are not aware the tune is 'Lily Marlene'. There were quite a few tears in the eyes.

Amongst the Queensmen who marched was Col. Toby Sewell (2/7th Queens) whom we were pleased to welcome, and Alf Morris (2/th Queens) who carried a Branch Standard. Sadly this was Alf's last parade for he died unexpectedly shortly after. Alf was a staunch supporter of the Association and he was so proud to carry our National Standard at the VJ ceremony before HM The Queen. We will miss his cheery presence.

We were kept in good order by a Grenadier Guards Colour Sergeant From Nijmegen Company, who was most complimentary of our marching and bearing. Following the parade tea was served with time for 'lamp swinging'.

Also in May our Annual Service of Remembrance was held at our Memorial in Westgate Gardens, Canterbury. The Lord Mayor was present and we had some 250 members there. The service is always held on the nearest Sunday to its dedication. It is the only memorial in the country exclusive to the Fallen in Italy.

Our last highlight of the year took place in July when we were invited to our Patron's office in the Ministry of Defence. Because he was unable to attend our reunion in Portsmouth we were unable to present him with a cut glass rose bowl, suitably engraved with the Italy Star Motif and dated with the ceremony. He kindly invited the National President-Col. W K. Pryke MBE, Green Howards, the National Chairman - Maurice Cheadle, 96th ATK Regt (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders, the National Secretary, Graham Swain 2/7 Queens RR together with our wives to his office for the presentation. The Soldier Magazine staff photographer was in attendance and after the presentation of the bowl and an illustrated map of the Italian campaign, tea was served.



Ministry of Defence - 26 July 1996

Left: Graham Swain, National Secretary. Centre left standing: Field Marshal Sir P Inge GCB, Chief of the Defence Staff. Centre: Maurice Cheadle, National Chairman. Right: Col W K Pryke MBE, National President.

As we get older and less mobile, attendance at our various events does take an extra effort and the number who support us is evidence that the spirit of comradeship we try to perpetuate in the Association is still there.

GS

After "Journey's End"

An article in the Newsletter of the Surrey County Council Staff Retirement Association makes mention, among other things, of a former distinguished officer of The East Surrey Regiment, R C

Sheriff. It comments: "*Nearer home our local writer, R C Sheriff, was born at Kingston in 1896. He wrote the famous play "Journey's End" and many scripts including the "Dam Busters". He lived in Esher at Rosebriars until his death in 1975. After many years the Rosebriars Trust was established to administer the proceeds of the sale of his estate and it provides substantially towards the Arts in all its forms in Elmbridge.*"

RF

The Two Minutes Silence

An interesting article has been received from Derek Conran, 23rd London Regimental Association, regarding the origin of the two minutes silence which is now a feature of Remembrance Day Services and which brings back so many poignant memories to us all.

Percy Nugent George Fitzpatrick, a South African, was at Hertford just before the First World War and his name is commemorated on the War Memorial in the Chapel there. Aged 25 years, he was one of five children of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a wealthy farmer and Author who was at one time MP for Johannesburg.

Enlisting as a trooper in the Imperial Light Horse, Fitzpatrick fought in the German South West African campaign and then obtained a commission in the Artillery and embarked for England in 1915. Overseas, he was wounded at Ypres and later killed at Beaumont Hamel in 1917.

His father planted memorial trees and was instrumental in purchasing Delville Wood and in the construction of the South African memorial there. He was impressed by the one minute silence kept in his local church in 1916 after the South African casualty lists had been read out. This later became a daily practice in Cape Town. Inspired by the timing of the Armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year, Sir Percy suggested to Lord Milner that an annual commemoration in the form of the two minutes silence should be instituted on an Imperial basis. Lord Milner put the idea to King George V who enthusiastically supported it and formally initiated the practice in 1919. Well received by the public, it remained a national feature until the time of the Second World War. After the war Armistice Day, as it had been known, was re-styled Remembrance Day and moved from the actual 11th November to the Sunday nearest to it.

Despite some feelings to the contrary, the occasion has lost none of its significance. Indeed in some places there has been a noticeable increase in attendance at Remembrance Day services. Captain Fitzpatrick and his contemporaries have not been forgotten.

Sail, Soldiers and Sinners

Many of our members have experienced the joys or otherwise of trooping for foreign service, either by sea or air, but one hopes that they travelled in better company than was once the case. In the 1830-40s, as an economy measure, trooping was often carried out in conjunction with transportation of convicts - the troops on passage acting as guards for the prisoners.

In 1831 the 4th King's Own Regiment, trooping to Sydney, were embarked by companies in various convict ships. The first company sailed in the *Jane* on 24th March but the remaining companies were held back to await appropriate penal transports. The whole trooping arrangement was not completed until 22nd December when the Battalion was finally established at Sydney after having travelled piecemeal in nine different convict ships.

RF

Benevolence

From a SSAFA case worker

Thank you very much indeed for your grant of £500 towards a wheelchair for this lady. I have appreciated your prompt response. The cheque has been sent to the Treasurer of our Division and will be used for the express purpose of providing an electric wheelchair once other monies have been raised.

I have written to Mr and Mrs X today telling them of your generosity and enclosing the copy of your Association Newsletter. I have taken the liberty of glancing through the magazine and have found it heartening to read the benevolence letters. I hope it will also give some hope to Mr X for the future. I doubt if any of us can truly understand the sacrifice of caring for a disabled wife over 25 years.

Thank you again for your assistance.

o o o

RBL County Field Officer Cornwall writes:- It was a wonderful surprise to return from holiday and find your letter regarding the grant of £1891. I acknowledge safe receipt of your cheque for this amount. I am very, very thankful for all your hard work on Mr A's behalf and should be grateful if you would pass on our heartfelt thanks to Mr A's former regiment who has contributed so generously. I have spoken to Mr A today and he is absolutely delighted with the news. He asks that his thanks be passed on to all.

Thank you again for your help.

o o o

Mr T writes:- My wife Hannah and myself have been informed by SSAFA (Mr H Hennigan) of this most generous contribution toward the cost of an electric wheelchair for Hannah who with regret is now an amputee. This chair will be a boon also to myself as pushing here in very hilly terrain can become rather trying, somewhat like the "Italian Mountains" but not as high. Our thanks to yourself Sir, and the Regiment and all success in the future.

Mr C R Harris writes:- I am so grateful for the kind assistance you have given me over the years since I had both legs amputated. I have been able to stay in my home, which I've lived in for over 60 years. This has meant so much to me,



and with the help of David and Sandy I have been able to live a much more comfortable life without worrying about the bills coming in for heating and telephone.

I enclose a photo of myself taken this summer in the garden where I occupy myself most days. My artificial legs are not any use to me since I had a stroke 18 months ago, but I do nip about on my wheelchair.

Thanks again for all your help.

o o o

Mrs Elsie Russell writes: I am sincerely grateful for you sending me a copy of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Newsletter. What a lovely page was written about me and Jim, everything in it was true; it brought back so many happy memories and a lot of sad ones. I always hoped one day I would go and see where Jim was buried, but never this time last year, would I have thought I'd go in October 1995, but it's

all thanks to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, SSAFA and The Royal British Legion, also my war widow's pension has been restored and my sincere thanks for the television.

I'm not much good at writing letters, but I felt I must thank you, it has meant so much to me, seeing Jim's grave and made lots of new friends.

o o o

Mrs Judith K Combes writes: As a result of the kind assistance of your Benevolence Committee and others, we have been able to purchase an electric wheelchair for Mrs X's use. It was delivered today. I am enclosing a photocopy of the letter of thanks written by Mrs X when she knew that the money raised was sufficient to provide a chair. She is very pleased. Thank you again for your help.

o o o

Mrs S Hordern, a SSAFA worker writes:- Thank you very much indeed for your letter of the 26th September, enclosing your Benevolence Committee's cheque. I am most grateful for your prompt response. Thanks to your rapid help Mr and Mrs X have been able to order the machine which has now arrived and is being used by their daughter. I gather it is an even better machine than the one lent by Addenbrookes, and she is delighted. She is also very thankful not to have to go back to weekly injections and daily doses of drugs. I have explained to Mr and Mrs X that the money has been donated by The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment; also that the money is for the Tens Machine. I am going to see the family tomorrow and will deliver your Association Newsletter together with the membership form.

With many thanks to you and your Benevolence Committee.

o o o

Through the case workers at Colchester the Association was able to assist Mr A Parkin with a new motor scooter. Mr Parkin is shown on his machine outside Enoch House, Colchester.



o o o

I would like to express the warmest thanks on behalf of my ex husband Mr Y for the generous grant which has enabled him to purchase curtains and a television license. The balance of the grant will go towards purchasing a wardrobe for him. Mr Y suffers a severe form of mental illness but I'm pleased to say since he moved nearer to me his life is a lot brighter than it's been for a number of years. I would also like to thank you for the gift it was a great help to him.

o o o

National Service a Corporal's story Part II

December 1954 saw the development of Edward's NCO's course with various types of lectures and training, some of which instructed him in power of command. Later exercises involved actual jungle training in appalling weather conditions of heavy rain and flooding. The latter literally washed out some camps and men, walking waist deep in water, were horrified to find an additional hazard of swimming snakes. Some relief was afforded when an Auster aircraft dropped dry clothing and rations, including two tins of Army rum.

Edwards was thankful when he eventually got back to base after what he described as "*the most eventful couple of days of my life*". But even at base heavy rain continued, making any drying-out proceedings difficult. Lists of lost kit were submitted for replacement - an opportunity to make good all sorts of deficiencies. On the 14th December Edwards returned to his Company via a circuitous route which had to be taken to avoid flooded areas.

Xmas Day was celebrated on 22nd December (no reason being given for it being early). Tea and rum were taken round by officers and the RSM. Later Edwards prepared himself for church service but unfortunately, having eased himself into his best starched and pressed battledress he found that a scorpion had also eased its way into his trousers. Before being caught and dispatched the intruder gave Edwards two hefty stings which sent him to the medical tent for treatment instead of to church for prayers. Later in the day he admittedly got drunk and on the following day, not surprisingly, felt unwell. The rest of the Xmas period passed quickly.

New Year's Eve saw the Battalion on stand-by duties for an anticipated large scale operation which failed to develop into any significance. Early January days were lightened by some relaxation in the form of swimming, cinema visits, occasional drinks and renewed acquaintance with the previously mentioned Rosie. She, possibly seriously by now, was expressing a wish to go home to England with him - a suggestion which Edwards comments would have "*caused his old Mum and Dad to go potty*".

But by 8th January the Company were out on patrol again in jungle and swamp land with supplies being dropped to them by air. No human enemy forces were found but nature again filled the hostility gap by the presence of innumerable mosquitoes and by a single wood hornet who made one man a serious casualty. The patrol finished with a return journey to base effected by way of a river police launch and Army trucks. For Edwards a rather painful tooth extraction followed. Large scale anti-terrorist operations took place in the closing days of January but without any result and Edwards in any case was non-effective as he was placed on a week's sick leave. February saw a return to patrol activities and in one of them Edwards and his Company became completely lost in potentially hostile territory and only regained their bearings by obtaining a fix from a light aircraft.

Air supplies were dropped but many of them were caught up in high trees resulting in exhausting efforts to get them down. Nature was still making its contribution to discomfort - this time by way of leeches and ticks. A new draft of soldiers arrived from the UK on 28th February - referred to by the seasoned Edwards as "white men" A lighter form of rifle, designed for jungle fighting arrived at the same time.

Early March saw Edwards beginning to think of demobilisation as on the 7th he gave his six months notification to leave the Army. A well laid out ambush nearly ended in disaster when a Malay Police patrol crossed the line of fire of the trigger tensed Edwards. Any misinterpreted move by either side could have resulted in mistaken and fatal cross fire.

Near contact with Communist Terrorists occurred on 20th March when another patrol unsuccessfully fired on two escaping bandits. This failure was depressing to the troops who had put so much effort into their duties. In revengeful mood they took the war to nature by lifting rocks and destroying the myriads of ants, scorpions and centipedes found thereunder. But they got more than they bargained for when they disturbed a cobra. Distinctly unfriendly, the reptile was killed by the wireless operator with a revolver shot. More boring and unprofitable patrols followed with the monotony being broken at the end of March with a football match and a successful GOC's parade.

A day's leave in Malacca which started out merrily with a cinema visit, a Chinese meal and drinks ended otherwise when Edwards collapsed with a return bout of Malaria and ended up in hospital. Detained for a week, he suffered violent stomach disorders but was nevertheless cheered by the presence of an English Ward Sister and a fellow Australian patient with whom he once "broke camp" for a few hours. Discharged from hospital on 11th April he was sent to Port Dickson for a week's Rest and Recuperation.

Returning to duty on 17th April he found preparations were being made for a big anti-terrorist operation against the village of Sagil where it was thought a meeting of leading terrorists was planned. The operation took place on the night of the 19th but due to premature firing by another platoon it went wrong and in the darkness and ensuing confusion all but one of the terrorists escaped. A search of the village at first light failed to remedy the situation which Edwards described as "*all in all a waste of time and effort*". His feelings weren't improved by the fact that he was suffering from a very stiff and sore hand and arm which necessitated medical attention and removal from active duties until 11th May when he was pleased to be returned to his Unit. A pending visit by a Brigadier necessitated much "bulling up" and whitewashing and painting. More patrols, some with the Malay Police, again proved unproductive. On 31st May Edwards, by now a Corporal, went to A Coy HQ at Kluang to confirm his notice to leave the Colours in January 1956. Offers of the possibility of promotion to Sergeant failed to persuade him to sign on for further service.

The Glorious First of June brought no special celebrations which was a source of surprise to Edwards. The following day he read in Battalion Orders the notification of his six months notice to leave. Patrols and guard duties followed. A new officer arrived and the first patrol under him failed to impress the seasoned Edwards and his companions who made little allowance for inexperience. A patrol of railway lines on 20th June brought no results but three days later another patrol was fired on from across the same lines but thankfully without casualties. On the 26th June a move was made to Singapore for 6 weeks Internal Security duties and in these more civilised surroundings Edwards found himself blanching his equipment for the first time for about two years.

July saw resumption of some of the peace-time drills, parades and routines which had not been exercised since the Battalion left Maidstone for overseas service but Edwards accepted all this philosophically. By 11th July he was obviously accepting extra responsibilities as he was acting as Company Orderly Sergeant. Resulting parades and inspections all went off satisfactorily although some of them are described as being "European style". Wherever he was Edwards seems to have had the good fortune to be paid regularly and on 28th July, suitably financed, he achieved what he described as his "dream for years" by purchasing a duty free Rolex watch. On 31st July he succumbed to a typical overseas Serviceman's temptation of allowing himself to be tattooed.

August saw much drill and weapons training. Preparing for a kit inspection Edwards found that his PT vest had holes in the

back due to the ravages of some "up country" rat. A Chinese lady effected what seemed to be a good repair to the back by cutting an appropriate patch out of the front. A sympathetically minded Colour Sergeant provided solution in the form of a replacement vest.

On the 19th August Edwards took the unusual and somewhat dangerous step of seeking an interview with the Company Commander about the incompetence of an officer (possibly the new man) on patrol and the resulting fears of the members of the platoon. The interview went without difficulty but later the Company Sergeant Major gave Edwards a "right going over", reminding him darkly that the penalty for mutiny on active service was death. Be that as it may, a new Platoon officer was appointed the same day.

Another CO's parade, with the peace-time embellishments of Colours and Band took place on the 20th August but two days later active service conditions were temporarily resumed with guard duties on a ship which was unloading ammunition at the docks. But a parade of major proportions took place on the 2nd September when a Guard of Honour (which included Edwards) in full white ceremonial tropical uniform was mounted for an inspection by Sir Malcolm McDonald, Commissioner for South East Asia. All went well.



A Company mounting a Guard of Honour for Sir Malcolm McDonald, High Commissioner for South East Asia, Friday 2nd June 1955.

Sir Malcolm McDonald inspecting the Guard accompanied by Major J B C Palmer, Sgt Bill Redford is the NCO nearest the front and Cpl 'Toothy' Smith 6th from right front row.

battledress, complete with appropriate medal ribbon and other relevant embellishments.

Flown out on the 28th October they travelled via Bangkok and Calcutta to Karachi where an overnight stop was made. Via Bahrain and Nicosia and Rome. Edwards eventually arrived in London on the 29th October and then travelled on to Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, where neither he nor his companions were expected. A suggestion by the officer in charge that they should go home and report back the following morning was gleefully accepted. Arriving home in the middle of the night Edwards let himself in by the front door key, which he found still hanging in its usual place, and settled himself to sleep on the downstairs settee. Pandemonium ensued in the morning (his mother's birthday incidentally) when the family found him there.

Returning to Stoughton Barracks he was granted disembarkation leave, soon followed by demobilisation. In poignant words Edwards comments, *"Thus ended my glorious three years service with what was the best Regiment in the British Army. Service that made a great and positive impact on the rest of my life, experiences that made me much more able to face the trials and tribulations of later life..... I have never ever regretted one minute of my service time"*.

Similar sentiments have been felt and expressed by many another returning service veteran.

RE & RF

The despatch of the Newsletter



The Secretary, John Rogerson counting envelopes! "How many more of these b..... envelopes are there?"

Mrs Sheila Roberts corrects an address prior to posting



My last section Sept/Oct '55 Back row: Me, L/C Boyd-Wallace, 2, 2, 2, Front Row: Johnnie Gay, Mike Denton, Mickie Hills, Owen George (the best leading scout ever)

Remaining weeks were composed mainly of parades and guard duties and on the 21st September the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, including Bill Speakman VC, arrived to take over internal security duties from the Queen's. On the 27th September a move was made to Rengam where tented accommodation was occupied. Patrols were now the order of the day again and one Chinese man was detained and handed over to the police. By the 7th October things were literally "hotting up" when a truck was set on fire by terrorists. Three days later a band of seven terrorists was encountered. One man was wounded and captured and a woman was also captured. A woman rubber tapper was killed in the battle. Two more women terrorists were captured in succeeding days, one of them being pregnant.

Large scale patrols which commenced on the 17th October meant strict fire control and movement discipline to avoid parties running into each other in the jungle, possibly with "friendly fire" casualties.

But on the 21st October a radio message was received about Edward's discharge. Returning to Singapore he, and other homeward bound soldiers, kitted themselves out with UK

Memoirs of a Conscript

In letters dated 1984 firstly to the Officer Commanding 36 Engineer Regiment at Maidstone and secondly to the Editor, D Moore, formerly of The Queen's Royal Regiment, describes his life as an unwilling conscript from 1944-1947 "*Conscript*" by Act of Parliament, and "*unwilling*" by reason of the fact that as an ex-Air Cadet he had wanted to go into the Royal Air Force, Moore's literary outpourings had been prompted by a nostalgic journey he had made to the Maidstone Barracks where he originally commenced his Army Service.

Six week's initial training at Maidstone in what was then known as the General Service Corps finalised with him being posted to The Queen's Royal Regiment, first at Invicta Lines, Maidstone and later at Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone. The latter move was welcomed, as the "*bull*" of initial training gave way to more realistic substance and not before time.

The post D-Day battlefields of France were calling and Private Moore and his colleagues soon found themselves sea-borne in a landing craft bound for the port of Calais which they found to be in a state of utter desolation with the masts of many sunken vessels protruding from the water. Once landed, the troops were soon transported by rail to a Reinforcement Holding Unit on the Belgian coast not far from Ostend. There, seemingly forgotten from a combatant point of view, they were engaged on various support duties with Moore being particularly active on widespread motorised ration fatigues. But things changed dramatically in June 1945, when the Queen's men were returned to England for jungle training - not a pleasant prospect as things were at that time.

Dropping of the atom bomb ended the Japanese war before training was completed but nevertheless Moore and his comrades sailed from Liverpool in October in the troopship *Durban Castle* eastward bound. After six weeks at sea they found themselves in the sluggish waters of the Irrawaddy where the natural clutter of jungle vegetation was not improved by the addition of the debris of war in the form of burnt out hulks and oil storage tanks. There the climatic heat really became oppressive. Moore describes it as "*closing around us like hot soup*".

After a month in Burma the next move was to Thailand where although the females were gorgeous the "bugs" were not and Moore spent Christmas 1945 in 14 Casualty Clearing Station with malaria and amoebic dysentery. On recovery he was engaged on screening duties of Japanese prisoners of war. They were classed in three categories by colour codes viz:- "*white*" - ordinary soldiers, "*grey*" suspected war criminals and, last of all, "*black*" confirmed war criminals. The "*blacks*" were confined to cells under strict armed security. Veteran Burma campaigners understandably hated the Japanese for their former appalling atrocities but Moore found that once beaten they were "*totally servile, polite and pleasant*". Of a different character were the Indian National Army soldiers who were renegades recruited by the Japanese from among prisoners of war to fight against the British. Says Moore, "*Boy those b..... s needed some guarding..... Loaded Tommy guns and don't get within spitting distance*".

In August 1946, leaving Thailand for Northern Malaya, Moore was obviously beginning to think of "*demob*" as he comments that he has been in the Army for two years and is now twenty. Still with an interest in aircraft he looked into a derelict Japanese aircraft rotting in the jungle and literally put his head into a hornets nest. Pursued by the angry and vicious insects he beat a hasty retreat.

Recalling the departure of 1st Queen's from Thailand in the summer of 1946, Moore says that they were embarked in lighters which were then towed down the Menam River and out

into the Gulf of Siam where they embarked in the troopship *Corfu* which set sail for Penang.

Eventually, via Penang, he arrived at Sungei Patani where he stayed until the spring of 1947. Accommodation was in long low log barrack rooms and a watchful eye open had to be kept for the depredations of thieving "*loose wallahs*". Nevertheless, some items of equipment were lost through open tropical window spaces at night. The duty at Sungei Patani is described as "*out station*" type which consisted of a base in the University buildings of Chulalongkorn in Bangkok. A further location to be guarded was the docks at Klong Toi, it being necessary to protect them from the local pillaging populace.

The Cholburi Racecourse was also protected as was the leave rest camp at San Sukh. It was at the former that Moore became sick - "*got me bugs*" he describes it. Admitted to hospital he was found to be suffering from malaria and later from dysentery. Stationed later at Cholburi he found it to be a strange place with part of the camp bordering on to a Chinese graveyard. Facilities were basic, with only occasional rainstorms providing opportunities for showers. Troops were confined to camp for most of the time and this gave rise to a certain amount of discontent. Occasional sights of topless charming Thai maidens doubtless increased their frustration. But if they were short of female company they certainly weren't short of the insect fraternity. Mosquito nets were welcome - visiting large scorpions and centipedes were not. There were no regrets on leaving Cholburi.

In Singapore he was billeted in Selerang Barracks near Changi and found that peace-time routine was gradually returning - white paint, white webbing, gleaming brasses - the full treatment in fact. Guard duties became a principal role for the soldiers, including guarding Changi airfield for the Royal Air Force. This had its compensations as they were allowed to use the RAF facilities of a magnificent canteen, cinema and swimming pool.

The demobilisation programme was obviously getting into swing as Moore comments "*Fresh faced, pink cheeked young lads are now arriving as new drafts from Blighty. All our old Burma hands are long gone*". Too young for any war activities these new arrivals, although no-one knew it at the time, were soon to be fighting Chinese Communists.

But for Moore "*the day*", as he calls it, arrived in November 1947 and he embarked on the Dutch motor ship *Sloterdyck* bound for home. Conditions were not ideal but, having regard to the direction in which they were heading, no-one really minded too much. The landing at Southampton two weeks before Christmas was quickly followed by a visit to the demob centre at Woking and the return to civvy street. Private Moore would soldier no more.

Recalling some of his officers, Moore particularly remembers one of Polish descent who was rather erratic with the use of his revolver, seemingly being more suited to the Wild West than the British Army. In his concluding lines Moore expresses the wish that younger generations will eventually appreciate and take an interest in the affairs of times past.

Literary articles like those of himself and other ex-servicemen will certainly make welcome contributions to that end.

DM & RF

India Book

Some years ago when I was much involved with the museum at Clandon, I resolved to write a book about our regimental forbears long connection with India. My two main reasons for doing so were first that I had spent six years in the Indian Army before returning to the Surreys in 1947, and second the realisation that the regimental connection had involved the stationing of one battalion or another in that country practically continuously from 1825 to 1947. By coincidence the 2nd and 31st Foot, first embarked for India from the same port of Gravesend in the Thames Estuary during the same week in February 1825. They arrived on the same day, the 7th June, the one at Bombay, the other at Calcutta. 2nd Queen's were the last to leave India. They sailed from Bombay on the 17th January 1947. The 70th Foot were first posted to India in 1849 and 2nd Queen's in 1878.

Full of enthusiasm, and with the help of the museum, I soon produced a first draft of my book. But it was thin. Clearly more research was needed, and I invited personal recollections from those who had served in India. A number of people responded and I am sorry that I have hitherto been unable to incorporate their offerings in a second draft. Unexpected problems arose which prevented me from finding time for it. But recently I have acquired a second wind and am working at it. Meanwhile, I have offered some of them for publication in the Newsletter. I hope the authors will not mind. They are too good not to see the light of day.

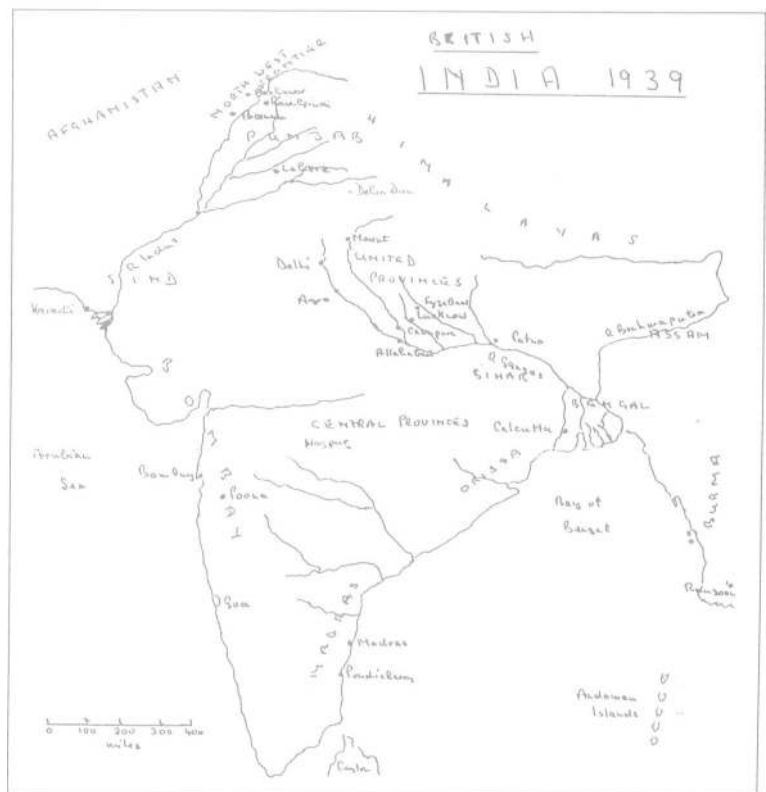
My first choice was Major A R C Mott's fascinating account of a year on the North West Frontier. I was partly drawn to this having commanded a company of Pathans. I was also intrigued by his reference to the problems of overcoming malaria. I did not experience his whisky cure, but when I was sent from Ceylon to teach Jungle warfare at the Tactical School at Poona in 1943, I was going down with malaria regularly every twenty eight days, and was only cured by obtaining black market paludrine from the Poona bazaar.

My second choice was Mrs Keane's contrasting description of cantonment life in the 1930s. It was not something I encountered as most of the limited time I spent in India was under canvas, but her reference to tiger hunting reminded me of the time when I occasionally encountered those magnificent beasts. After two terms teaching Jungle warfare with some difficulty at Poona where the countryside has few trees I was sent with a team to establish a new Tactical Training Centre near Dehra Dug north of Delhi. We lived in a hutted camp in the Siwalik Hills. Forest country reputed to be the best tiger country in India. Occasionally we would come face to face with a tiger on a jungle path. The drill was to stand still and look. After a while the animal would move away, and we would proceed. No harm done on either side. Only once was there trouble when a British staff sergeant went out one evening with his shot gun. He encountered a tiger, shot at it and was badly mauled, only just escaping with his life.

But our vigilant Editor pointed out that my second choice had appeared in the Newsletter some years ago, so he selected instead a piece about Poona which I had drafted, helped by Colonel J W Sewell's reflections on the place when he was Adjutant of 2nd Queen's there in 1946. One of my abiding memories of it is of evenings spent sailing on the river Merla which flows between Poona and Vierkee. I still have a silver spoon as a memento of one race won there. It is inscribed 'RCB', the initials of the grandly named, Royal Connaught Boat Club. I and some of the other instructors at the tactical school used to go down to the Club when our teaching day was over.

The war seemed a very long way away.

MJAC



A year on the North-West Frontier.

In the autumn of 1940 1st Queen's started a year on the North-West Frontier of what was then part of India. A British battalion had to have a good reputation to be sent there, for although much has been written and filmed about the Khyber pass, the Pathans and the 'frontiah' to make it seem and sound romantic, the Frontier was an area where supreme fitness, alertness and discipline were essential if we were to pull our weight among Indian battalions that more regularly were stationed there.

The administration of the North-West Frontier was different from other parts of the country. Suffice it to say that in Waziristan, where the Pathans were a constant menace to security, a large military presence was essential to support the Political Service in keeping the peace. There were two large garrison stations, Razmak and Wana, and numerous smaller garrisons on the lines of communication to these stations. 1 Queen's was stationed in Razmak, some 50 miles from the railhead at Bannu, and between the two were two or three small garrisons, essential to protect the road supplying Razmak.

There were six battalions in Razmak and we were the only British one among two Gurkha battalions and three of the Indian Army, and of course supporting arms and services, all Indian. Razmak was known as the largest monastery in the world, not because of piety but because there were no women allowed there.

In addition to the regular army garrisons there was a chain of posts manned by Scouts who were Pathans from other areas, trained and led by officers of the Indian Army. They were very fit, mobile and self-supporting in the field, but somewhat vulnerable in so far as a 'lashkar' (irregular force) of Pathans could cut off a Scouts' post if it were isolated.

The opposition was potentially any of the local inhabitants. They lived in villages with formidable walls and observation towers, they cultivated and were herdsmen. When we were there the Fakir of Ipi was the big shot on the other side, and if he decided to assemble a lashkar to surround a Scouts post or cause general mayhem, several hundred Pathans would rally to the cause. But day by day there was the danger that half a

dozen Pathans, who were watching our every movement, would note some slackness or regular method of carrying out some task, lie invisibly in ambush, fire a volley from close range and attack the bewildered party with knives and be off with rifles, ammunition and their victims' genitals before any support or relief could be laid on to help our soldiers.

As a result, whatever we were doing we had to protect ourselves. Razmak had a perimeter wall and fence, but was also surrounded with permanent camp piquets, fortified and about half a mile from the perimeter. Twice a week the road to Bannu was opened and lorries left Razmak empty and others came up with fresh supplies. But before this could start two battalions with supporting arms moved astride the road, sending piquets of about a platoon up to features overlooking the road and there they would stay until the last vehicle had passed and the piquets were recalled. We were responsible for five or six miles of road and beyond that piquets were provided from the other garrisons. It could be monotonous work and the weather varied from snow - Razmak was 6000' above sea level - to blazing heat, but every time a piquet was sent up, the commander made a plan of support, and variation from last time. Supporting Gunners and machine guns were ready in the column.

Usually one paused below the crest and charged the top and occupied the sangar (stone walled perimeter) on the alert until recalled. Signalling was by flag. 'IAP' (I am in position) was reported and the column moved slowly on. The return journey was more hazardous. Pathans could be hidden within 50 yards of the piquet and perhaps not many hours of daylight were left. Fighting in the dark had to be avoided if possible. So usually the piquet commander would thin out when withdrawal seemed imminent. The 'RTR' order to withdraw was acknowledged and the remaining section had to be out of the sangar and down to the rest of the piquet in a flash. Then altogether back to the column at best speed, someone in the last wave weaving an orange screen which showed supporting arms that all was clear beyond him. And if our opponents inflicted a casualty on the way down, the piquet commander had to retake the position immediately and stay until the casualty had been evacuated. No dead or wounded person was allowed to fall into the Pathans' hands.

In addition to this, normal training took place as far as possible and there were sports grounds, some of them outside the perimeter. For officers there was a good club where we could meet our fellow monks and hospitality in asking our friends to our mess or going to theirs.

During our tour on the frontier we were part of two punitive expeditions. The Fakir had assembled a lashkar of several hundred and was obviously bent on some evil not far from Razmak. So on 7th December 1940 'Razcol' left its quarters and made for Tauda China, a flattish area apart from Mahsud villages and surrounded by mountains, some seven miles away. The whole column's transport was mules. They carried mountain gunners' howitzers, infantry weapons and ammunition, supplies of all kinds. Piquets were sent up the hills to protect the column, so that we would move some 500 yards and halt for half an hour before the next bound.

Progress was unhindered until we came in sight of a large mountain called Pakkalita Sar with many subsidiary features, so that the commander decided that 5th Bn The 8th Punjab Regiment should occupy the whole of it, and very soon it was apparent that someone else was already there, ready to dispute the decision. There followed a battle that lasted for the rest of the day and much of the night. As a 5/8th piquet withdrew it would be fired at and casualties inflicted, so back they had to go and this was happening all over the feature. It was hard for

Gunners and machine gunners to give accurate support to this confused engagement.

As far as the column was concerned the way to Tauda China was not opposed and the area was occupied while the battle went on behind. The usual camp piquets had to be established and any company was detailed to occupy one. The hills were covered in scrub holly, but we reached the top without incident and, with one platoon giving protection the rest set about building a formidable sangar. It was more or less complete when tac-tac-tac came shots from somewhere in the scrub, but no harm was done. This was the first time under fire for most of us. But it died down and one platoon returned to the camp and a party came up with rations and blankets. I doubt if any of us slept much that night, and after the initial sniping our position was not seriously sniped. But the firing from Pakkalita Sar continued.

We were relieved next morning and the battle on Pakkalita had died down. The Punjabis had had a terrible mauling, their CO and several officers being killed and over 50 other ranks. A battalion of The Hyderabad Regiment had been sent to help them off the feature, but in the confusion and fear many men had made their way towards the camp and been overtaken.

Thereafter we settled in to our camp while patrolling and negotiations took place. The camp had a perimeter wall and everyone had a 'funk-hole' about the size of a grave where we could sleep, rest and write. Messes were dug down and covered with 160 lb tents, and it was wonderful how warm we kept with Tilley lamps flaring away.

There was snow one night which didn't lay for long. I well remember a sudden alert in the middle of one night where there were Verey lights and explosions from the piquet which we had built. But soon the lamp flashed 'Happy Christmas', a nice thought from 'Oscar' Palmer, the commander.

While negotiations proceeded we made contact with the Scouts' post at Ladha, establishing an intermediate camp. It was here that my company suffered its only casualty. There was a camp piquet which 'Crispo' Evans, the CO, and I visited one morning and he ordered the latrine to be built up for better protection. No doubt it was, but it was still vulnerable and L/Cpl Lole, my clerk who was there to make the NCOs up to strength was hit in the stomach by an accurate sniper. Darkness was coming, but we had to evacuate him, and at full speed a strong party with stretcher bearers dashed to the piquet, gave poor Lole morphia, bandaged him temporarily and came back. There was obvious danger if there were many Pathans there, so we had to come faster than in daylight. Sadly Lole died during the night, from a wound which the MO said was fatal anyway.

At last negotiations were over and among the punishments awarded by the Political Agent were handing in a number of rifles and destruction of towers in some Mahsud villages. A bomber came staggering along at perhaps 90 mph, dropped its load and returned more quickly to base. There was also a Medium Battery which could perform the same tasks. There was a feeling that the headmen of the destroyed villages would be given money to rebuild, but that may not have been true.

And so, after about a month we returned to Razmak. It may be of interest that our dress on these winter operations was a balaclava helmet, shirt and sweater, trousers, long puttees and boots. Leather jerkins were issued and for camp life my Gilgit boots, quilted, wool-lined and coming above the knees were invaluable.

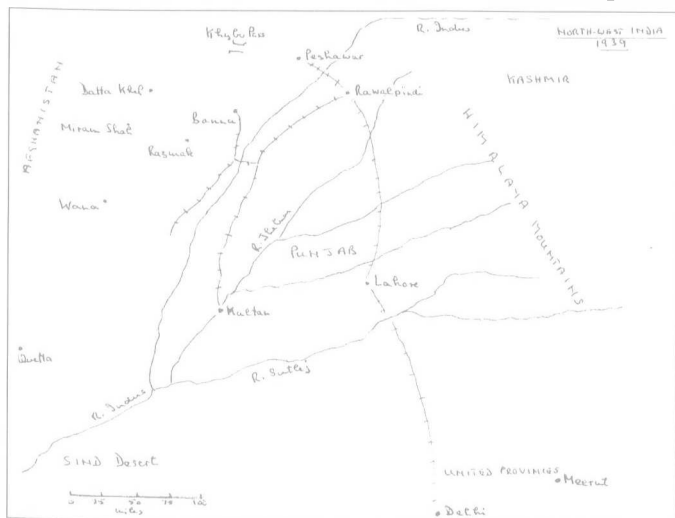
The other long expedition of Razcol in which we were involved was to Datta Khel the following summer. The Fakir's men had virtually cut off this Scouts' post, which was fortified and some 50 miles from Razmak. From somewhere he had

acquired a gun and ammunition and occasional rounds were fired against the defenders with little damage caused.

Datta Khel was comparatively low lying and at that time of year the Bannu road, which we marched along, guarded by the various military forts as we went, grew hotter as we descended, and the last part which was a dog-leg back through Miran Shah was also malarial. But for most of the way progress was comparatively fast as much of the road was piquetted for us and lorries could carry a certain amount of our needs.

This was in the days before mepacrine and paludrine and our only defence against malaria was quinine, which was only a suppressive. As a result malaria became rife in the battalion and at any time a considerable percentage of men suffered from malaria or relapses for years afterwards. I have always had a theory that whisky was an excellent preventive against malaria - at any rate we whisky drinkers, CO. 2nd in Command, QM, myself and one or two others never suffered, nor did any of the doctors who carried 'medicinal' spirits among the more generally accepted pills and potions.

There was little opposition for most of the journey which must have taken around a fortnight. An incident that stays in my mind was making camp one afternoon in a cloudless sky with the threat of danger, so all who could, including the officers' mess, set up shop in a dry nullah bed. From nowhere the Fakir (I imagine) produced a thundercloud which discharged its



contents on top of a feature above the campsite and our wiser, Indian friends urged us to move from the nullah. Never has a camp been struck more quickly as a trickle became a flood, and just as the last tents and equipment were brought to the bank, a wall of water roared down the nullah bed.

But as we came within a day's march of Datta Khel there was opposition, nothing on the scale of Tauda China, but enough to hinder us somewhat. I remember my company being sent to take a large feature and there was inaccurate sniping. Then someone actually saw some of the 'enemy', though I didn't. But the position was pointed out to me and I was able to call for fire from a mountain battery, signal corrections and observe a direct hit on the spot where tribesmen had been seen and there was no more trouble from there.

We camped around Datta Khel for about three weeks, while negotiations proceeded. The road had to be opened most days and the hills for piquetting were larger than around Razmak, some of the features needing a company. If one was unlucky there was a piquet near camp, withdrawal when the column had passed and then another feature to climb. It was fiercely hot and one needed water which came from a water bottle (warm) or a chagul. This was a canvas bag with a strap to go over the shoulder and evaporation kept it cool.

There was one particular dead mule near the road which of course became more and more noticeable as the days went on.

On days when we did not have to open the road, we would make a road to help communications beyond Datta Khel. As far as we were concerned this was done with picks and shovels. The Sappers of course supplemented this work with explosives, but best of all was our secret weapon, 'The Monster', a bright yellow bulldozer that accompanied the column and probably did more work than an infantry company.

After a while peace terms were agreed and again villages were evacuated by a certain time and devastated by the medium guns which we protected while they were in action, and then we made our way home.

As the column wound up to Razmak Narai something unique occurred - two lorries containing sailors overtook us, to a certain amount of Cockney ribaldry. This was a party from HMS *Kelvin* a destroyer whose stern was badly damaged off Crete and who had come to Bombay for repair. This took longer than expected and the Captain (who deservedly rose to at least Rear-Admiral) decided that his men should not rot in Bombay, but should see a bit of India. The story went that by the time their Lordships in England had answered his request in the negative, the party was out of touch in Kashmir. But we had the pleasure of entertaining the Royal Navy for a few days, and you can imagine how the 'Excellent' connection was exploited if such an excuse was needed for us to have a party after all those weeks on column, and Buckshee Bill, the local sniper, entertained us all with a few rounds as we watched a garrison open-air entertainment, which was prematurely adjourned to club, messes and canteens.

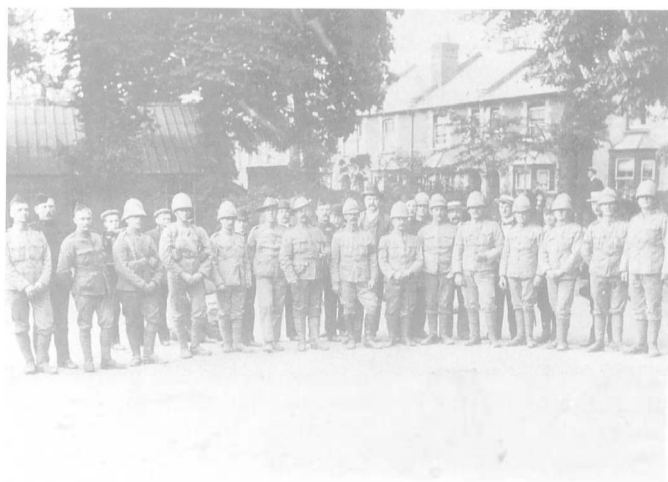
In conclusion I can truthfully say that 1 Queens' reputation on the Frontier was excellent. We suffered a few casualties, but so did everyone. I am sure that senior officers acknowledged that we were well worth our place in that mighty efficient team, and the Pathans who acted as umpires never ambushed us and were never able to acquire any of their spoils of war.

ARCM

Editors note: Another article written by Colonel J W Sewell and Brigadier M J A Clarke on Poona will appear in the May Newsletter.

o o o

From the past



Sandfield Terrace
Guildford 1900

Colonel Walter Koch at El Bathan

What has Colonel Walter Koch, Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross to do with 'B' Company 1st Bn. the East Surrey Regiment? Nothing much, but the following may be of interest:

In the Spring of 1940 the German plan for the invasion of France did not include an attack on the virtually impregnable Maginot line. The main attack would come through Sedan just to the north and then sweep on to the Channel ports. Also, Army Group 'B' consisting of 29 Divisions would invade neutral Holland and Belgium with the object of enticing the best French divisions and the BEF northwards into a trap.

But, in Belgium and Holland there were also several 'impregnable' fortresses which would have to be taken if the plan for Army Group 'B' were to succeed. The most important fortress was Eben Emael near Maastricht. The capture of the fort would not be possible by the use of conventional forces even by the extremely efficient modern German Army. Novel and audacious ways had to be thought out, a method not yet envisaged in military history, and certainly never, within the comprehension of the allied Commanders. Something new in warfare was about to happen. Fort Eben Emael was the last word in fortification technology, proof against all known aircraft bombs and every form of artillery.

Hitler consulted his Generals and decided that the only way was to land assault troops from gliders on top of the fort. Between the wars Germany was not allowed an Air Force, but this did not stop them making and using gliders, and thus at the start of the war there were plenty of highly skilled glider pilots around.

This assault force had to be commanded by a very exceptional officer. Captain Walter Koch was selected. He was then aged thirty, a volunteer who transferred from the Herman Goering Regiment to the parachutists. Assault Force Koch was about 400 strong, all volunteers and highly motivated. Secret training began at Hildesheim (in 1939) and then moved to the Cologne area to be near to the frontier. The utmost secrecy was essential and there was to be no leave.

At about this time the use of hollow-charge explosives was perfected (as later used in the PIAT and Bazooka etc.). They would be employed together with bangalore torpedoes, flame-throwers: pole charges and all the latest technological equipment then available.

At 0400 hours on the morning of May 10th the first gliders landed on the roof of the fortress. The battle was short and sharp and it was all over in some fifteen minutes, the 500 or so defenders being quite bewildered clearly having no idea what was happening to them. A few hollow-charges and pole charges soon hastened their surrender and Storm Troop Koch was busily consolidating. It was all too easy due to great courage, training, daring and the inspired leadership of Captain Koch. In fact, the surrender was all so sudden and unexpected that some of Koch's men were allowed to wander down to the nearest village for a pint or two to celebrate! A few hours later the Germans declared war on Belgium. The capture of the fort no doubt hastened the rapid collapse of the Dutch and Belgian armies.

It has been written that Walter Koch was a tough soldier and a legend in his time. His methods as a leader did not 'always meet with the approval of his men, but when he thought he was right, he fought with ruthless determination and courage. He was decorated with the Knight's Cross for his triumph at Eben Emael.

In the Summer of 1940 he became a national hero and was lionised throughout Germany. Hitler sent him round various garrisons to lecture on his exploits. When in October 1940

Hitler met Franco at Hendaye to consider the occupation of Spain (Operation Felix) Franco would not co-operate, but the proposed parachute landing on Gibraltar was planned by, and would have been commanded by, Koch. It was well that Franco stood firm otherwise the western end of the Mediterranean would have been closed to the Allies, so no Malta convoys and certainly no Operation 'Torch'. Koch next appears commanding the 1st Bn of the Assault Regiment in the invasion of Crete (1941) and also later in Russia.

Operation 'Torch' (October 1942) was a gamble, an attempt to capture Tunis and thus cut off the whole of Rommel's Africa Corps and their Italian divisions. To capture Tunis by the end of 1942 would have ended the war in Africa and thus the invasion of southern Europe could have taken place six months earlier with all its strategic implications.

It was a remarkable feat to move the so called 1st Army some 400 miles from Algiers to Tunis and ready for battle in only a few weeks. The gamble was accepted, and had Lt. Gen. Kenneth Anderson been successful maybe he would have gone on to greater triumphs and what would have become of Monty! (Perhaps more British units and less raw Americans would have helped, but who am I to say!).

German troops from 10 Panzer Division, containing parachute units and the new 'Tiger' tanks which had not been seen before in Africa were now pouring into Tunisia by sea and air under the command of General Walter Nehring- and including the newly formed Battle group Koch.

Nehring was faced with exactly the same problem as Hannibal had been faced with in the 2nd Punic War some two thousand years earlier. In both cases the enemy would advance on Carthage/Tunis from the west; Scipio and his Roman legions up the central road from Constantine, and 11 Bde (78 Div.) plus a company of American 'Tank Busters' by the same route and then through Beja. (36 Bde to advance nearer the coast).

Hannibal who knew quite a bit about this kind of problem stated that the 'key' position to be held was the town and communication centre of Medjez-el-Bab. "He who holds Medjez holds Carthage." (Bab means 'key' in Arabic). But when the crunch came he was completely routed by Scipio in 202 B.C. at the battle of Zama in spite of all his elephants! (The site of the battle of Zama is disputed and historians locate it in several different places. But there is no doubt it was very near the modern town of Medjez-el-Bab).

Thus the Germans had to keep Medjez inside their perimeter but this was not to be. This vital town was taken by 2 LF and 5 Northampton's on 25th November 1942. The breach in their defences opened a gap through which 1 Surreys were able to advance deep into their bridgehead.

The Germans were surprised and extremely shaken by this thrust rapid advance and occupation of Tebourba, 20 miles from Tunis, by the Surreys. But, as is usual, they reacted quickly and with great vigour. 'C' Coy. (Major Caffyn) was positioned on the edge of the town. 'A' Coy (Major Andrews) forward on pt.186

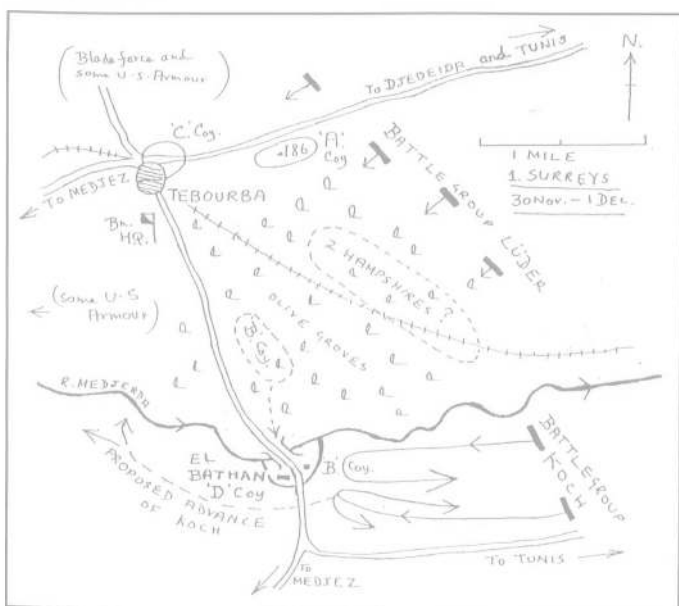


Koch Walter Oberstleutnant
Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross

while 'D' Coy had to go two or so miles south to El Bathan covering the bridge over the River Medjerda. For some reason 'B' Coy was placed in the middle of a dense Olive grove with no field of fire half way between Tebourba and El Bathan. When the first tank attacks took place 'B' Coy. could hear them well enough but could see nothing. Nevertheless, Lt Jake Saunders's Pl was overcome and mostly captured. (Lt. Saunders was away sick at the time).

'B' Coy. were then ordered to join 'D' Coy in the El Bathan bridgehead. With its remaining two Pls they took up position over the bridge on the left in a small area which may have been a paddock with riding stables and plenty of tall eucalyptus trees. (They might just have well stayed on the Tebourba side of the river because there were more Germans on that side than on the far side near 'D' Coy anyway). The only officer platoon commander was now Lt. George Everett, the third platoon commander Lt Phil Whiffen had been wounded and captured a few days earlier, just short of Medjez. The Tebourba battles (25th November - 2nd December 1942) are fully recorded in several books and Regimental histories. In brief, the battles raged on and off for 8-9 days. When 5 Northhamptons attempted to advance towards Djedeida they were repulsed and relieved by 2 Hampshires (from Blade Force) who were no more successful.

While the Hampshires were putting up a stout resistance before being over-run by Battle group Lüder, General Nehring sent the already legendary Colonel Walter Koch with his Battle group, mostly war hardened paratroopers, up the river and Tunis Road to take the bridgehead at El Bathan (30th November) from the east (see map).



Koch could then either turn west towards Tebourba and come in from the flank or advance south towards Medjez where various raw American armoured units were now deploying. A day or so before the battle of El Bathan 'B' Coy were needlessly hindered by Randolph Churchill dressed as a commando, and a motley crew of French/Algerian types milling around in old civilian cars and getting into everyone's way.

Soon Koch's paratroopers were probing around 'B' and 'D' Coy areas. Lt Col Wilberforce sent a platoon from 'A' Coy (Lt Crabtree) to strengthen the small garrison. The fog of war, as was normal, now descended. 'Crabbers' writes:

In the middle of the morning we were called out to deal with a small attack coming down the road beside the river. Having driven off the German sortie we returned to the bridge which was then under sporadic mortar fire, so I sent the platoon across at the double to be met by an irate Major 'Buck' who accused

us of causing panic. He then asked me what I was doing; so I tried to explain that I seemed to be a rather masterless man and was trying to rejoin 'A' Company. He then decided that I should return to the 'B' Company area. Later I was joined there by George Everett and his platoon from 'B' Company.

We spent the night under mortar fire as we were at a road junction - a prime spot, for fixed lines defensive fire. We also had a visit from one of 'D' Company's platoon commanders - I think his name was Hall. He had not heard a word from 'D' Coy HQ so he had come back to see what was happening. I put him in the picture as far as I was able, so he decided to return to his platoon to await further orders. He was wandering around on his own, so I offered to send a section with him as escort but he declined the offer, I think that that was the last that anybody saw or heard of him.

Koch's attack on the 2 Pls of 'B' Coy started with a heavy mortar barrage, and with trees all around the usual falling of twigs, leaves and branches. Soon machine gun fire opened up and the 'B' Coy Bren gunners replied. Pte 'Spider' Webb in his cardigan with his 'cobweb' embroidered on it blazing away correctly through the cactus hedges. Grenades were thrown on both sides, casualties were few but CSM 'Wacker' Welch, who had been with the battalion since India and the Sudan, was killed by a sniper. Arthur Seaton, the Company clerk, did sterling work.

After it was all over, 'B' Coy remained unmoved, and according to military historian Bryan Perrett 'Battle group Koch had been decisively repulsed at El Bathan'. It may not have seemed like this in 'B' Coy, for they were soon ordered back over the river again into the olive groves to put in a counter attack with 'C' Coy.

On point 186 'A' Coy. were being hard pressed by part of Battle group Lüder. During this attack 'B' Coy. bumped into Headquarters 2 Hampshires and was able, more or less, to put the CO in the picture: probably the last person to speak to Lt Colonel Lee. The counter attack failed, Major Buchanan and Major Andrews ('A' Coy) both being wounded. The inevitable allied defeat at Tebourba turned into a mini Dunkirque. The Germans claiming over 1,000 prisoners and hundreds of abandoned vehicles. 'B' Coy were down to 2 officers and 44 men. For the battles around Tebourba 1 Surreys received 1 MC The gallant Hampshires for their 3 days there were awarded 1 VC, 2 DSO's and 5 MCs. The gamble for Tunis had failed and thus a quick end to the war in Africa.

But what happened to the gallant and audacious Col Walter Koch? Sad to say (from a German point of view) after his failed attempt to defeat 2 platoons of 'B' Coy at El Bathan, he went on to no further glories. Later in 1943 he was killed in a motor crash on the Autobahn in Germany, driving much too fast in his flashy sports car.

Throughout the rest of the Tunisian campaign Medjez was held by the British, as recommended by Hannibal many centuries ago. In February 1943 General Von Arnim now commanding in Tunisia launched a final attack on the town (Operation 'Oxbow'), but was repulsed in the north, and to the south around Goubellat, largely by 1 Surreys. The battalion lost the whole of 'D' Coy at Fort MacGregor in the process. Early in May Tunis was taken and in July 1943 the long delayed invasion of Southern Europe could at last begin.

RCT

Thanks to

Col. T.A. Buchanan, Major H. Crabtree, Imperial War Museum, 'German Airborne Troops' by Roger Edwards (1974), 'Seize and Hold' (1993) by Bryan Perrett, 'Against All Odds' (1995), 'Komando' by James Lucas (1985).

On Tact and Tactics

Major General John Gregory Baumgardt CB was an officer of ability as records of his career show. Born in 1784 he joined the 56th Foot in 1798 at the age of 14 and after various promotions and appointments he joined the 31st Foot (later The East Surrey Regiment) as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1826. Summarised, his career shows: Joined "The Queen's" 24th December, 1829. In command from 10th January 1831 to 20th December 1833. Brevet Colonel 28th June 1838. Promoted Major General 11th November 1851. He served at the Cape of Good Hope 1798-1802. Served during the whole of the Campaigns in India in 1803, 4, 5 and 7 and received the Indian General Service Medal With two clasps "Laswarree" and "Capture of Deig".

While Commandant of the Garrison of Bombay he suppressed a very serious insurrection in 1833. He commanded the Brigade, in which were The Queen's, at the storming of Ghuznee and Kelat in 1839, and received the Ghuznee Medal, and the Order of the Dooranee Empire 2nd Class.

But good tactical soldier though he may have been, Baumgardt suffered from one fault. He was tactless, and it was a failing that was to bring him into disfavour with his senior officers and land him in trouble on more than one occasion. A particular instance even reverberated from India to the office of the Commander-in-Chief in England.

From the 12th May - 12th December 1831, Lieutenant-Colonel Willshire, commanding the garrison at Bombay, was absent on special duties ordered by the Government of the Northern Division of Bombay. During his absence Lieutenant-Colonel Baumgardt of The Queen's took over command of the garrison while Major Hunt took temporary command of the Regiment.

On the return of Willshire to the garrison in December, Baumgardt reverted to Regimental command. In May and November 1832, the Regiment was inspected by senior officers and generally found satisfactory except that on the latter occasion attention was drawn to the unusually high number of Courts-martial, 55 since the last inspection in May. On both of these inspections the Regiment had been under the command of Major Hunt.

At an inspection in May 1833, there were signs of trouble within the Regiment as Lieutenant-Colonel Baumgardt reported to the Inspecting Officer, Colonel Henry Sullivan, that he had not met with the support he was entitled to receive from Major Hunt and some other officers named in the report. He further complained of interference in disciplinary matters by Lieutenant-Colonel Willshire.



Orders and medals of Major General J G Baumgardt CB

In December Baumgardt went home on leave and on arrival in England was sent for by the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Hill, in order that the matter could be investigated. Lord Hill's findings were against Baumgardt whose complaints were

considered trifling and whose course in reporting them was "highly reprehensible". It was deemed that "*Colonel Baumgardt did not, although a capable Officer, show the tact always necessary for the successful command of a Regiment*".

In succeeding years Colonel Baumgardt seems to have had varying relationships with other officers, sometimes improving and sometimes deteriorating. Sir John Keane particularly appears to have disliked him and by 1837 Baumgardt's conduct and style of command were such that he was court-martialled, though on what grounds and with what result the Regimental History fails to record. Whatever the outcome, Baumgardt does not seem to have suffered too much from it for he remained in the service and earned Brevet rank as a Colonel in the Afghanistan campaign in the following year where he did gallant service.

He died on 7th May 1855 - a man who had served his country well but who, with thought, could possibly have served himself better.

Random Memories of a Territorial RMO

After wartime service in a Field Ambulance, RMO of the Fifth Reconnaissance Regiment, and Staff Surgeon in India, my wife and I were demobilised in 1946 and then joined my uncle's practice in Camberley in 1948. I was asked by John Kealy to join 5 Queen's as Medical Officer. Thus started my association of 19 years with the Queen's and here are a few reminiscences in no particular order. No names - no pack drill (20th century proverb)!

Mortars: After a live firing exercise in the Stamford area, the battalion packed up and the mortars and RAP were last, as usual. The Mortar Sergeant (who had been in the same brigade as myself in Italy) had some spare bombs so we had a bet as to how many rounds would be in the air, before the first one hit the ground, at maximum trajectory. I cannot remember the number, but it was more than twelve. I lost my bet, but the resultant conflagration and peat fire took a considerable time to put out with the aid of the local fire brigade. We were not popular!

Austin Champ: This was a replacement for the Jeep with Rolls Royce engines. The first one I drew from the Transport Pool had a jammed starter motor. As I lifted the bonnet I was told nothing could be done and it had to go back to the workshop as the engine compartment was sealed, it also had a rounded bonnet - you could not put a mug of tea on it and it was most unpopular with the Padres' as the communion vessels slipped off. The flat Jeep bonnet made a very good altar, and could take a stretcher fixed across it.

Hygiene: A certain Commanding Officer used to get a spade, on exercises, and after breakfast walked off into the countryside. When tactfully reminded that the usual shallow trench latrine was screened and marked with mine tape he replied that he was following the law of Moses. What could I say? The biblical quotation comes from Deuteronomy Ch23 v 13 - "*And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee.*"

Potatoes: In the early fifties, Z Reservists were called up, after National Service to do annual camps with the Territorials. The majority were good types, but there were always some who did not like military service. As usual, the sick parade was crowded with these types in the first two or three days mostly complaining of foot trouble and blisters. The cookhouse was short of personnel for general duties, and so, with the connivance of the RSM, the orderly sergeant waited outside

the RAP, and when the sore feet and blisters had been treated, they were marched to the cookhouse and spent the days peeling spuds. The next sick parade was much smaller and my medical sergeant said "the quickest cure for sore feet and blisters I know!"

Beer: When the annual camp was in Cumbria, there was a Royal Artillery unit next door, who did not have a medical officer. I saw some of these gunners with various effects of "*the morning after the night before*" so on the AF256 (sick report form) I could not put hangover. As a disguise I put the diagnosis as T.M.R.B. This was queried by their adjutant and he was told by one of my staff that it was a kind of virus, but they would recover quickly. Actually it meant Too Much Red Barrel - a potent Watneys beer!

Shooting: 'B' Company at Camberley used to have an annual shoot on the RMA ranges at Sandhurst. In those days I could shoot reasonably straight, and so also could the local funeral director who was also a member of the Company. Sometimes there was a 'shoot out' between the undertaker and the doctor much to the amusement of the Company.

Heat Stroke and Rum: Exercise 'Dover Castle' was a divisional exercise supported by tanks across Salisbury Plain. It was very hot and dusty and the only time I have seen heat exhaustion in the UK. I had seen plenty of cases in India and so had the Quartermaster. He made sure that the battalion had adequate supplies of water and it worked. The men I saw and treated were from another unit who were short of water. The best treatment is cold sweet tea with added salt. The exercise ended with a violent thunderstorm and everyone got soaked. A wet and bedraggled MO and CO saw the divisional commander who signed the necessary form for a Rum issue - the only time in 19 years that I remember it happening. The QM had some of the usual stone jars which I had not seen since Italy. Did he have a premonition?

Legal: In 1960 Annual Camp was on Dartmoor. There was to be live firing with a doctor and ambulance present, as there had been a mishap resulting in casualties with a previous unit. At that time I was Police Surgeon and was supposed to be in court giving evidence in a drunk driving case which was to be tried at the Crown Court. A rather pompous Clerk of the Court informed all witnesses to be at the Crown Court in Kingston on a certain date. I said that I could not attend as I would be at annual camp. "*The Legal overrides the Military*" was the reply. I then produced the buff form notifying the date of the annual camp which states that if you did not attend you would be summoned before a magistrate. The result was judicial chaos and legal wrangles which were not resolved. I found out that non attendance at the Court would result in a £20 fine. The CO and myself hatched a plot. I would go to Dartmoor (if I did not attend they would lose three days live firing) and the battalion would pay my fine. I informed the Police Inspector (a patient!) who wished me luck and I left him the camp telephone number. Actually, the driver got to the door of the Court and pleaded guilty. Witnesses were not required and all was well. A narrow escape!

Finally, I have made numerous friends of all ranks and drank a lot of beer. In the old days, before the advent of kegs, the RAP transport used to carry the battalion beer - four and a half gallon pints (half firkins) which took two to three days to settle on arrival. The RAP staff were very experienced and excellent.

I have to thank my wife for her encouragement and not minding leaving the family for two weeks each year, and some weekends. Altogether a very pleasant change from the exigencies of the National Health Service.

John Attenborough

Devon, Glorious Devon

The 15th Queen's, on the completion of their role at Dover, packed up and moved to Honiton on January 1st 1942. The Castle and Fort Burgoyne were left in an immaculate condition and we marched to Dover station and entrained for Devon. We came under the command of the 77th Division. The battalion was stationed in an excellent militia camp that had been vacated by the ATS. "D" Company, under Captain Domoney, was detached to Seaton for operational purposes, defence and anti-aircraft protection.

It seemed another world to get away from the incessant bombing and shelling of "Hell Fire Corner". Seaton offered good accommodation in hotels along the seafront for billets. There was an AA gun contingent in Nissen Huts and Warner's old holiday camp. A section of Royal Engineers, some ATS, and a naval contingent came under my command for operational purposes. We were made very welcome by the local inhabitants and the OC Home Guard was an ex Queen's Major. Our operational patrolling was from Lyme Regis to Branscombe via Seaton and Beer. A patrol consisted of a junior officer, an NCO and six other ranks. These formed the nightly patrols and so everyone in the detachment became very familiar with the local area. In addition we were responsible for training the Home Guard over a radius of thirty miles.

On the day that the only bombs to fall on Seaton demolished a house we had just returned from a Brigade Parade. Captain Cole, Lieutenants Prosser and Leedon, CSM Noah and CQMS Chalcraft were immediately on the scene with the whole Company and we had rescued two persons and located a third before the ARP arrived. The house belonged to a retired Major of The Devonshire Regiment. He, his wife and a niece were killed. Years later I visited Seaton and found that the maid we had rescued was a member of the Borough Council and had two fine sons. It was a happy reunion.

An assault course, two miles long, was constructed at Honiton. Every section in the Battalion was required to undergo the course which was finished with ten rounds rapid fire on the 25 yard range. Par was one hour. Full equipment and weapons with ammunition had to be carried. No section completed the course in the required time and when the CO heard a comment that it could not be done Lieutenant Colonel Adams challenged the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess to form teams and compete. The officers, under Major P G T Kingsley with Captain Domoney, Lieutenants David Rossiter, Geoff Appleton, Gordon Prosser and Charles Cole were successful in beating the sergeants for time within the target, but the sergeants triumphed by having a better aggregate on the 25 yard range.

The carefully built up cadre of officers and NCOs gradually dispersed to other battalions. Junior subalterns did not seem to last long in battle. New faces appeared in the Mess, including Major George Grimston and Lieutenant Leedon. The Sergeants' Mess had almost a complete change of members. Slightly longer periods of leave were available and all ranks took advantage of this. New weapons, Sten gun, 69, 70 and 74 grenades, Piat and Bangalore Torpedo and Bazooka were introduced and personnel were trained in their use.

It was with sad hearts that we bade farewell to the many friends we had made and immediately after Christmas we moved to Redcar.

Dom

Brought to a head

The importance of an Army's stomach has long been recognised but anatomically its head rightly takes precedence. Much thought and accumulated experience have therefore gone into the matters of production of suitable headgear both from the points of view of decoration and protection.

From the time of Cromwell's New Model Army of 1645 broad brimmed Flemish hats were then introduced to the soldiery and were worn with a metal skull cap sewn inside the crown for physical protection. After the restoration of the monarchy the tall Flemish hat was developed into the low crowned 'Carolina' hat of felt bedecked with tape edging and ribbons.



17th and 18th Centuries

Top row: Hats 1666, 1670/84, 1695, 1700. Second row: Three cornered hat for private soldier and an officer. Third row: Grenadier caps 1685, 1742, three cornered hat private soldier, grenadier cap 1751. Fourth row: Three cornered hat 1768, light infantry cap 1782. Bottom row: Bi-cornered hat 1782, grenadier cap 1768, bi-cornered hat 1795.

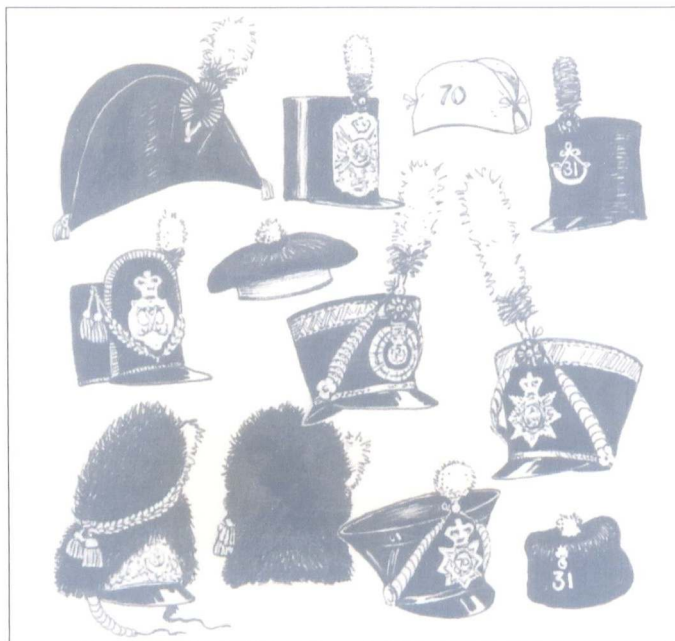
For ease when performing musket drill one side of the hat was looped up but as this did not look very tidy the other side was soon looped up as well. This in turn led to the development of the three-cornered hat.

Officers in Marlborough's Army wore full bottom wigs liberally curled and long enough to reach the shoulders whilst the men cut their hair short. By George II's reign officer's wigs had become smaller and were tied back with black silk ribbons. They were decorated with powder. The men's hair, now worn long and tied in a queue, was smeared with tallow or lard and powdered with flour. Men who carefully prepared their hair on nights before a special parade were known to sleep face downwards to avoid disturbing it before morning.

The grenadier cap was introduced in James II's time as the wide brimmed hat interfered with the throwing of grenades. The first version of this headdress resembled a stocking cap and was decorated with fur and a tassel. Gradually this developed into a mitre shape with regimental devices on the front. Officer's caps were beautifully embroidered in coloured silks and many examples still survive.

By the end of the eighteenth century hair powder was being phased out and by the time of the Napoleonic wars queues were abolished by a War Office Order of 1808. The Royal Welch Fusiliers were the last Regiment to lose them, thereafter wearing a flash of black ribbons on the backs of their collars as souvenirs.

The various decorative forms of the cocked hat, in use for over a hundred years, disappeared at the beginning of the 19th century with the introduction of a more practical, cylindrical and peaked, shako. In 1800 the shako was made of leather and was decorated with a large brass plate on the front. This proved too heavy and was changed to a lacquered felt version with the same plate. In front, above a black cockade, was a short tuft coloured according to company. White over red for the centre company, white for the grenadier and green for the light infantry companies. These coloured tufts continued, in various forms and lengths, until the introduction of the last shako. In 1811 a lighter, smaller version was introduced. This had a raised front similar to the Hungarian 'casquet' and was the



19th Century. First Half

Top row: Officers hat 1800, Shako 1800, Forage cap 1806, shako 1806-1812. Second row: Shako 1812, Forage cap 1815, Shako 1816, Shako 1820. Bottom row: Grenadier caps 1816, 1835. Shako 1828, Forage cap (Kilmarnock) 1834.

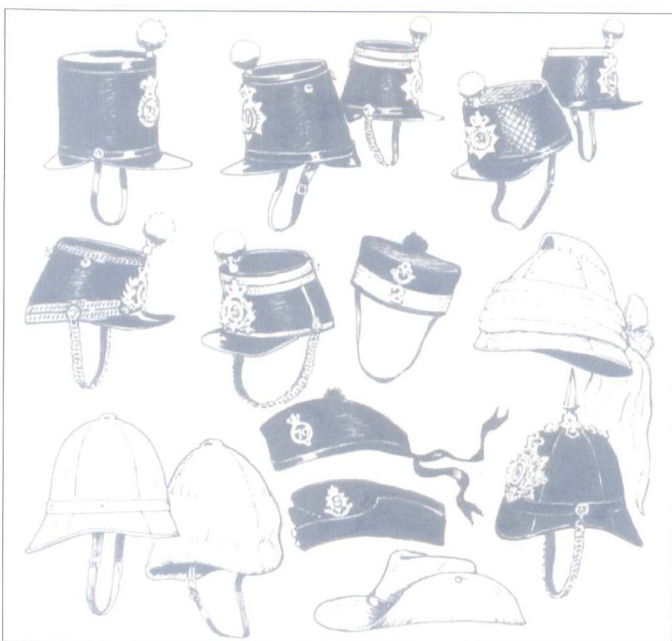
shako worn during the Waterloo campaign. Although it was withdrawn soon after the battle it became known as the 'Waterloo shako'. With the introduction of this shako officers were directed to wear the shako in lieu of the cocked hat. There was some resistance to this directive and they were allowed to wear the hat at levees and at court for a few more years.

After Waterloo military fashions ran riot with decoration taking precedence over practicality and comfort. Foot Guards wore bearskins (the latest version of the grenadier cap) which were so high that taller sentry boxes had to be installed to accommodate the wearers. In cavalry regiments Lancers wore Polish style uniforms with square topped caps while Hussars adopted the Continental type busby. The Household Cavalry appeared in bright steel helmets with fur crests so high that they could barely be kept on the head.

Infantry regiments discarded their Waterloo shakos in 1816 for an improved 'Prussian' style of black felt with a glazed top which was slightly wider at the top and with a peak at the front and the back. This soon evolved into the 'Regency' shako much wider at the top and rather bell shaped. Regimental lace, in silver or gold, decorated the top and bottom edges of this shako. It was quite heavy. As extravagance became rife so the shako, although it lost its regimental lace, soon became festooned with cords and with ridiculously long feathers. By 1844 the authorities had had enough and ordered the removal of excessive lace from the uniforms and introduced a new shako. Supposedly designed by

Prince Albert, the new shako (called the 'Albert') was almost a reversal to the original shape. It was tall and cylindrical with a leather top and with a peak before and behind. The badge, which had evolved over the years, was the same as that worn on the bell topped shako. During the Crimean war the Albert proved impractical for active service and the round, undress, Kilmarnock forage cap was worn by most of the regiments engaged. The shako remained for full dress.

After the Crimea a second lighter shako, after the French style of the period, was introduced. It can still be seen today worn by the Band of the Royal Corps of Transport. Within 5 years a much lower shako similar to a kepi was introduced. This was made of cork and was covered in blue cloth. The cloth was stitched to the cork in a diamond pattern and was dubbed the 'quilted' shako. In 1868 yet another shako was introduced. This was possibly the most elegant of all, based on the previous style but tilted a little more to the front, with gold lace for officers and red braid for the men. This was the last shako.



19th Century. Second Half

Top row: Shako 1846 (Albert), Shako 1855 other rank and officer, Shako 1861 (Quilted) other rank and officer. Second row: Shako 1868 other rank and officer, forage cap 1860, Linen covered cork or straw helmet 1857 (India). Bottom row: Foreign service helmet 1875 and 1890, Glengarry 1857, Field service cap (Austrian) 1895, Slouch hat 1900, Home service helmet 1879.

The Home Service Helmet was introduced in 1879 and was similar in shape to the German 'Pickelhaube' of the period although higher in the crown and made of cloth covered cork. As with the German helmet it had a brass spike on the top. It can be seen today worn by regimental bandsmen in full dress. (Several examples can be seen at Clanton Museum).

Disastrous experiences in the Zulu and Boer Wars led to the abandonment of decorative uniforms in field conditions and to the development of khaki uniforms with appropriate headgear. The cloth covered Foreign Service Helmet, in use for some years in India and worn at the beginning of the Boer War was gradually superseded by the slouch hat turned up on one side. This is the hat familiar to WW2 forces serving in the Far East.

Various forms of undress cap had been worn since the Kilmarnock. Firstly the Glengarry which was followed by a blue Field Service Cap with folding neck cover and, in 1902, when the former scarlet undress frock was abolished, by the Brodrick cap. This was a blue cloth, peakless, round cap with a flat top with a regimental badge on the front. Khaki service dress, introduced in 1902, was thereafter worn on all occasions, except those where full dress was required. In these

first years of the 20th century the blue Field Service Cap, the Brodrick and the Slouch hat could all be seen in wear. The Brodrick was unpopular and was replaced, in 1905, by a round, khaki, peaked cap which continued in use until the outbreak of WW2. At the same time a blue version of the peaked cap was introduced for wear in walking out when the full dress tunic was worn. During WW1 several versions of the khaki Service Cap appeared to accommodate the conditions of modern warfare. The steel helmet was introduced in 1916.

In 1938 Service Dress underwent radical change with the introduction of Battledress. The Field Service Cap of the 1890's was re-introduced as a khaki version and was worn on all occasions except when the steel helmet was worn.

During WW2 the Field Service Cap gave way to the General Service Cap which was disliked almost as much as the Brodrick. It had a one inch cap band and a wide round top, similar to a Scottish Balmoral, which was worn pulled down



20th Century

Top row: Brodrick cap 1902, Khaki service cap 1906, Trench cap 1914 (Gor' Blimey), Soft field service cap 1914. Second row: Wolseley helmet 1902/1940, Steel helmet 1916, Solar topee 1910/1940, Third row: Field service cap 1937, Steel helmet 1937, General service cap 1944 (plastic badge). Fourth row: Slouch hat 1916 and 1939, Jungle hat 1950, Beret 1950. Bottom row: Steel helmet MkIII 1944, Helmet 1980, Coloured forage cap 1968.

on the right side. A cap badge was worn, on the top part, to align with the left eye. Cavalry regiments and the Tank Corps wore a soft beret which was much sort after and worn, if you could get away with it, by anybody else. After the war it proved a useful, practical and comfortable cap which also had a reasonable regimental appearance. It is still worn by the soldier of today.

Military head-dress had its counterparts in the civilian services. The Brodrick was worn by many fire brigades up to WW2 and the Home Service Helmet, with silver metal ornaments, can still be seen today in many police forces around the country.

Major J L A Fowler TD

Thank you once again for your generous help in producing our Newsletter.

Foster's Way

The gallant conduct and bravery of a son of Wandsworth was marked in a particularly pleasant way recently as a result of dedicated research and persuasion on the part of an employee of Wandsworth Council. Some years previously, Mr Paul McCue who is Assistant Director of Leisure and Amenity Services to Wandsworth Borough Council became aware that Cpl Edward ("Tiny") Foster VC of 13th Bn The East Surrey Regiment was also an employee of Wandsworth Council and that the 13th battalion was formed by the Council. Mr McCue, already an accomplished researcher and historian, was motivated to find out all he could about this intriguing subject. He visited the Museum several times to research Cpl Foster's and the battalion's history and was so inspired by what he discovered that he recommended that Wandsworth Council should commemorate Foster's achievement by naming a new footpath in King George's Park, Wandsworth as "Foster's Way". The Council agreed to this and on the evening of May 8th, 1995 the naming ceremony took place at which a memorial was unveiled by the then Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Beryl Jeffery. Amazingly, Mr McCue had traced some 40 descendants of "Tiny" Foster, including his son, Mr Denis Foster, and all were invited as VIPs on the day.



The Mayor of Wandsworth and the Foster family.

Mr McCue writes:

"We were also successful in resurrecting the links between Wandsworth and the village of Villers-Plouich in France where Foster won his VC. Our Mayor visited the village in April 1995 and the French Mayor (Monsieur Jean Leterme) paid a reciprocal visit to Wandsworth in May 1995.

Last, but far from least, we are ensuring that all is not forgotten on Remembrance Day. For the first time in many years, a wreath was laid on the memorial to the 13th East Surreys in Wandsworth High Street and another wreath was sent to the war cemetery in Villers-Plouich where many of the 13th Bn boys are buried. There are enough like-minded types among my colleagues at Wandsworth to ensure that this will now continue."



Councillor Beryl Jeffery, Mayor of Wandsworth, with Mr Denis Foster, son of Ted Foster VC.

Mr McCue also writes:

"More recently my research has revealed that the Battersea Council (now part of Wandsworth) also raised a battalion - 10th (Service) Bn (Battersea) The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. My aim is now to produce a small book or booklet on the combined histories of the two units....."

I am delighted to be able to say that Mr McCue was very pleased with the help we gave him and with the facilities for research here at Clandon.

PJ

Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea

Did you know that you can often discover more about an ancestor who served in the British Army than about any other? Many sources exist in the old War Office records at the Public Records Office at Kew for extracting information about soldiers and records of their service. They include regimental muster rolls, casualty returns, discharge documents, pensions returns, courts martial registers, and the out-pension admission registers of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Chelsea registers are sometimes sad enough to bring a tear to the eye and may cause the reader to reflect. They date from 1715, but many of the men whose names are entered in the oldest had enlisted many years previously and had served in Marlborough's campaigns, as well as earlier. Enlistment was then for Unlimited Service, which meant for life. No matter how long or more often short. Or until such time as a man had become unfit for further service by wounds, injury or disease, or by having become worn out due to the conditions of army life. Thus, a man served until he was either killed in battle or died of disease; or, if more fortunate, until such time as the authorities had no further use for his services, when he was generally rewarded with a pension of a few pennies a day.

Such a man was Private Henry Watson, an Irishman, who was serving at Edinburgh Castle when he was discharged, aged 79 years, on 22nd November 1752. His age alone was remarkable as it vastly exceeded the normal life expectancy of those times. But such an age becomes truly astounding when one considers that the British soldier of the period was inadequately clothed and underfed, pitifully paid, suffered a barbaric discipline, and often won his battles on an empty belly. However, in discharging poor old Henry, the Chelsea surgeon described him as 'very old, sickly and deaf.'

Below are some entries from the Chelsea registers of the 1740s-1750s for men who came from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. Each served at a time when the British Army was less than 100 years old! And each may be someone's ancestor. The entries are genealogical 'gems'; and in later registers, and in other sources, you may discover the colour of your ancestor's hair, eyes and complexion, as well as the shape of his face, distinguishing marks, including scars [sometimes from flogging] and height. Sometimes the registers include a graphic description of how a soldier sustained a wound. So here, as written, are just a handful from the tens of thousands of entries:

1st [Grenadier] Guards. Thomas SIMS, Drummer: age 33: 8 years' service. Corrupt by a cold got in the Service: born at Sear near Devizes, a Shoemaker.

2nd [Coldstream] Guards. Daniel WALLACE: age 41: 14 years' service. Wounded in the knee at Ostende, lost an eye and the other impaired: born at Tayne, North Britain, a Cordwainer.

3rd [Scots] Guards. Joseph HUCHAN, Serjeant: age 34: 11 years' service. Wounded in the right shoulder and left thigh and ankle at Fontenoy: born at Bannikenny, shire of Galloway, a Farmer.

1st [Royal Scots] Regiment of Foot. John SAM'ESTER: age 24: 5 years' service. 'Disabled in both thighs at 'Bergue: born at Aberdeen, a Shoemaker.

3rd [The Buffs] Regiment of Foot. Richard PRICE: age 27: 7 years' service. 'Dropsied and a large swelling in the 'Belly: born at 'Wellington, Shropshire, a Cordwainer.

11th [North Devonshire] Regiment of Foot. John MARTIN: age 56: 22 years' service. Wounded at 'Dettingen, Fontenoy and 'Racouse: born at Swinshead, Huntingdonshire, a Clockmaker.

19th [1st Yorkshire North Riding] Regiment of Foot. Edward GORMAN: age 37: 17 years' service. Wounded in the left thigh and jaw at 'Lafeldt: born at Athlone, a Shoemaker.

20th [East Devonshire] Regiment of Foot. Peter CROFT: age 39: 8 years' service. Old and worn out: born at Newton, Lancaster, a Shoemaker.

20th [East Devonshire] Regiment of Foot. Joseph MARTIN: age 46: 14 years' service. Worn out by service and fatigue: born at Ballantray, shire of Air, a Weaver.

31st [Huntingdonshire] Regiment of Foot. Benjamin GILMAN: age 39: 11 years' service. Incapable of service by fitts and terrible burns at Hertford, a Shoemaker.

39th [Dorsetshire] Regiment of Foot. John BUTLER: age 30: 9 years' service. 'Disabled in the left side by a wound sustained on board the Monmouth: born at Creech near Taunton, Somerset, a Shoemaker.

43rd [Monmouthshire Light Infantry] Regiment of Foot. John ROSS: age 41: 21 years' service. Lost the use of his left hand in the expedition to 'Britanny: born Dewey, Ross-shire, a Shoemaker.

53rd [Shropshire] Regiment of Foot. Jonas COTTERRILL: age 22: 7 years' service. Lost the use of his limbs in the woods of Jamaica, born at Cork, a Shoemaker.

How about these examples of the manner in which men sustained their injuries?

1st [Royal Scots] Regiment of Foot. David HASLIP: age 26: 4 years' service. Lost the use of his left leg and arm by a cleaver in Holland: born Killyla, County Down, a Shoemaker.

6th [Royal 1st Warwickshire] Regiment of Foot. Abraham JONES: age 24: 4 years' service. Struck blind in his right eye by 'Thunder and lightening on the coast of Guinea: born Landoverly, Caernarvon, a Shoemaker.

53rd [Shropshire] Regiment of Foot. William NEWMAN, Corporal: age 22: 3 years' service. Lost his left arm by a musket bursting: born Littlewibraham, Cambridge, a Shoemaker.

And here is a poignant entry for an English lad who served in The Black Watch.

42nd [Royal Highland] Regiment of Foot. John HARDIN: age 46: 22 years' service. Has suffered much in the service: born Nottingham, a Labourer.

Finally, what of the unfortunate stray who may never find a home?

48th [Northamptonshire] Regiment of Foot. Richard LYNN: age 33: 19 years' service. 'Disabled in the right arm: born in the Army, a Shoemaker.

Why are there so many shoemakers? Well, that is another story.

(The subsequent long titles of the regiments included the word (s) in square brackets. Most were known by these titles prior to 1881, and all live on in the British Army of today. Like us, each has ancestors too.)

Of early ships

*"Send this lace without delay,
To Chatham Dockyard that it may,
Be subjected to strict survey".*

Thus ran the lines of a humorous Naval poem of the Second World War entitled "The Broken Bootlace". But joking apart, it symbolises the Royal Navy's reliance on Chatham Dockyard for matters of survey, construction and repair over a number of years. On a recent visit there the Editor was able to obtain a complete and formalised list of all the vessels to which the yard has given birth, dating back to 1586 when the five gun pinnace *Seven Stars* was built. Some of the ships, either directly or indirectly, had regimental connections.

Early in the list is HMS *Sedgemoor*, 4th Rate -50 guns, built in 1687 and doubtless named after the battle of that name of two years previously when the Queen's were part of the forces of King James II who defeated the rebellious Duke of Monmouth and his supporters. Ironically, a ship named *Monmouth*, 66 guns, had been built at Chatham in 1667 but it is possible, in the light of later events, that the name was allowed to lapse. (A later ill fated namesake armoured cruiser was lost with all hands in the First World War at the Battle of Coronel in 1914).

1698 saw the launching of HMS *Somerset*, 2nd Rate - 80 guns, who was the flagship of Admiral Sir George Rooke at the battle of Vigo Bay in October 1702. There Villier's Marines, predecessors of The East Surrey Regiment and acting in their appropriate sea-borne role, landed and captured the fort of Rondella. They re-embarked with a considerable amount of plunder taken from Spanish treasure ships.

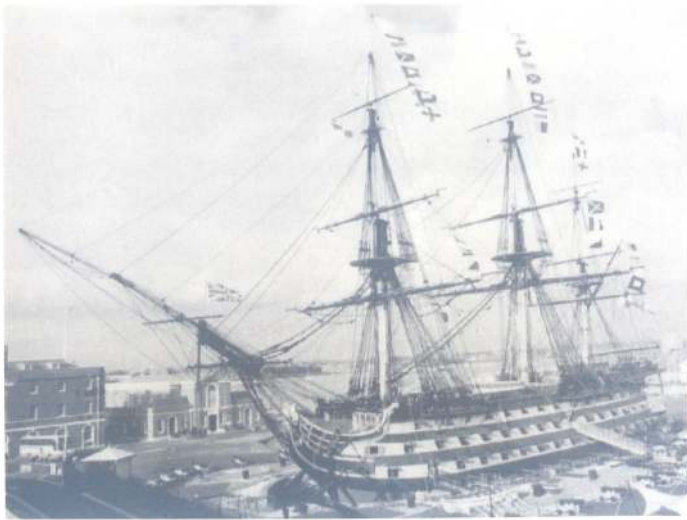
In 1756 HMS *Namur*, 2nd Rate - 90 guns, was launched, proudly bearing a name which is also a Queen's Battle Honour gained in the War of the Netherlands in 1695. (An earlier *Namur*, origin unknown, had been the flagship of Admiral Sir Thomas Matthews whose ships fought a Spanish fleet off Toulouse in February 1744).

Of famous connection with the Queen's were the *Royal George*, 1st Rate - 100 guns, launched in 1788, and the *Queen Charlotte*, 1st Rate - 100 guns, launched in 1790. Both were present at the Battle of the Glorious First of June in 1794 and, with other vessels, had Queen's men on board fighting in a Marine capacity, gaining for themselves a subsequent award of the Naval Crown superscribed "1st June 1794". *Queen Charlotte* was the flagship of Admiral Lord Howe. After ten years honourable service to the Royal Navy she regrettably blew up and sank in an accidental explosion in 1800.

A little known fact about Howe is that he was a keen student of methods of signalling and had in fact produced a Naval signal code in 1790. Doubtless this attention to communications improved his tactics in battle. His desk is now at Clendon Museum. Possibly his signals and battle plans were drafted on it. A 1st Rate 120 gun ship named after him was launched at Chatham in 1815. (For good measure a similarly named modern battleship was launched at Fairfield shipyard in 1940 and saw active service in the Second World War).

But pride of place in Chatham's "production lines" must go to HMS *Victory*, Nelson's flagship at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and still in commission and flying the White Ensign at Portsmouth. Designed by the Senior Surveyor of the Navy, Thomas Slade, her keel was laid at the dockyard on 23rd July 1759 under the supervision of the Master Shipwright, Edward Allen. Victories at sea in the same year reduced the need for ships so her building proceeded very slowly and she was not launched until 7th May 1765. Her long period on the stocks was advantageous, however, in that it allowed her timbers to

become well seasoned - a factor which contributed to her subsequent longevity.



HMS Victory

At the battle of Trafalgar she withstood heavy damage as she courageously broke through the enemy lines. (Nelson's famous signal, "*Engage the enemy more closely*" came from Howe's signal code - No 16. The even more famous "*England expects.....*" was formulated from another code - Popham's.

After the battle *Victory* was still sufficiently seaworthy to limp home to England, carrying her hero's body preserved in a cask of spirits of brandy. At his funeral procession in London the 31st Regiment, as befitted their Marine traditions, formed part of the troops lining the route.

HMS *Victory* now lies in dry dock at Portsmouth in a state of preservation and famed as a tourist attraction. A notable feature of her guns was that they were fired by flintlock mechanism and in the hands of superbly drilled gun crews this gave them a fire power superiority over the French. It is thought likely that the ordnance of the *Queen Charlotte* and *Royal George* was similarly equipped.

Royal associations with the Navy are shown by the names of many of the ships constructed at Chatham. They include the *Katherine* (1674) and *Mary* (1694), *Prince George* (1772) *Royal George* (1788), *Queen Charlotte* (1790), *Prince Regent* (1823), *Royal George* (1827), *Majestic* (1853), *Royal Oak* (1862) and *Prince of Wales* (1902). There was also a *Diana* (1822) who was the first British Steamship to be used in warfare - the Burma War of 1824-26. (Ironically, in 1776 there had been a *Camilla*). *Africa* was the last true battleship to be built at Chatham. The twentieth century was to see an emphasis on lighter ships and submarines.

RF

With 15th Queen's at Dover Dockyard, 1941

With the main battalion at Dover Castle there was an added responsibility for providing sentry posts and anti-aircraft protection at the dockyard. A Company was detached and lived in cottages vacated by coastguards near the West Pier entrance.

During my period of duty with the Dockyard Company there were a number of incidents that did not find their way into the Regimental History.

The Pied Piper

Dover was being subjected to shelling and bombing one night during which I visited all sentry posts. At the entrance to the

West Pier the sentry was not at his post and after a search a very nervous young sentry was found crouching behind a cast iron caisson. The next morning he was arraigned before me and awarded 7 days C.B. Approximately a fortnight later, again during a bombing raid, I was visiting sentry posts and this self same sentry was on duty on the road to the undercliff caves. He drew my attention to an unusual occurrence. There, like a Pied Piper, was a pyjama clad C.S.M. leading a crocodile of children and adults to the caves.

The following morning I remonstrated with the C.S.M. for being improperly dressed, i.e. sans helmet and gas mask. I wonder if any of that "crocodile" could recall the incident. In all fairness I expunged the 7 days C.B. from the private's file.

The Egg and I

The company office and C.S.M.'s quarter were situated in an old coastguard's house the front step of which was worn into a hollow over the years. One morning before reveille the C.S.M. came out through the front door and was surprised to find a gull's egg laid in the hollow. This was immediately requisitioned by the warrant officer for his breakfast. The same thing happened for several days and then, one suspects, the gull learnt the folly of its ways and laid elsewhere.

Assisting the A.R.P.

It was part of the Dockyard Company's responsibilities to go to the aid of the A.R.P. if requested. Following the shelling of the seafront an unoccupied hotel received a near miss but the effect of the blast was to blow the north wall away from the building exposing, on each floor, a bath, toilet basin, bidet and pedestal pan; a strange sight to behold. The company was successful in rescuing two people from an adjoining building near the undercliff.

Whose Hand

Company duties were based on a rota system for the four platoons. Two platoons were on guard duties, one platoon on "standby" and the other off duty for a 24 hour period. The "off duty" platoon, when not sleeping or performing domestic economy, could often be found fishing off the West Pier.

The favourite fishing spot, initially, was where a sunken ship could be seen, its mast and funnel top visible above the water level. Here one could catch a variety of fish, crabs and the occasional lobster. One sergeant, finding his line quite taut, called out, "I've got a bite." and began to reel in. Eventually the line went slack and, anticipating that the fish had "given up the ghost," he reeled in quickly only to find that his catch was a skeletal hand. This was quickly returned to the deep and an alternative fishing area located.

There she blows

Another aspect of our "stand to" platoon was that, on request from the Royal Navy, a section would board trawlers or minesweepers. How silently we moved out of harbour with the "sweep" off the port bow. It was a very dark night with only the stars for company as we headed for the Dumpton Gap. This was a favourite area for the German E. Boat but on this occasion there was no intruder. We did, however, trawl up a mine which was detonated by rifle fire. A flying boat flew overhead with its incandescent hull glowing from phosphorus. The skipper recognised it as "one of ours" and we returned safely to harbour.

From the Dockyard Company I was transferred to Fort Burgoyne as Detachment Commander and this became my home until the battalion moved to Devon.

Dom

A family business

The Editor has received an interesting account written by former East Surrey member Harold W Hawkins, of his family's involvement and service in the Regiment.



First of the line was Mr Hawkin's father, William James Hawkins, who served in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion in the South African War for which he received the appropriate medal with five bars, namely South Africa 1901, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal and Cape Colony.

Later serving in the 5th Battalion (TA) at Wimbledon, he was awarded the Territorial Force Efficiency medal and took part as a Sergeant in the Award of Honour when Queen

Alexandra opened the Queen Alexandra Court in St Mary's Road, Wimbledon. During the First World War he served in The Royal Defence Corps, being one of six brothers who "answered their Country's call". His parents were later congratulated by the King and Queen on their distinction. He died, aged 59 years, at Wimbledon in 1932 and there was military representation at his funeral where many tributes were paid.

His eldest son, Reginald, joined The East Surreys (TA) but later enlisted as a regular in The Queen's. Still living in 1996 at the age of 93 he could truly be reckoned an "old soldier". Following family tradition, the second son, John Edward, enlisted in the 5th Battalion East Surreys (TA) at Wimbledon as a drummer. Like his father before him he was awarded the Territorial Efficiency medal for twelve years service in 1936 and received it from the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. A Duff Cooper DSO MP at Wimbledon Town Hall. He continued his service until the end of the Second World War and died in 1980 aged 72 years.

Responding to the call of the drum the third son, Mr Hawkins himself, enlisted in the 5th Battalion (TA) as a drummer on boy's service at the age of 14 years in 1925. Progressing later to man's service, he was obviously zealous in his duties as by 1936 he had risen to the rank of CQMS and was believed at

that time, at the age of twenty-five to be the youngest CQMS in the whole of the Territorial Army. Like the other members of his family, he was awarded the Territorial Long Service medal which was presented to him by Major P H Drake Brockman. Retiring from the Territorial Army in 1938 through pressure of work, he joined his firm's Home Guard as a Corporal during the Second World War.

Later leaving the Home Guard he enlisted in the Army Cadet Force as an Under Officer and was afterwards commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Cadet Bn The East Surrey Regiment. But again through pressure of work he resigned his commission in 1945. By this time he was married having, in 1939, chosen as his bride the youngest daughter of the Regimental Sergeant Major. Although fully realizing the importance of the military side of Territorial Army life, the Hawkins family also appreciated the social and recreational side. Their father took great interest in the Sergeants Mess, receiving enthusiastic help from his wife and daughter.

Obviously remembering his service in the South African War, Mr Hawkins senior at one time contemplated returning to the country to settle. Mrs Hawkins, however, considered herself a "poor sailor" and was unwilling to undertake the voyage so the idea was abandoned. Their son, Harry, according to his account, was quite happy with things as they were and was enjoying his TA life to the full. Annual camps, football and cricket were all part of his programme. At one football match the HQ CQMS, normally an ardent Rugby player, so far forgot himself as to pick up the ball and run with it.

The cricket team was successful, some of the officers and serving NCOs being excellent players. At Arundel Camp matches were played on the Duke of Norfolk's sunken cricket pitch, described by Mr Hawkins as "a lovely setting and a marvellous ground". Shooting competitions at Bisley and at camps fulfilled both a military and recreational role. At home, at the Drill Hall at Wimbledon, dances and parties, particularly at Christmas time, all contributed towards the social scene. An important part was played by the Band and Drums on appropriate occasions.

Mr Hawkins concluding remarks, like the rest of his account, show that he enjoyed his Army service and connections and was proud to have served his country in his military capacity.

HWH & RF



SIGNALS



G'day FROM AUSTRALIA

Ted Josling sends his annual greetings to all members on The Glorious First of June, this year by fax.

o o o

BEST WISHES TO ALL RANKS ON THIS GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE

o o o

So there we were

1666 The Tangiers Regiment, predecessors of The Queen's, were engaged in most permanent hostilities with the Moors. At the same time they were endeavouring to carry out defensive construction work but were hampered by lack of funds.

1686 The Queen's were in England and very much on the move, occupying stations at Portsmouth and Rochester and, marching via Kingston, encamping at Hounslow Heath for a Royal Review of troops.

1696 More mobile than ever The Queen's, moving by companies, occupied more than forty different stations in the year. Total establishment of the Regiment was 982 and in addition 69 servants were allowed.

1716 The 31st Regiment was in Ireland, their Colonel being Lord John Kerr who remained in command until 1728. In accordance with general practice in the Army, The Queen's were ordered to reduce by five men per company. The saving in costs of the five men were to go to make a fund for widows allowances. The annual account for clothing was £983.10.2d and William Neaton, clothier, was ordered to supply clothing "*agreeable to the King's instructions*".

1736 Economists in Whitehall must have been pleased as by December The Queen's establishment had fallen to 563. Costs, including that for the Bermuda Company, were £12819.3s - the same as in 1730 - so presumably there were no inflation problems.

Still in Ireland, the command of the 31st Regiment had by then passed to Colonel William Hargrave formerly of the 7th Royal Fusiliers and a veteran of Queen Ann's wars.

1756 The 31st Regiment, who had seen overseas service in Minorca in some of the preceding years, were in Scotland, mostly serving in Glasgow where a second Battalion (later to become the 70th Regiment) was raised. A declaration of war against France having been made in May, Army establishments were increased as is usual in times of peril. Two companies were added to The Queen's in Ireland, it being stipulated that they were to be "*raised from among Protestant subjects in Northern Ireland*".

1776 The Queen's arrived at Portsmouth from Gibraltar in April bringing with them a rather troublesome officer, Ensign Newport, who was charged with disobeying orders and breaking out of custody while on board ship. Court martialled, he was found guilty and dismissed the service. The American War of Independence having broken out in the previous year, the 31st Regiment embarked at Cork for Canada, arriving at Quebec on May 28th. The invaders had been driven out of the territory by June.

1796 The 70th were at Gibraltar where they were to remain for five years with their strength varying between 500 and 600. The Queen's in the West Indies were depleted in strength to such an extent that the 1st and 2nd Battalions had to be incorporated to form one Regiment. A black Regiment was raised in St Christopher and called the 2nd or Queen's Black Rangers.

1816 The Queen's embarked at Dover for the Leeward Isles in five ships, three of which were reported to have taken on board "*300 enlisted men from the Isle of Wight Depot for Deserters*". A perpetual source of trouble, these men were later transferred, without regret, to the "York Chasseurs".

The 70th in Canada had three Colonels of the Regiment in this year. Sir C Lowry Cole KB transferred to the 34th Regiment to be succeeded by General Forbes Champagne who died in October and was succeeded by Major General Lord Howard.

1836 The Queen's in India were at Poona and were reported to be generally very healthy, "*only losing 30 by death*". The 70th at Gibraltar did not consider themselves so fortunate, having lost three sergeants and thirty private soldiers from an epidemic of cholera.

1856 The 31st were in the Crimea where battle and disease had taken a heavy toll of all troops involved. A draft of one officer and 100 rank and file brought the Regiment up to strength. A monument in memory of those who died was later erected in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon.

The Queen's were in Ireland where the Depot Headquarters was very much on the move. At various times within the year it was at Buttevant, Kinsale, the Curragh, Naas and finally embarking at Dublin for Liverpool en route to Colchester.

1876 On home service, The Queen's were at Aldershot with a strength of 22 officers and 623 NCOs and men. Later two Depot companies proceeded to Guildford under Major H P Phillips to form the 48th Brigade Depot. The 70th in India were dealing with troublesome tribesmen and completing some long distance travels. Between October 1870 and February 1887 they marched a distance of 454 miles.

1896 The East Surreys, as they were now titled, were in India and suffering from enteric fever. Two of their officers, Lieutenant Goodridge and 2nd Lieutenant Fisher died from the ailment. The Queen's, also in India but on hot weather stations, were in better health and had time to devote to re-designing their mess dress which was described as being "*devoid of lace but at the same time neat and smart in appearance*".

1916 Both The Queen's and The East Surreys were active in the various theatres of the First World War, notably at the Somme where heavy casualties were sustained and where the famous "football" charge of the Surreys, took place.

1936 Commemorating the First World War the East Surreys trooped the Regimental Colour in the stadium ground at Shorncliffe on Ypres Day. General Sir John Longley took the salute and the splendid ceremony was watched by a very large number of spectators. The Queen's were in India at Kandahar where a parade was held to commemorate the Quetta earthquake disaster of the previous year. An official message of thanks from the Viceroy to the Regiment was received by the Commanding Officer. Medals of the Order of the British Empire were awarded to Lance Corporal G Henshaw and Private A Brook in recognition of their gallantry (later changed to George Crosses), while five other members received certificates.

1956 The Queen's were in Malaya where they were engaged on anti-terrorist duties. One patrol under Sergeant Isaac gained significant success which resulted in Isaac receiving the Military Medal but unfortunately it also resulted in the death of Private Purves from a gunshot wound. The East Surreys had also been engaged on numerous anti-terrorist and security duties in the post war period taking them to various parts of the globe. In the years to come members of both Regiments would undoubtedly be able to point to many places on the map of the world and say "So there we were".

RF

Uniforms of the 70th Surrey Regiment in 1864

New Zealand and the Maori War

The Battle Honour New Zealand has been conferred for three separate campaigns with no distinction of date. The first in 1845-7, the second in 1860-61 and finally in 1863-66. This last, in which the 70th was involved, was a continuation of the armed uprising of 1860 which had ended in a hollow truce. The war was one which could have been avoided by more tolerant discussion by the Colonial Government and there were certain elements among the military who had sympathy for their Maori opponents.

Three years after the 1861 truce the natives considered they had not been fairly treated in the sale of their lands. There was some strong feeling within the Colony by those who sided with the Maori but it was felt the Government should be supported until peace had been achieved when the cause of the trouble could be removed. The Maori were gallant foes and fierce fighters. Their stockades, or Pahs, were built with much skill and they required a considerable amount of artillery fire before they could be carried.

Urgent despatches were sent to Australia and Tasmania, where we had garrisons of the 12th and 40th Regiments. The 68th were embarked from Burma and the 57th and 70th from India together with the 2nd/14th from the Curragh. General Pratt arrived from Australia to take command but was superseded in 1863 by Sir Duncan Cameron after dissatisfaction with Pratt's strategy. Eventually ten Regiments together with the Royal Artillery, a Naval Brigade and Colonial Troops were involved.

Although the final war spanned three years it was not a great spectacular event. Most of the action was against the Maori stockades which they defended with great skill and the regiments were sorely treated on more than one occasion. One such action was the fight at the Great Pah in 1864 where the mauling of our troops was severe. The 70th reached New Zealand in 1863 in time to take part in the actions at Katikara and Taranaki. On moving north the regiment saw action at Koheroa, Cameron Town and Orakau before returning to Taranaki. There the 70th were engaged at Kaitake and in Chute's Taranaki campaign. It was at Orakau Pah that Private C Dowling was awarded the DCM, a comparatively rare award before 1914.

In 1866 peace was declared and in the years to follow the Maori remained loyal to the Crown. Whether their dispute was completely solved to their satisfaction is still open to debate. When the regiment returned to England in 1866 it had been on foreign service for seventeen years in India and New Zealand.

Uniform in New Zealand

Contemporary photographs show that dress uniforms were often worn in New Zealand for ceremonial and formal parade occasions. By 1860 a blue serge frock had been adopted for campaign in the Colony. This was as much because of a shortage of red cloth as for any reason of fighting conditions. Officers and men carried haversacks, waterbottles and mess tins and carried a blanket and waterproof sheet rolled and worn '*en banderole*' over the shoulder. The fighting conditions were harsh and often the troops were wading through swamp water up to their knees with their trousers in rags.

In 1862 flank companies had been abolished in the army. However, there is plenty of photographic evidence that troops abroad, especially in New Zealand, retained the distinctive grenade and bugle horn badges on their forage caps for some years.

At home the only change to the home dress uniform of the period, shown in the May issue of the Newsletter, was the new shako issued in 1861. This was much smaller and lighter than the 1856 pattern. It was made of cork, covered with blue cloth, and was stitched all over which gave a quilted effect. It had a short flat peak. The front of the shako was four inches high and the back six and threequarters of an inch giving a distinctive tilted forward appearance. The star plate, tufts and lace were similar to the earlier shako.

2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment

Burma 1885-1887

15 European Regiments, together with 42 Indian and Gurkha regiments, fought in a country covered in thick jungle with few roads. There had been a breakdown in diplomatic relations between King Theebaw and the British Government since 1879. By 1884 the King gave further offence by high handed treatment to a British company trading in the country. In October 1885, a contemptuous reply to an ultimatum led to hostilities. British Intelligence was not well informed as to the nature of the terrain in the country beyond the fact that it was practically impassable. During earlier campaigns no attempt had been made to reach the capital but it was decided that no lasting peace would be durable until the King had felt the British force of arms. Fortunately, the officials of the Bombay and Burma Trading Company had several steam transports, the officers of which were experienced pilots and knew the upper reaches of the Irrawady river well, and their knowledge and experience was of great assistance to the Royal Navy to carry the operations to a speedy and successful conclusion.

The expedition was under the command of Sir Harry Prendergast VC, of the Madras Engineers who had great organising ability. The force consisted of 9,000 men, 67 guns, with a Naval Brigade of 600 men with 26 guns and 55 steamships. The force was divided into three brigades each commanded by a Brigadier General. There were also divisional troops, a battalion of native pioneers and 6 batteries of artillery. By 14 November, 1885 there had been no answer to an ultimatum of the Viceroy and the force advanced. The following day, as the force moved forward along the river, several forts were silenced. By the 26th November, as the expedition reached the approaches to the capital, King Theebaw sent envoys announcing the King's surrender and on the 28th the troops entered Mandalay. Officially the war was over with relatively few casualties.

Unfortunately a large number of Burmese troops escaped into the jungle to commence a harassing campaign against the British force. The original three brigades of 9,000 men had been considered enough to subjugate the country. This increased to 5 brigades and 30,000 men who were needed to restore peace and order.

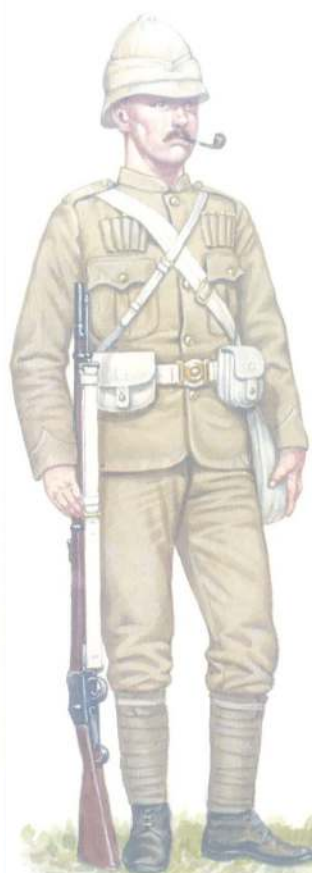
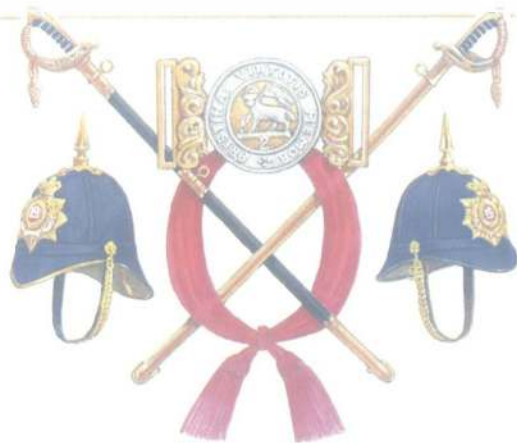
In January 1886, the Viceroy issued a proclamation that Burma had passed into British hands "by command of the Queen-Empress". By this simple announcement 88,000 square miles of territory came under British rule.

The Irrawady was, of course, the 'Road to Mandalay' of Kipling's famous poem.



70TH OR SURREY REGIMENT





THE QUEEN'S
ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT



Uniform of the Queen's in Burma, 1885

With the widespread use of khaki clothing in Afghanistan, and the production of a fast khaki dye in India, an official issue of khaki drill field service dress for the troops in India was sanctioned in 1885. A basic frock style tunic, with 5 button front fastening and two patched breast pockets and buttons, had minor differences in detail according to manufacture. Similar khaki trousers for the infantry were worn with puttees. Initially khaki covers were used over the white foreign service helmet. As this was also used uncovered for parades a locally made khaki helmet was issued with pugri. Again the shape varied with manufacture. Photographs of troops in Burma show loops sewn above the breast pockets for extra cartridges for the single shot, lever action, Martini-Henry rifle. Sergeants had 22 inch sword bayonets. The equipment was the revised 1882 valise equipment.

Home service dress uniform

The home service helmet had been introduced in 1878. It was made of cork and covered with blue cloth and supposedly owed a little of its appearance to the German 'pickelhaube', but it was a much better shape and was more similar in style to the white foreign service helmet already issued. There were slight differences in shape between the officers' and other ranks versions.

Officers rank distinctions had changed in 1880 and were removed from the collar to twisted gold shoulder cords. Colonels now had a crown and two stars; a Lieutenant Colonel a crown and one star; a Major a crown; a Captain two stars; a Lieutenant one star and a 2nd Lieutenant no stars. Their cuff lace also varied according to rank being rather more elaborate the higher the rank. Officers' sashes were still worn over the left shoulder. Trousers were now dark blue with a red welt down the outer seam for all ranks. In addition officers also had a gold sash and sword belt with crimson stripes and double gold trouser stripes with a red light between for levees and galas. Officers' sword scabbards were changing from black leather to steel for all ranks although field officers retained their brass scabbard.

Other ranks had a drastic change to their tunics following the Cardwell reforms of 1881. The various facing colours worn on collar and cuffs were changed to white for English regiments, much to the chagrin of the old regiments. For the Queen's this was not too serious as Royal regiments retained their blue facings. However, the style of cuff and collar changed, from the 1878 patch tunic where the facing was only on the front of the collar and cuff, to a full coloured collar and a round 'jampot' cuff. There was white piping round the bottom of the collar and down the front of the tunic. The old 'India' style frock was replaced by a serge frock with seven buttons, similar to the tunic but without the front piping and with rounded skirts. The undress cap at this time was the glengarry.

Caption to the New Zealand plate.

Top centre: 3 band Enfield Rifle; Other Rank shako plate; Officers' sash; Company Officers' shako; Other Rank shako.

Top left: Officer in New Zealand wearing an early version of the blue patrol jacket and forage cap.

Top right: Sergeant in New Zealand. His forage cap has the bugle horn of the Light Company and he still carries a whistle attached to his pouch belt.

Bottom left: Corporal in home service dress uniform in drill order.

Bottom right: Field Officer in home service dress uniform.

Centre: Private in New Zealand with the distinction of the Grenadier Company. Regimental Sergeant Major in home service dress uniform.

Caption for the Burma War

Top centre: Officers' waistbelt locket; Officers' swords; Officers' sash; Officers' helmet (left); Other ranks helmet.

Top left: Private in foreign service dress, Burma.

Top right: Sergeant in foreign service dress, Burma.

Bottom left: Corporal in serge frock, home dress marching order.

Bottom right: Regimental Sergeant Major in dress with officers' style forage cap.

Centre: Company Officer in foreign service dress, Burma. Captain in levee dress.

Chelsea Pensioners visit the PWRR Museum at Dover Castle



In-Pensioner John Henderson MM remembering Palestine with the 2nd Bn The Queen's.



Les Wilson and the In-Pensioners in the medal area

1st Volunteer Battalion



The Queen's

For many years the Regular Regiments of the British Army have been supported by reserve and auxiliary units such as Volunteers, Militia, Yeomanry and Territorial Forces. In these respects the county of Surrey has not been lacking in providing "men-at-arms" The 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's dates its existence from the year 1859 which saw the commencement of the Volunteer movement in its subsequently existing form. With Headquarters at the barracks at Mitcham Road, Croydon the Battalion had outlying companies at the Crystal Palace and Caterham and detachments at Oxted and Merstham. Enthusiasm must have been strong as those who enrolled had to provide their own uniform arms and equipment and also pay for instruction. The original cost to each man was £8 - a not inconsiderable sum in those days.

In 1867 the War Office re-organised these companies as a battalion with an establishment of six companies, giving it the title of the "2nd Surrey Rifle Volunteers". The uniform was rifle green and the shako was worn until 1877 when the helmet was substituted.

After some further re-organisations the Battalion was linked to The Queen's and became the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment. By 1885 the strength of the Battalion was about 900, a quite considerable force, and in 1891 the "Blakney" leather equipment was adopted as part of the uniform. The barracks in Mitcham Road remained the Headquarters while the Range, which was situated near Marden Park, was reputed to be one of the finest in London.



200 Yards Firing Point - Woldingham Range

An annual camp was held when, as on other manoeuvres, all travelling expenses were paid and rations provided free.

The whole aim of the Volunteer Battalion was to provide a man enabled "to take his proper place in the defensive scheme of the Empire should the necessity arise". That the aim had been achieved was amply demonstrated at the time of the South African War when the Battalion sent five officers and



Transport Wagon, 1st Volunteer Battalion The Queen's

over 200 men to the conflict. Thankfully the volunteer spirit survived into the twentieth century especially through two World Wars, and still continues Regimentally today.



Section of the Cyclist Company

Representative Group



Left to Right: Sergeant (Review Order), Cyclist, Bugler (Drill Order), Private (Marching Order), Private (Drill Order), Signaller (Marching Order)



List of Kit and Equipment

Tunic.	Braces and Straps,
Trousers.	for carrying Great Coat,
Helmet.	Mess Tin &c.
Field Service Cap.	Mess Tin and Cover.
Great Coat.	Water Bottle.
Cape.	Haversack.
Leggings.	Waist Belt.
Rifle.	Frog for Bayonet.
Bayonet.	Two Pouches.

LETTERS



Richard Ford writes:

I was interested to read Colonel McConnell's letter in the May Newsletter regarding the failure to award any medals for service in peace keeping or security duties.

Some years ago I raised this very same point in police circles regarding the positions of British civilian police officers seconded to overseas forces in supportive security roles. In 1960-61 I was seconded from the Bournemouth Borough Police Force to the British Police Unit in Nyasaland (now Malawi) as a Temporary Inspector during the troubled emergency situation of that time. I was stationed at Chiradzulu Mountain where two European police officers (of whom I was one) and thirty-five African other ranks managed to maintain law and order among a widespread native population of 50,000 in a state of political unrest. It was there that for the only time in my life I commanded armed police in a riot situation.

At the end of it all there was no formal recognition, no thanks, no medals and nobody seemed to care.

RF

G R Burelli writes:-

I thank you for providing Mrs Maloney with information regarding the Queen's Second Cadet Battalion and the drum. Mrs Maloney was kind enough to hand deliver the literature the last time she crossed the great pond. It was very helpful and informative in that I'm a student of history I also enjoyed reading it. The drum is for sale and I would entertain a fair offer. I feel the drum longs to be back with its battalion in the land of Kirke.

Dec Davies writes:-

May I say how interested I was in the article about Clarrie Jarman who was a near neighbour and my school attendance officer in the twenties and early thirties! My wife remembers him well as her father was a great chum of his when he was secretary of Woking F.C. Long may he soldier on!

Bill Morgan writes:-

Many thanks for the Newsletter and the return of the photos. Will you need them again? I was very delighted to see the picture of myself in the Newsletter and would like to join the Queens Association and subscribe to the Newsletter. How do I

do this? I was sorry to hear that you haven't been well and hope that you have fully recovered.

P G Jefferies - Kelly writes:-

I wonder if this photograph would be of any interest to your readers. It was taken in May 1948 at Shorncliffe Kent. We were among the first intakes to have their training period reduced to 10 weeks, so we were nearly run into the ground by the NCO's, but winning the cup as the best platoon made up for it all and it produced the first smile from our Sergeant.



You will see we are a mixture of East Surrey and Queen's Royal Regiment cap badges but were all transferred to the Queen's and sent to Germany where we became 8 Pl, C Company and took part in the Trooping of the Colour at the Olympischer Platz, Berlin on Salerno Day, 9th June 1948. I am second from the left in the middle row, 22012907 Pte Kelly P.

Mr O Rivers writes:-

I enclose the sum of £5 for my 1996 subscription to the Newsletter plus a little extra for the benevolent fund. I have been particularly interested in the articles about the service of the 1st and 2nd Battalions the Surreys in Greece during the period of the civil war 1947-49, where I had the honour to serve with the Regiment. I feel that this period of the Surrey's service abroad is sometimes "glossed over" and is rarely mentioned in the Regiment's exploits. I noticed in the booklet on the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, page 13 that the years 1947-48 were left out. Several of my colleagues have often wondered why general service was not issued for this period of active service, in this situation, whereby we served in a country that was at war.

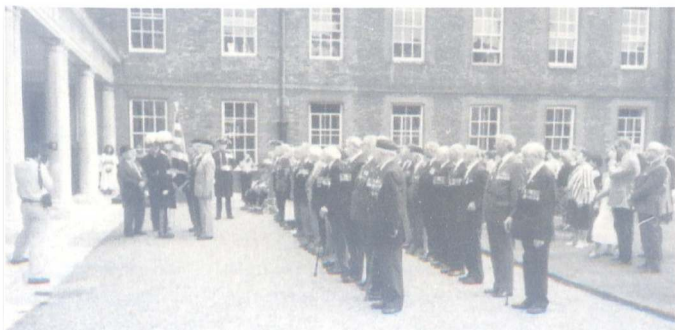
During this period of service a small newspaper the "Courier" was published in Greece, giving an insight into the war and activities of the troops stationed there. I sent some of these home to my mother, who to my surprise had kept them all these years and had recently returned them to me. They were a little yellowed with age but I had them photo-copied successfully. I wonder if they would be of any interest to the Museum. I also have in my possession a watch fob 1" in diameter in the shape of the East Surrey crest, and inscribed on the reverse shown below. The crest is hall-marked silver.



I often wonder what happened to Capt May. Did he survive the 1st WW perhaps? Was he related to Peter May Captain of England? I suspect we'll never know, but I'm always intrigued by these questions whenever I look at it.

Fred Blackborrow writes:-

On Sunday 28th July 1996 at the Chelsea Hospital to commemorate the demise of the Military Medal a parade was held for the comrades who held that bravery award. A plaque was unveiled in honour of past and present holders.



A contingent of the Italy Star Association Central Branch (London) was in attendance.

Doug Moody writes from Worthing:-

Dear Editor

I have enclosed a photo taken on the open day at Gifford House, Worthing on 13th July this year, it shows myself, Frank Bell and Captain Bill Roadnight who is, as you know a resident. Frank and I both live quite near to Gifford House so we often drop in to see him. He was my QM in 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during the war in Italy, and prior to that was Frank Bells RSM in the 2/5th Battalion, we had a most enjoyable afternoon.



Left to right: Frank Bell, Bill Roadnight, Doug Moody

I was dreadfully sorry to read about the death of Lt Col Bill Peet, I was drafted to 2/6th The Queen's in March 1940 and was put in 'D' Company under the command of Capt Peet (as he was then) until posting to HQ Coy in late 1941.

God willing I will be at the 2/6th Salerno Reunion this year, I haven't been for 25 odd years due to blindness and other problems and my son says I have to go this year and he will take me, otherwise I'm still plugging along steadily and just passed my 77th birthday. Nice to see you and Major Rogerson at Guildford Cathedral Church Service, that was my first time for about 30 years and I met so many old friends, I will try and make it next year. My regards and best wishes to all.

R G Baker writes:-

Many thanks for the May Newsletter, which as always, is eagerly awaited. However I was very saddened to read of the passing of Lieutenant Colonel S W Peet and also CSM Sidney Waldron. When I joined 'B Company' 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment Iserlohn in 1950, Major Peet as he was then, was the Company Commander, and CSM Waldron, was of course our CSM. My first few weeks at Coy HQ prior to being given the task of assisting in the Company Armoury, was as



A young Keith Yonwin

house guard at Major Peet's home, while I believe he was away in hospital, I was transported daily from the barracks to his home in the late afternoon, and back to barracks in the morning.

Captain Curtis as he was then, was Major Peet's second in command, 2nd Lieutenant Mick Teale was the only other officer in the Company that I can remember, although I believe there was one other N/S 2nd Lieut. Another name I recall

is that of Colour Sgt Vance Cotsford, to whom I was answerable, being in the Company Armoury. The two Company clerks I remember, were Mick Stafford and Alex Peers. My pal in the other stores down in the basement of 'B Training Company' was Tom Britcher. We all took our turn in Major Peet's office at being witness at pay parade, and of course giving out tickets for the cigarette ration. We also took turns as Duty Clerk in the Company Office about once a week. They were to me, good times and all the staff were in my mind excellent. Although after serving my apprenticeship I started my National Service some two years or more later than most others. I felt if need be anyone could have turned to Major Peet, Capt Curtis, CSM Waldron or C/Sgt Vance Cotsford for help and understanding. What better persons could one find to run a Training Company.



I have enclosed some old photographs, which I would like returned. They are rather battered so I am not sure whether or not any could be copied if needed for the Newsletter. They are of CSM Waldron, Sgt Bennet, Sgt Keith Yonwin, and two parades, one of which I think was in front of the Dining Hall and NAAFI buildings. I appear to have lost some other photos taken at Sennelager and Vogelsang while on exercises.



Sid Waldron

Oh well, these are all fond memories of something like forty six years past.

Tom Culmer writes:-

Thank you for past and present editions of the Newsletter, which I find very interesting, please find enclosed cheque for same.

I confess I am not a Surrey man, born and bred in Kent I completed my training with the RWKs (*The Old Blind Half Hundred*). I joined the 1/5th Queen's at Homms, Tripoli and was fortunately accepted in the MT. That of course was after the desert campaign. My first baptism of fire was at Salerno as co driver on Andy Williams petrol truck. Returning to Blighty I was selected with four other drivers to collect new jeeps at Wolverhampton for Company Commanders prior to Normandy landings.

My first appointment was with Capt Adams A Coy. I shall never forget his orders to them about to go into action (Hit em hard lads). Sadly very shortly afterwards he was killed in a crash with the jeep. I then took over as driver to the 2 i/c Major Burton, who was later relieved by another Major whose name I cannot recall as he too was soon out of action having been hit by shrapnel while standing in his armoured car, a shell burst on a nearby roof and I happened to be very near and heard his call and was able to help him from his car and return him to first aid. I regret I do not know the outcome. Jock Nangle then took over as Second in Command and I was very proud to have been his driver through to Hamburg and back to Lunden, VE day and finally back to Meise near Brussels where he formed the Divisional Battle School.

Forgive me for rambling on but I would like to add that I have been privileged and honoured to have served with the 1/5th Queen's and will always treasure the memories and friendship of my old comrades Ron Birch, Doug Mitchell, Bill Morris, Ron May and others. May I meet them again at the next reunion all in good health. The wonderful memories of our trip to Lille, France will always remain vivid in my mind.

Enclosed snap taken somewhere in Germany.



Left to right: Chas Chatfield? Batman, Self, Jeep driver, Ken Basten 15 cwt driver.

Major Gordon Cheston recalls a passage to Crete:-

In May 1941 the 2nd Bn The Queen's was ordered to reinforce the Leicesters also 16th Bde on Crete and one abortive voyage was ordered back to Alex. On the second trip the *Glenroy* was caught in intensive dive bombing and a near miss set light to petrol stored on deck.

The bulk of the troops were ordered below decks while fire-fighting was going on above, and some of the officers were detailed to stay with them to maintain morale. The noise was deafening, every near miss shook the ship and there was continuous AA fire. Every time the ship was nearly hit the mugs, mess tins etc., stacked on the overhead beams fell down, adding to the pandemonium. At one stage demands for gas masks were sent down and we feared the worst, but they were in fact needed as a precaution against smoke and fumes.

The troops were magnificent throughout and what could have been a nasty situation was abated by the discipline that was, after all, only to be expected from the regiment!

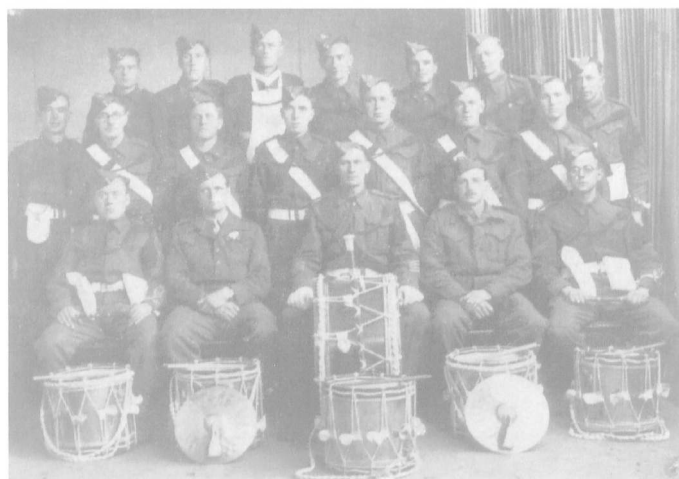
On the way back to Alex a Wellington bomber approached the ship, very low over the water. We thought it had come to find us but it was damaged and it ditched. The crew scrambled out and were taken aboard.

That's about all I can remember, but if there are any gaps in your information about those times I shall be pleased to help.

Corps of Drums 10th Surreys

Ex Drummer Smith sent in the photo below. Any more 10th Battalion Surreys out there?

The enclosed photograph was taken in N. Ireland during the last war, and I was wondering whether it could be published in a future Newsletter. The names of those in the photograph are printed on the back of the photograph, by the way I am Smith (105). I enjoy reading the Newsletter very much, although not a lot is mentioned about the 10th Battalion.



*Top Row: Dmrs Bailey, Butler, Morrison, Ryman, Gwyer and Smith (37) Middle Row: Dmr Darlington, L/Cpl Squire, L/Cpl Arnold, Dmrs Nash, Smith (105), Winter, Wiles and Forward. Bottom Row: Cpl Anderson, Capt Welch, D/M Mahoney, Lt ? (Medical Officer) Cpl Sadler.
Taken in N. Ireland 23rd Oct 1943*

PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



Major John Jessop writes from York:-

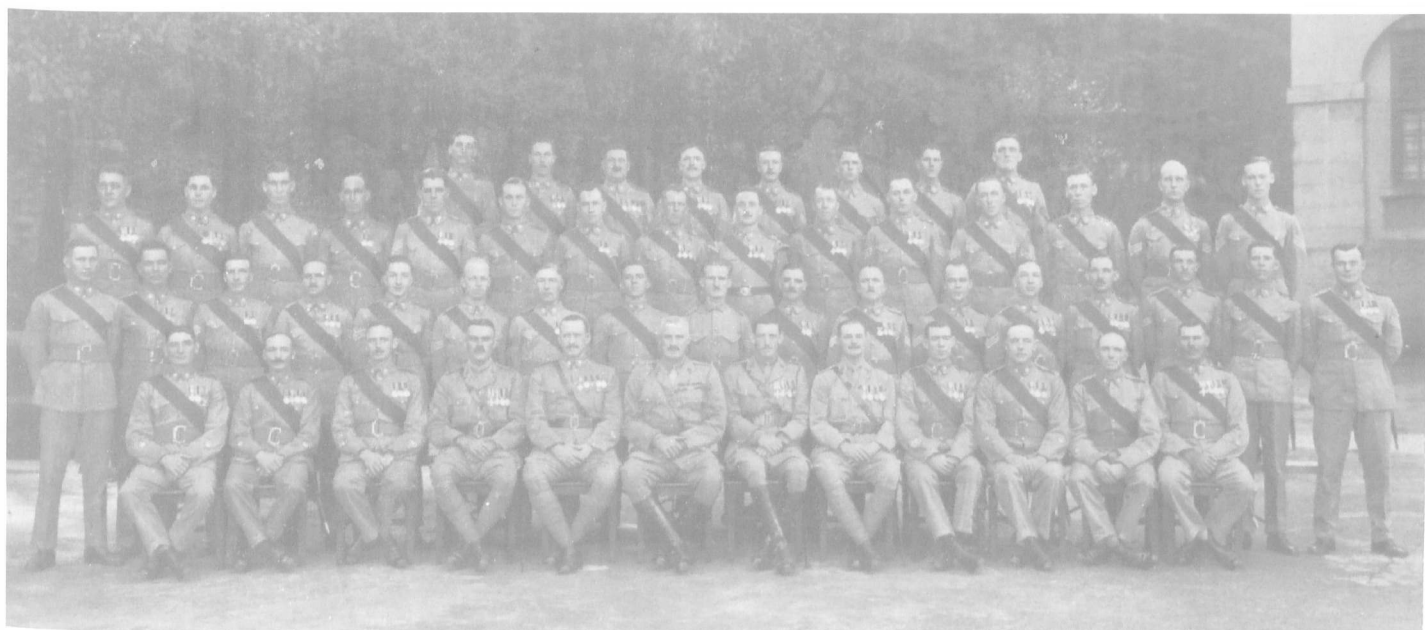
I thought you might be interested in this very old photograph. It is of the WOs and Sgts' Mess of the East Surreys when they were in Hong Kong after WW1. Regrettably it is not dated but it must be prior to 1926 because that is when the Bn moved to India. It has an interesting history.

When we were in Hong Kong I used to use the Police Recreational Club (PRC) in Happy Valley. My first wife, Marian, worked with the Narcotics Bureau of the Police and we were members of the PRC. I made the acquaintance of an old retired Police Inspector and it turned out he first came to Hong

Kong as a young Sgt Post WW1. He is No. 16 on the 2nd row but, I must admit with the passing of time, I cannot remember his name other than recall he was very senior in the Masons when I knew him. Should I ever get back to Hong Kong, I could look up his grave which is a rather grand affair just inside the main entrance to the Happy Valley Colonial Cemetery just off the Racecourse road.

After the Queen's Surrey had left Hong Kong and just before I had to come home in 1965 he gave me this photograph. I sent it to Dougy Fraser requesting it be given to the Regimental Museum. Somehow or the other it was misplaced and did not come to light again until after Dougy had died. Noreen found it in the attic quite recently and as it had my name on it (put there by the old inspector) she thought it was mine. She got in touch and now it is on its way to you. It may be of some use in this Hong Kong exhibition the museum are organising.

I have had a long hard look at it with a large magnifying glass and have made a few rudimentary notes which may be of some interest. I would be delighted to know what you think of it. It is interesting to note that 13 of the 16 Old Contemptibles on parade did not have the LS&GC. As the latest date the photograph can be is 1926 it should not be surprising as to be eligible for this award a man would have had to have joined prior to 1908. These could well have been personnel who joined between 1909 and 1914 unless they were all rogues!



*Major Peter Hill has identified some of those in the photo, Front row: left to right: No 4 Captain A E Cottam MC, No 6 Lt Col F S Montague-Bates, No 8 Maj R A F Montanaro MC, No 11 possibly WOII Tuckhott, No 12 CSM C M Estall MC (his medals are on display in the regimental museum)
In the 2nd Row No 17 Sgt A H Tripp (whose medals are also in the museum).
Any readers who may be able to identify any others in the photograph please inform Mrs Penny James at the museum, Clandon.*

57th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment

I am writing to ask if you would kindly include news of the project to record the history of the 57th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment (formerly the 5th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment) in the next Association Newsletter. Although intended to be primarily a war history of the Regiment as an anti-tank unit, we will be including mention of its lineage and an account of its last years as a Territorial Infantry Battalion in the 1930s.

We are presently in touch with over 50 veterans, two thirds of whom were with the old 5th Battalion, but we would like to hear from more and who with their East Surrey connections receive the Newsletter. We would like to contact anyone who served with the Regiment, either as a pre-war Territorial or on active service in France and Belgium, North Africa and Italy between the years 1938-45. Thank You.

If any reader can assist please write to Ray Goodacre:- The 57th A/TK Regt RA History Project, Bespoke Publications Ltd, 7 Eastgate, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1RN. Tel: 01737 215200.

George Dibley writes:- I hope you can use the enclosed in a future issue of the Newsletter, they are, as you can see copies of two old photographs.

Regrettably I have forgotten many of the names of the individuals shown and may have the rest wrong.

'A' is of the Signals Platoon, 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, Parkhurst Barracks, IOW. It was taken sometime between the 27th April and 30th November 1937, the dates are based on the fact that I passed out as a signaller on the former and sailed to India on the latter.



Back Row: 2nd Left, Pte Maund, 5th, Pte Fillingham, Extreme Right, Pte Dibley. Middle Row: 1st Left, Pte Cassidy, 2nd, Pte Richards. Front Row: 3rd Left, Cpl Vic Moth, Lt Hill, 1/Sgt Churcher.

'B' is of 11 Platoon, C Company, 1st Bn, The Queen's Royal Regiment, McPherson Barracks, Allahabad, India. I found the mutilated original in a box of discarded papers before leaving the battalion in September 1943.



Back Row: 1st Left, Pte West, 2nd, Pte Jackson, 3rd Pte Fillingham, 5th 1/Cpl Jones.

Centre Row: 5th Left, 1/Cpl Bradley, 7th, Pte Dibley

Front Row: 3rd Left, Cpl Jenner, 2 Right, Pte Andrews, 1st Right Pte Gray.

Can anybody, correct names that are wrong, give names where missing and identify the missing cutouts. Hopefully you will be able to use the photographs but whether you can or not please pass them on to the museum.

L W Jones is trying to trace two ex Queen's pals - ex-Private George Young (was the Padre's batman) Edmonton district, and ex-Private Reg Allan (Animal Transport) Edgeware district.

Any information please to:

L W Jones, 13 Hall Park Close, Littleover, Derby, DE23 6GZ.

Mr Wally Woolven is seeking information regarding his brother Sergeant George Woolven, The Queen's, who was killed at Coriano Ridge on October 2nd 1944. He was believed to be a stretcher bearer and was awarded the MM.

Any information please to:

R A S Currie, 66 Third Avenue, Frinton on Sea, Essex, C013 9EE. Tel: 01255 674761.

Harold Hawkins is seeking information concerning a Lieutenant R H Hatton who served with the 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1932 - 1938. Mr Hawkins thinks Hatton finished his service as a Lt Col.

If any reader can help please write direct to H Hawkins, 8 Scylla Place, Church Rd, St Johns, Woking GU21 1QJ.

The family of Private G S Green who was 18 years of age when he was killed on the 13th January 1945 serving with 1/5th Queen's at Nederweert. If any member recalls this comrade please contact D J Mitchell, 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3JE.

Norman Chua, 5000 N Marine Parade Rd, Lagoon View 07-59, Singapore is writing a thesis on South East Asia Command and asks any members who served with, or met General Sir George Giffard to contact him. He has promised to reply to all letters.

The German Beer Garden:- Fifty six years ago a group of MT drivers went for a drink in the German Beer Garden, Allenby Road, Tel-Aviv, Palestine. One of the members on the photo, J Mayes is still trying to locate his mates who went for that drink (possibly because a couple of them owe a round!) The names so far as he can remember them are Privates Hugget, Gorman, Francis, Brinkley, Olive and L/Cpls Green and Dudney. If you can recognise yourself or know where any of them are please write to: J Mayes, 17 Pound Lane, Fishponds, Bristol, Avon BS16 2EF.



Johnnie Johnson writes:- I tried recently by means of 'Teletext' to trace old pals of my Battalion, but was unsuccessful. A few days ago I had my eightieth birthday but feel there must be some of them still around. Would it be possible to print the following in the next Newsletter.

Johnnie Johnson would like to know if anyone who was a member of the Band of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment during the years 1932 to 1947 is still around, or anyone who was a 'Chindit' in 21 column. Telephone 01634 714438, or write to:- 165 Allington Drive, Strood, Nr Rochester, Kent ME2 3TD.

V J Flowers writes:- Calling Lieutenant Farmer and any members of The Queen's Royal Regiment who served under him with the Royal Air Force Wireless Intelligence Screen based at Metz France 1939/40. Please contact Vic Flowers (Ex RAF W.O/P) on 0191 4881070 or at 9 Laburnum Grove, Sunnyside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 5LY.

o o o



The Anti-Tank Platoon 1/5th Queen's was taken at Spandau, Berlin in 1945. Sgt 'Busty' Humphries is the sergeant on the officers right. Can readers identify any others? Names to the Editor please.

o o o

By Courier

The service newspaper Courier of 1948/49, describing itself as "The Only English Newspaper Published in Greece", recounts activities of the 2nd Infantry Brigade of which the Surreys, together with the Bedfords and the Suffolks were part. The Surreys certainly distinguished themselves.

At the Brigade Boxing Championships they won eight of the programme's twelve bouts, defeating the Bedfords (three wins) and the Suffolks (one win). One man of the Surreys, Rogers, effected two knockouts. Carrying off the boxing shield, they later completed a double by winning the Brigade Hockey Championships by finally defeating the Suffolks 7-3. An outstanding player was L/Cpl Jeff Harvey who scored 10 goals in three matches and who in the Brigade Hockey League had scored more than 30 goals for Surreys C Company.

Obviously anxious that high sporting standards should be achieved and maintained, CSM A R Seymour MM of "A" Company, 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, made an impassioned plea for better facilities in a letter to the Courier. Among other things, he sought volunteers from the Regiment to assist in turning a vacant plot of ground into a football pitch. But it was not only in the physical sphere which the Regiment showed prowess. In the first session of the Brigade Quiz, Surreys B Company defeated Beds and Herts D Company while Surreys A Company defeated the Ordnance Depot.

Musically, the Regimental Band under Bandmaster C F Harris ARCM gave much appreciated Sunday concerts, the saxophone quartet being particularly skillful and Bandsman J Carleton earning praise "for his very clever playing of a tricky solo piano transcription".

A bandsman with an interesting career was L/Cpl W Moore. Joining the 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment in Jersey as a boy entrant in 1925 he later served in Hong Kong, India and the Sudan. On the outbreak of war he went to the Continent as a stretcher bearer and was taken prisoner at Oudenaarde. After a time as a prisoner of war in Poland he was repatriated in 1943, returning via Sweden to England and the Regimental Depot at Kingston-upon-Thames. In 1947 he went

to Greece and in the following year, after 23 years service, his story was taken up by the Courier.

Courier's accounts of the Regiment's activities are confined to one particular period in Greece but they are nevertheless typical of the Regiment and its spirit and prowess wherever it served.

o o o

Confirmation in Malaya 1954



Young men from Croydon and Wallington, now serving with the 1st Battalion, the Queen's Royal Regiment at Tampin in Negri Sembilan, Malaya, were among those confirmed by the Bishop of Guildford during his recent tour of Royal Air Force units in the Far East. The men were presented by the battalion chaplain, the Rev. Peter Mallett, who was assistant priest at St. Oswald's church, Norbury, from May, 1951 to January, 1954. The simple ceremony was carried out in the little Garrison Church of St. Barbara. The regimental band, seated on the verandah outside the church, led the spirited singing of the hymns.

Seated in the picture above are Lt Col F J C Piggott, the Bishop of Guildford, and the Rev P Mallett, battalion chaplain. Standing are: Cpl Sidney Lea, Upper Norwood; Pte David Gunner, Croydon; Pte Alan Burton, Wallington; Pte Terence Brown, Croydon; Drummer Brian Fawcett, Croydon.

Editors note: This extract was taken from an article in The Croydon Times and Surrey County Mail, October 1954

o o o

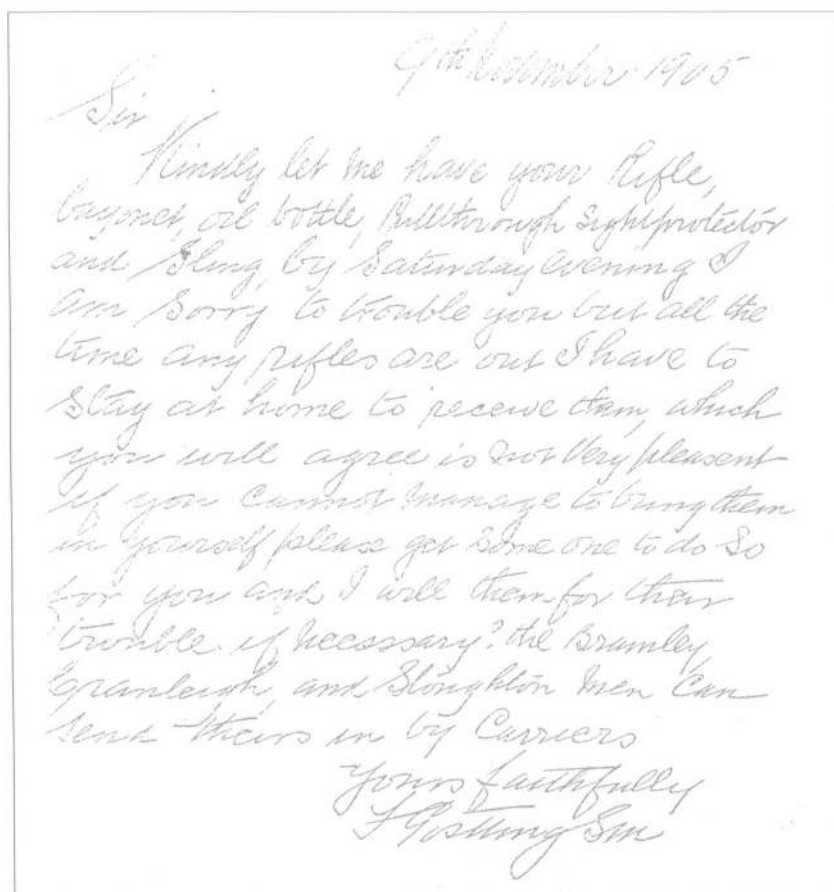
If the Devil cast his net now?!



The Queen's Surreys 'Tory' Advice Group, Northampton. Peter Warren, Jack Warner, Jack Chaffer (spokesman for Home Affairs policy) and Bill Warren. Kneeling is Sid Lea, visiting from Outer Telford!

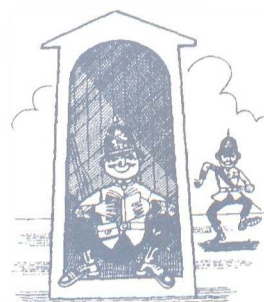
Letter to a Volunteer, 1905

Ian Chatfield sent the enclosed letter and envelope from his collection of Queen's memorabilia.



Editors note: How times change!

Note Edward VII halfpenny stamp and the address to Pte J Elson 2nd VB The Queen's, Shalford, Surrey.



Book Reviews

The Final Years, 1938-1959

This book has been compiled to complete the story of The East Surrey Regiment before its amalgamation in 1959 into The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment which latter Regiment, after further merging, has its histories and traditions continued in The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The dates of the book take in the preliminaries when the British Army had only just begun to be re-equipped for a modern war, it follows the story of the Surreys through the war and continues with the story of the wide variety of tasks, moves and locations that many Infantry Battalions faced in the post-war years of run-down from worldwide commitments. How all this affected individual Battalions and those serving in them, Regular soldiers, Wartime soldiers and then National Servicemen and Territorial Army soldiers is well recorded with many personal anecdotes and photographs.

Clearly the story is of particular interest to those who served in or had connections with The East Surrey Regiment but there is much which will interest the general reader. It must be said though that for the latter the lay-out of the book dealing with each Battalion's story in separate chapters may detract from the full impact of a Regiment at war.

As well the book follows and acts as a co-ordinator to previous publications recording the major wartime actions of the Regiment, in Malaya 1941-42, with 1st Army in North Africa 1942-43, and in Italy 1943-45. This present book, however, covers the fighting in France in 1940 where 3 battalions were committed. In 4th Division the 1st and 1/6th (TA) Battalions fought staunchly on the River Escaut and in the defence of the eastern side of the Dunkirk perimeter. The unfortunate 2/6th Battalion who were neither fully equipped nor trained became part of a detached force which, after a gallant fight east of Rouen, withdrew with the 51st Highland Division to be sacrificed at St Valery. Details of the actions of all these Battalions give revealing accounts of individual commitment and gallantry under conditions where often little information or direction was available.

This book together with those referred to, namely "Malaya 1941-42", "Algiers to Tunis 1942-1943", "The Surreys in Italy 1943-45", has been published by The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford GU4 7RQ (Tel: 01483 223419) and all are available direct from the Museum

JWS

After the Surreys

A 1st Battalion East Surrey man, having served with the battalion from Africa, 1943, through to Greece, 1946, I returned to England on repatriation leave, Python, and was subsequently demobbed in January, 1947. Emigrating to Canada in 1949, I stayed for 3 years before jaunting through the Caribbean islands and spending the better part of a year in Venezuela.

Returning to Canada, I joined a Militia (Territorial) armoured unit, The Queen's York Rangers, where I served as a gunner for 7 years. During that time I was also introduced to competitive rifle shooting and had the great fortune of receiving instruction from Desmond Burke, one of Canada's most successful marksmen. Following his instructions meticulously in the theory and techniques of precision shooting, I attended the National Competitions and won the National Championship and the Bisley Aggregate, which placed me first member of the forthcoming Canadian team to Bisley, England. After shooting successfully on 5 Bisley teams and 2 World Palma, 800-900-1000 yards range, teams, I concentrated on Service Conditions competitions, winning the Queen's Medal in the process.

During this time, because of relocating my residence, I transferred from Queen's York Rangers to the Lorne Scots; back to infantry. The dramatic departure from those narrow legged breeches of armoured corps uniform to a highly insecure highlander's kilt was somewhat disconcerting. Little did I think that the kilt would be my parade attire for the next 20 years.

After writing the History of the Ontario Rifle Association, 1868-1973, I was commissioned by the Canadian Armed Forces to write a marksman's text book which I entitled, "Measuring up to the C1 A1 Rifle". (SLR in the British Army.) This was adopted as the training instrument for all Canadian Forces. By this time my rank had escalated to Warrant Officer.

I withdrew from prone, deliberate, National Rifle Association type shooting in 1975 to organize, compete and coach in the newly instituted Canadian Forces Small Arms Competitions and became the official representative of the Canadian Militia. When Canada re-introduced a sniper component, eliminated after the Korean conflict, I conducted User Trials and was assigned to train all Regular Force instructors in the discipline, followed by Militia instructors and, later, police Special Weapons teams.

As coach of Canada's Central Militia Area team, some 40 members of all types of small arms shooters, I remained in that capacity for 6 successive years. The team was most successful winning numerous national championships in both team and individual events.

One day my secretary, at my civilian employment, came into my office to say, "*There's a Colonel Smith on the line who sounds quite stern. He wants to speak to you.*" On my answering the phone, Colonel Smith, my Commanding Officer, said, "*Warrant Officer Fish, I have an important document concerning you. When you attend the armouries tomorrow night, I want you to come directly to my office.*" Hanging up, after an affirmative, I speculated on what could possibly have gone wrong with the Area small arms programmes which I had initiated and conducted.

The tone of reprimand in the COs voice still rang in my ears and fear of censure assailed me as the Orderly Room clerk ushered me to the COs office. After knocking, he opened the door to reveal all the officers formed up around the C.O.s desk and he holding forth a sheet of paper. "Read this, Warrant.", he instructed.

Expecting severe reprimand at least, or court martial at worst, I read the document which was from the Governor-General of Canada appointing me to the Order of Military Merit with an investiture to be conducted shortly thereafter. As I looked up from the document, all the officers threw their hats in the air and cheered. Congratulations from everyone, then, straight into the Messes, which were all thrown open to celebrate. No parade that night!

In the interim I had been awarded the Canadian Centennial Medal and the Queen's Jubilee Medal. With a row of 9 medals, now, on such a slight frame, I had to have them mounted in overlap to stay within the confines of breastbone and shoulder. At the age of 59, after serving 9 years past compulsory retirement, I tendered my resignation to the Area Commander. He demurred until he was informed that I had trained my successors to a level where the continuity of the shooting team was assured. And this, of course, occurred.

A few years as Chief Range Officer of the Ontario Rifle Association, after which I turned the page on all military activity, other than regimental social functions, reunions, etc. My affection for the kilt remains and I still wear it on appropriate occasions.

A sudden urge to write of my wartime experiences overtook me in the summer of '94. By the spring of 1995 it was finished and printed.

Recently deceased 'Lakry' Wood MM had tracked me down after coming across a copy of my "History of the ORA". He had been with me in 'B' Company, 1st East Surreys during the war. Lakry organized a small reunion of survivors at Clandon House in April of 1995. It was wonderful to meet such fine, former colleagues after more than 50 years. The Surreys represented a highly formative part of my character and personality development. I treasure the memories of those years and have a great affection for the people encountered there. Such a tragedy that so many failed to return with us lucky ones.

And now, I look forward to the bi-annual arrival of Colonel Les Wilson's excellent "Newsletter" which keeps me abreast of events on the 'old sod'. I particularly empathize with Colonel Les since part of my duties with the Lorne Scots, for many years, was to produce a quarterly, "Lorne Scots Newsletter". That is one panic stricken, deadline racing activity, at times, for which we should all be most grateful to Colonel Les.

In conclusion, I now live in euphoric contentment in one of the prettiest parts of Ontario; minutes from Niagara Falls. And I still have an activity schedule which keeps me hopping.

Larry Fish

The 5th Queen's between the Wars

An interesting article by Major R C G Foster MC is very descriptive of the life and times of this 500 strong Territorial Battalion of which he was Adjutant from 1929 to 1933.

Located in Surrey the Detachments were:

A Company	-	Dorking and Reigate
B Company	-	Farnham and Camberley
C (MG) Company	-	Guildford and Haslemere
D Company	-	Farncombe and Woking
HQ	-	Guildford

The Brigade Commander was a Guardsman who was assisted by an elderly civilian clerk and a typist all of whom were on excellent terms with the Orderly Room Sergeant named Cook.

Great support was forthcoming from the Depot at Stoughton and the 2nd Battalion, firstly at Dover and later at Aldershot.

Each Detachment had a permanent or part time Sergeant Instructor all of them coming from The Queen's. Describing them, Major Foster says, *"The RSM was Reeves (DCM). On completion of his tour he joined the Battalion as CSM at Camberley in place of CSM Hiney who had died. He was succeeded by RSM Hankin, another splendid soldier. Other Staff Sergeants were Cooper, Meredith, Spooner, Dennington, Smith and Lawrence (the last named a champion shot and boxer). Among the very keen NCOs, one should mention RQMS Blake, Russell, Keen, Powell, Wyman. There were of course many others. A fine character was Mr Gosling, the storeman at Guildford. He had joined the regiment in the seventies and when at last he retired had sixty years continuous connection with it"*.

One acquisition during this time was a Band. This was recruited complete under Mr Tregelas and with the long established Drums was a great asset to the many functions. Training consisted of two evening drill nights a week with Easter Camps and, bigger events, the Annual Camps. These were usually held at Dover or in the New Forest but in one year, due to the economic depression, the Camps were cancelled so were replaced by locally arranged three day "battle marches".

Major events were a big British Legion Rally at Guildford attended by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught. The Battalion provided the Guard of Honour and staged a mechanised battle in carriers lent by The Royal Warwickshire Regiment through their Second in Command, Major (later Field Marshal Viscount) Montgomery.

On sporting, competitive and leisure activities Major Foster records, *"The Battalion being so split up could not shine much at sport, but there was a great revival in boxing in those years, especially at Camberley, and Corporals Stocker, Mann, Wright and Harding at times reached the Divisional Finals. At shooting, we had a very fine team under the Captaincy of Burton Brown and could make four claims to being the best Battalion in the Territorial Army."*

Up till 1930 we had, in conjunction with the Yeomanry, run an Annual Territorial Ball, a very expensive and exclusive affair with the HQ Drill Hall given a special dance floor and great hangings of Regimental Colours, but in 1931 the slump caused it to lapse and it was never revived".

Accommodation was obviously improved at Woking when the Duke of Connaught opened a new drill hall. Of the officers Major Foster comments, *"The officers were an exceptional lot, many of whom had distinguished careers. The CO was Dick Wigan, the only survivor of the 5th Queens of 1914, and beloved and respected by everyone. He was Under Sheriff of the County."*

The Second in Command was Bill Sturmy Cave, a member of a well known Territorial family and a DSO. He had rather anti-Regular prejudices and was sometimes difficult. After commanding the Battalion he went on a mission to America in 1939 where I think he died."

OC 'A' Company (Reigate & Dorking) was Reggie Palmer an ex-Regular Queens officer and an England and Army Rugby player. He commanded 1/5th Battalion at the beginning of the War and in the hard fighting of 1940. Later, as Brigadier, he commanded the troops in Vienna and received the CBE. OC 'B' Company (Farnham and Camberley) was Reggie Dorman Smith, later MP, Minister of Agriculture and Governor of Burma. In about 1931 he went to HQ Company and was succeeded by John Dickson, an ex-Regular Connaught Ranger, who could and did devote most of his ample leisure to the very successful 'B' Company."

OC 'C' Company (Guildford and Haslemere) was George Baker, a Haslemere landowner who used to talk to his tenants in a broad Sussex dialect. OC 'D' Company (Farncombe and Woking) was Alec Young, founder and Chairman of the great business of Redland Holdings. He commanded 2/5th Battalion from 1939 to 1942. OC HQ Company was Roy Wise, then MP for Rugby. His Parliamentary duties allowed him to attend only at camp."

There were many first rate subalterns, especially Dick Clarke who was killed as Second in Command at Alamein; H B Watson for whose long ungrudging service the Battalion owed so much; Hugh Merriman who gained an MC in 1940 and finished the War in Command of a Recce Battalion with the DSO; Pat Jobson, cadet Captain of the Charterhouse OTC and was a doctor and Pat Milligan later Chairman of Lloyds."

Colin Burton Brown commanded the Bradfield OTC and so could spare little time for ordinary duties with the 5th Battalion. But he was for years champion shot of the Territorial Army and under his leadership the Battalion teams were outstandingly successful. The Quartermaster was splendid old C J M Elliott, pre-war the RSM of the 1st Battalion and post-war the QM of the 2nd Battalion".

He rightly concludes, *"With these (and other) first class officers as a foundation it is not surprising that 1/5th and 2/5th Queen's gained the reputations they did in the 1939/45 War"*.

Regulations of the First Regiment of Surrey Volunteers 1803

On the subject of Volunteer Regiments, the above mentioned Regulations make interesting reading as some examples show.

In 1803 the late Volunteer Corps of Bermondsey, Loyal Bermondsey, Newington and Rotherhithe agreed to unite and form one Corps under the title of The First Regiment of Surrey Volunteers. The Regiment was to be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gaitskell with Major Thomas Burne as his Second-in-Command.

There were four Divisions which were sub-divided into a total of six Companies, each of which was commanded by a Captain assisted by a Lieutenant and Second Lieutenant. The Chaplain was The Rev Henry Cox Mason while the Surgeon was Samuel Henry Sterry. The defined purpose of the Regiment was, *"To aid and assist the Civil Power within five miles of the Obelisk in St George's Fields; but in case of actual Invasion, or the Appearance of the enemy on the Coast, for that purpose, the Services of the Regiment to extend to the London Military District."* Each member had to provide his own uniform and accoutrements at his own expense and agree to serve without pay or emolument.

Captains of Companies could enlist *"such Gentlemen as may be desirous of becoming members"* provided they were considered suitable. Affairs of the Regiment were to be conducted by a Military Committee of Commissioned Officers. The Lieutenant Colonel could call out the Regiment whenever he deemed it necessary but Field Officers and Captains could appoint Field Days. Divisions were to render utmost assistance in the protection of property on occasions of fire in the neighbourhood and were to *"muster in undress uniform"* when called on for the purpose. From this, and the definitive order of *"aid to the Civil Power"*, it will be seen that the Regiment was intended to carry out duties which were later to become the responsibilities of professional police and fire brigades.

Any emergency requiring a full muster of the Regiment was to be signalled by drummers beating *"To Arms"* around the respective parishes. Failure to respond when ordered out for duty was a disciplinary offence which could be dealt with by a

Court of Inquiry as convened by the commanding officer. Any officer or member of the Regiment leaving town for more than seven days had to signify the same to the Captain of his Company, otherwise such excuse could not be allowed for any neglect of duty. Uniform was not to be worn except when on duty or on "military occasions". When so worn the full dress uniform was obviously a colourful affair consisting, with embellishments and trimmings, of a scarlet jacket, white breeches, white waistcoat, black silk stockings, helmet with bear skin and regulation feather, and lastly black cloth gaiters. Hair was to be "powdered and dressed close". Undress uniform was a lower key affair consisting of a blue jacket, white pantaloons and full dress helmet.

History should well remember the old time Volunteers as they set standards of discipline and service which have been inherited throughout the years and are still embodied in the re-organised and re-named volunteer units of today.

Those were the days!

Golf Society - Spring Meeting 9 May 1996

The Spring Meeting at Sudbrook Park is usually blessed with good weather, this year was no exception. The course was in excellent condition. It was pleasing to see 24 members attending the meeting which is the largest number for some years. The increase in numbers resulted in keen competition for the trophies in both Senior and Junior divisions. We were joined for lunch by Mike Reynolds, John Sherrard, Les Wilson and Adrian Cross - good to see you all again.

The AGM of the Society was held after the day's play at which Colonel JGW Davidson was elected as President and FTA Hole Esq as Captain. Our thanks are extended to the Richmond Golf Club for the excellent lunch and service given to the Society. The Prizes were presented by the Captain, Lt Col PGFM Roupell.

The Winners of the Competitions were as follows:

Challenge Cup	Col JGW Davidson	77 gross
Dodgson Cup	Lt Col PGFM Roupell	73 nett
Heales Memorial Trophy	FTA Hole Esq	35 pts
Runner Up Senior Div:	CM Howard	32 pts
Junior Div:	J Farrar	33 pts
Veteran's Halo	Maj LE Penn	35 pts
Harry Adcock Trophy (Putting)	MJ Power Esq	-3

PM Greensomes - 14 holes

Col JGW Davidson & Maj M Farrell 32 pts

Winners of the Society Sweep run on the Morning Round:-

1st: MJ Power Esq 2nd HP Mason Esq 3rd: C Stanton Esq

Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment GS V Royal Marines GS

The fixture was held on Tuesday 21 May 1996 at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet. After our narrow defeat last year, the Captain Lt Col PGFM Roupell was determined to regain the trophy before handing over the Captaincy.

At the conclusion of the morning Foursomes the Queen's Surreys were in the driving seat by 4 matches to 1.

After an excellent lunch we were ready to do battle again. We expected the Royal Marines to come back strongly, but in the event the afternoon Foursomes were won 3 1/2 - 1 1/2. The Match

result was therefore 7 1/2 - 2 1/2, the largest winning margin by either side for many years. Congratulations to Peter Roupell for his Captaincy.

Queen's Surreys	AM	Royal Marines	
Maj Gen GA White	1	Maj Gen PR Kay	0
Lt Col PGFM Roupell		Capt Patterson-Knight	
Col JGW Davidson	1	Capt DG Hunt	0
MJ Power Esq		Capt H J Phillips	
Brig S T W Anderson	1	Lt J A Cook	0
Maj W J F Sutton		Capt A B Gordon	
Lt Col F B Herd	0	Col A S Harris	1
Maj R M Green		Col S D Smith	
C M Howard Esq	1	R A Humphrey Esq	0
C C Surtees Esq		M Gregson Esq	
	PM		
Maj Gen GA White	1	Maj Gen PR Kay	0
Col JGW Davidson		Col SD Smith	
Maj W J F Sutton	1	Cap D G Hunt	0
M J Power Esq		R A Humphrey Esq	
Lt Col P G F M Roupell	0	Col A S Harris	1
C M Howard Esq		Capt H J Phillips	
Maj R M Green	1/2	Capt R Patterson-Knight	
C C Surtees Esq		M Gregson Esq	1/2
Brig S T W Anderson	1	Lt J A Cook	0
Lt Col F B Herd		Capt A B Gordon	

71-221-2

□ □ □

Captain Edward Victor Whiteway MC



The Military Cross and medals of the late Captain Whiteway, 12th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, who was awarded the MC whilst attached to 122nd Infantry Brigade in the First World War have been handed in to the PWRR museum at Dover Castle. Included with the medals were various photos and papers of a historical interest.

For consistent good work and devotion to duty as Brigade Transport Officer from February to September 1917 whilst the Brigade was in the Ypres Salient.

This Officer has never failed to bring up rations, water and Ammunition to Brigade Headquarters.

During the operations of 7th June, 31st July and 20th September 1917 he had to bring his transport over heavily shelled roads. His fearlessness and determination enabled him to overcome all difficulties in spite of numerous casualties to his transport.

Five Years to Berlin - (part II)

Leaving Tripoli behind them Captain Edney and his colleagues headed for Salerno by way of a four day sea voyage which, although uncomfortable, was generally quiet and without any sign of enemy aircraft or U-boats. But on arrival at Salerno Bay they found that things were far from quiet. Ships of all shapes and sizes were unloading men, vehicles and supplies on to the shore. Destroyers were laying down supporting fire to which enemy shore artillery were replying.

Edney and some of his men with their vehicles were landed in the evening with others following the next day. Encampment in a field near some old factory buildings was quickly effected, followed by the usual brew up of tea accompanied by bully beef and biscuits supplemented by some of the nearby locally grown tomatoes. Having become the targets for enemy aircraft and artillery, not to mention swarms of vicious mosquitoes, the troops were more than thankful when they moved off in the direction of Naples with 1/7th leading. Delayed by street fighting before them at Scafati, and harassed by snipers, they found progress difficult. On arrival at Ottaviana, however, they found the local population friendly and dishing out wine to relieve parched throats.

After passing through the suburbs, Aversa was reached where a brief rest was made for a few days. Opportunity was taken for a quick visit to Pompeii where excavations had revealed many interesting carvings, some of which indicated that the Roman soldiers of bygone days had had similar interests to their current successors. By contrast the next stopping place of Albanova was deemed to be *"a depressing place with no sign of life"* although the bully beef diet was this time improved by the addition of spaghetti which seemed to be in plentiful supply.

The ground when reaching Brezza was found to be unsuitable for tanks so the whole Division was transferred to the coastal area where movement was rather restricted. Bad weather did not improve the situation and the troops surprisingly looking back with nostalgia at their days in the desert, once much maligned as recalled in a poem once written by their mechanical transport officer "Jumbo" Wilson.

*"Oh Tripoli, where you and we
have been for an eternity,
enduring the blazing, scorching sun,
all because of the bloody Hun!
Where we sit all day, and have time to think,
where we can't even buy a blasted drink!
'Fraternisation with the locals forbidden,
if only I knew where the blighters were hidden!
All entertainment, they tell us, is free.
Yes! All of it's here for you and for me.
We queue up for the flicks in the sun and the heat,
and when we get in there's no blasted seat!
We're fleeced by the natives to left and to right,
in the whole flaming place we can't get a bite!
The fruit that we find gives us all "gyppy tummy",
how I wish I could think it really was funny.
'This useless, shadeless, bloody land,
with sand and flies on every hand,
this land that we took when things looked so black,
for Christ's sake let's give the bloody place back!"*

But a pleasant surprise was in the offing. Called to a conference the assembly were amazed when a senior officer addressed them thus:- *"Gentlemen, the Division is being withdrawn into Imperial Strategic Reserve, we are returning to the United Kingdom!"*

Edney says that the effect was electric but one gains the impression that this is something of an understatement. An advance party quickly left by air while the rest settled in to what seemed idyllic and peaceful surroundings on the Sorrento Peninsula to await sea transport. There was unlimited bathing, cinemas were set up and dances arranged and it was here that the troops wore the ribbons of the newly issued, and much prized Africa Star.

Taking advantage of a few days leave, Edney travelled to Vesuvius but was obviously not very impressed, the scene being spoiled by the presence of sulphurous fumes. Returning to camp he found that the anticipated transport vessels had still not arrived so there was more waiting to be endured. One pastime indulged in was that of playing of poker at which the Roman Catholic padre, the Reverend Father Devine, seemed an expert who regularly fleeced his opponents. But on the 19th and 20th December the transports arrived in Naples harbour where the Brigade embarked in the Dutch vessel HMT *Boissevain*. By Christmas Day they were at Oran joining a homeward bound convoy and on 3rd January 1944 they sighted the coast of Ireland and after a period of nearly two years were, in Edney's words, *"back where we came in"*. But their travels certainly weren't over. The next stop was to be France via the Normandy beaches.

Disappointingly, they lost their Brigadier, L G (Bolo) Whistler, while in England and he was replaced by Brigadier Maurice Ekins. Rather more of a "book" man than his predecessor, it seemed to take a little time for him and his command to settle down together but differences were quickly overcome and forgotten as the tempo increased towards the monumental task ahead. A visit by General Montgomery, making one of his crisp, decisive speeches, followed later by one of his famous messages saying that *"we were going to deal the enemy a terrific blow in Western Europe"*, indicated that the day of action was not far distant. As May progressed the Queen's, now at Dersingham were involved in the generally increased activity which preceded D-Day. By the 26th of the month steps towards embarkation began and within a matter of days Edney and his men found themselves landing on the Normandy beaches close behind the first troops to arrive. The invasion by now was definitely on.

Amid heavy shell fire, much of it coming from naval warships and landing craft, Edney got his advance party off the beach and onwards to La Riviere where, as arranged, he met up with the Brigadier who was already installed in a farm building. Allotment of concentration areas followed in preparation for the arrival of 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's all of whom came ashore the following day. The territory rapidly showed itself to be unsuited to armoured warfare and Edney comments, *"It didn't take very long for us to find how difficult things would be in the surrounding Bocage Country, pleasant as it may well have been in peace time. No more open desert, only a great many small fields with hedgerows and steep banks dropping to winding, narrow French roads! It was certainly not tank country, and looked ideal for defence!"*

When some advance had been made, however, there was time for a few days rest and some entertainment was laid on for the troops. The comedian George Formby turned up with some girls. Army rations of foodstuff were occasionally supplemented with local fare including a brew known as Calvados which proved to be a pretty powerful liquid. Troop movements at the time were frequent but confused and in the region of Tilly-Sur-Seules RAF support had to be called for to deal with stiff enemy resistance. Of his experiences of the Americans in the invasion Captain Edney says, *"Their soldiers were good, but their senior officers, with few exceptions, were far below the standard required and would certainly have done no better at Little Big Horn than did Custer"*.

And of conditions and operations generally he continues- *"The weather was ghastly. We were frequently bogged down, and quite unable to move. Historians, please note, as we really should have done better!"*

It was a period when many things were happening in the Brigade area and we were in action most of the time. Our 22nd Armoured Brigade put in an attack on Conde sur Noireau, which was an important road centre. The tanks had a Bn of Queens under command and the first objective on the way was the village of La Vallee. Our patrols had reported it to be clear of enemy although heavily mined. While the Sappers were dealing with these, the tanks arrived covered by a heavy mist, which was most fortunate because the road to La Vallee was under heavy enemy fire. The main attack was planned in great detail and within five minutes of the start at 03.30 hrs, hand to hand fighting was taking place. Some Germans were found half asleep and were aroused with cries of "Wakey, wakey", the bayonet and rifle butts being effectively used. Our artillery was putting down a heavy barrage and the enemy obviously preferred to be taken prisoner than to retire through the falling shells. Fifty were taken and many very kindly formed up on the road and doubled in step into La Vallee in charge of one soldier with a fixed bayonet."

Although in process of being liberated the attitude of the French in the midst of all the military activity was lukewarm and understandably so. It was their lives and livelihoods which were being blown apart, irrespective of which sides were doing it. The scenes of damage and slaughter, particularly as regards farm animals and German Army horses, sometimes appalled Edney.

But by the end of August General Verney, the Divisional Commander, was able to tell his troops that their opponents had been routed and were retiring in confusion. 50,000 prisoners had been taken and he urged hot pursuit and vigorous action. For Edney the spirit of El Alamein returned and once more there was *"the old excitement of the chase"*. In his own words:- *"We had always found it a great relief, after being shut up in a small area for a long time, when suddenly we were free and able to go on and on in one direction. This time the breakthrough turned into a headlong pursuit once again, and we only stopped when it grew dark. Even then Bill or I would have to push on to wherever Main HQ had got to, so that we could find out the Brigadier's plans for the next day. Quite often it was a long way and then we had to arrange the replenishments with the Battalions, get back to Rear HQ and set up the details with our B Echelon. Frequently this meant we had to drive around in areas where pockets of the enemy were still trying to get away and it was rather unhealthy. In fact we were provided with an armoured car for a time, but it proved to be rather unwieldy, so we soon went back to our trusty jeeps and kept all our fingers crossed! It was just part of the job"*.

Now passing through territory familiar with First World War names, that of Arras reminded Edney that his father was buried in a military cemetery in the vicinity. After a search, assisted by his batman, he found the grave and stood there contemplating whether in the surrounding noise of battle his father would have *"reckoned his own war hadn't yet ended"*. On reaching Lens warnings were received of approaching enemy forces and there were many night alarms and "stand to's" which sometimes lasted until dawn. Enemy activity was still a cause for concern at Ghent where there was a great deal of both shelling and sniping, but there was a welcoming reception from the local Resistance known as the White Brigade. They could tell many stories of their past strategies and tactics against the Germans, in some cases resulting in the arrest and disappearance of their comrades.

One or two cafes which were open provided welcome refreshment and relaxation but things were soon mobile again

and the next move was to Malines near Brussels. By this time the troops were fast out-running their supplies and support so a mixture of line holding and rest followed until everything else caught up. While so engaged at Antwerp on 17th September they heard of the big air drop at Arnhem and they moved quickly to Herenthals in readiness to give ground assistance. The failure of the operation was a great disappointment to everybody, not least Edney who believed the plan had great possibilities.

While engaged in cleaning up operations around Tilburg and S'hereto Genbusch certain changes took place as described by Edney who states, *"Brigadier Peter Pepper left us to take over the School of Infantry at home, and for two weeks Lt. Col Ian Freeland of 1/5 Queens commanded the Brigade, until the arrival of Brigadier Cox, who also didn't stay very long, and then Brigadier John Spurling arrived to see the war through with us. Almost at once, although he may not have known it, he most certainly created some commotion in the HQ! The first I heard about it was a message that I was required in the Brigadier's caravan!"*

There he told me that he had decided to send Bill Souttar home as he considered him to be battle-weary and in need of a rest! Not realising the unexpected shock of his remarks, he then said I was to take over forthwith as DAA & QMG and to get myself properly dressed as soon as possible! Such a switch around in Rear HQ nobody had thought of for one moment. Both Bill and I had fully expected to finish the war together, with the agreement of the enemy, of course, but now the concluding phases were to be all mine!. I don't know if Bill was as sorry to go as I was to see it happen. We had got on extremely well together, and knew each other's ways inside out! It was a long journey back to Alamein and we had shared some great times together!"

The Brigadier imported Wilf Needler as Staff Captain, an officer from his previous Command, and Rear HQ actually got it's own LO in the shape of Jack Lane, all the way from Rhodesia! Wilf didn't know it when he arrived, but his name was already down for any odd Advance Party in the future! Unless it was to UK, of course! So we continued in a period of fairly static warfare, our moves all being short, at least, and spread over damp areas of Holland!"

By 1st November, the whole Brigade was in a defensive position and for a few days things were quiet, and more or less uneventful. It was while travelling in a jeep in this area that Edney confesses *"the angels must have been with me"*. A shell exploded just in front of him and although wounded in the head, and his jeep damaged, he managed to get back to base and receive the necessary medical attention. The medical officer prevented Father Devine giving him whisky but had a large one himself. Suitably patched up Edney remained in action and describing further re-organisations which took place in the constantly changing patterns of warfare he states, *"On 29th November, the Brigade was withdrawn to an area around Maesyck for re-organisation. This proved to be something we couldn't possibly have imagined and it seemed disastrous!"*

After so many years together, the Queen's Brigade was to be broken up! 1/5th was to remain and be made up to full strength, but the other two Battalions were to go to 50 Division and return home to undertake special training duties. Apparently there were many thousands of AA gunners there who now had nothing to shoot at, so they had to be retrained as PBI! And who better to do it than the Queens?

However, it was a most unpopular move, even though their places were taken in the Brigade by 2nd Devons and 9th Durham Light Infantry. Our's not to reason why, and in any case, the war was far from over yet. By 7th December the new 131 Brigade returned to the line south of Roermond and we

remained on the defensive for over a month. The weather was foul, snow and ice everywhere and it was bitterly cold.

Two months later they were on the move again, seemingly and hopefully on the last stages of their journey. He continues, "By 21st February we were out of the line and preparing for the last big effort. Our rest area was near Weert in Holland, not the best of places, but at least we could send parties of soldiers back to our leave camp near Brussels. I had found an officer from 1/5 Queens, Dicky Dickson, who proved to be excellent at running this kind of camp and that was the beginning of quite a change in his duties! On our front, 15 Division was to do the assault crossing, followed by 7th Armoured, and by 25th March all our preparations were complete and we concentrated at Geldern. By the 27th we were driving forward into Germany!"

They pressed forward as quickly as possible, anxious to get behind the German Parachute forces who were about the last well organised formation in their paths. In one village they found a large hall whose interior was decorated with pictures of Hitler and senior Nazis, all suitably bedecked with flags. A British flame thrower quickly destroyed these emblems of the regime. By the 20th April they had reached the autobahn connecting Bremen and Hamburg so, again in danger of out-running their support, they pulled up and waited. Although enemy artillery fire had ceased, Edney says that "any unusual sounds still caused us to hit the ground with great speed". With the end in sight there was certainly no need to take undue risks. A welcome find was a shed which was "crammed to the roof" with bottles of wine. Seemingly the "cramming" difficulty was soon eased.

By now the Germans were engaged in large scale surrenders, anxious to fall into British hands rather than Russian. The surrender of Hamburg revealed the city to be in a terrible state. All civilians were confined to what was left of their homes and only policemen occupied the rubble-strewn streets. VE Day was proclaimed on May 8th and from then on the troops were engaged on large scale mopping up operations. There was time for some recreational activities including some riding feats on captured horses. Displaced persons who were stage performers also gave welcome entertainment.

But there were still military duties to be attended to. Quick advance was now made towards Berlin, in the process of which contacts began to be made with Russian forces. Relations with them were somewhat mixed and were not helped by language difficulties. Pressing on through Potsdam Edney found himself sickened by the sights of destruction and the smell of death. But the end of the road was nigh. On 4th July 1945, exactly three years after they had sailed into Durban Harbour, the 1/5th Queen's and most of the 7th Armoured Division entered Berlin. All told it had taken Captain Edney five years to get there but, like many others, HE HAD DONE IT.

JEE & RF

The well scored century

Clarrie Jarman, ex Queen's man, described as the "centurion soldier", reached his 100th birthday on 9th May amid much celebration both Regimentally and further afield.

On the great day itself a birthday lunch was held at Woking Football Club with which Clarrie has had long associations, having been their Secretary for several years. The account records:-

"The Chairman, Secretary, and Mr & Mrs D Mitchell, 5 QRR OMA were guests of Woking Town Football Club on Thursday 9th May 1996 at Clarrie Jarman's 100th birthday lunch. 1/Cpl

D Kirby was in attendance as Duty Drummer courtesy of the Commanding Officer 5th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Over 100 guests from all walks of life attended, including the Mayor of Woking, family, friends, football, Western Front Association, TRBL, BLESMA, and Woking FC hosts.

Call to lunch was sounded by the Duty Drummer and after a musical lunch refereed by Mr P G Grant (ex Guards), Clarrie cut the cake with a Regimental sword. The Duty Drummer then drummed in over 100 congratulatory messages; Lt Col M H Berge of the Western Front Association read out selective texts including congratulations from Her Majesty The Queen, Government, Opposition, The Colonel of The Regiment and The President of our Association.

Amongst the presentations was Clarrie's Army Discharge Documents specially released by the Public Records, Kew and presented by Nigel Venus of their Press & Publicity Department. A collage of cartoons by a local artist depicting his life was presented to Clarrie by the President of Woking FC and an old friend Mr Leslie Gosden MBE. After a presentation to Clarrie's wife Della by Councillor Neville Hinks, Mayor of Woking, both Clarrie and Della stood in turn to express their thanks. Sir Austin Bunch CBE FCA of BLESMA replied on behalf of the guests thanking Rosemary Cornwell, local BLESMA, and The Woking FC for organising the memorable occasion. The Reverend Barrie Tabraham gave the final score, Auld Land Syne was sung and after a final photo call with Clarrie and the Mayor, we all went home knowing we had been in the company of a truly remarkable "Old Contemptible".



Brigadier Bob Acworth presents Clarrie Jarman with "his story". Looking on are the Mayor of Guildford, Foster Herd and Les Wilson.

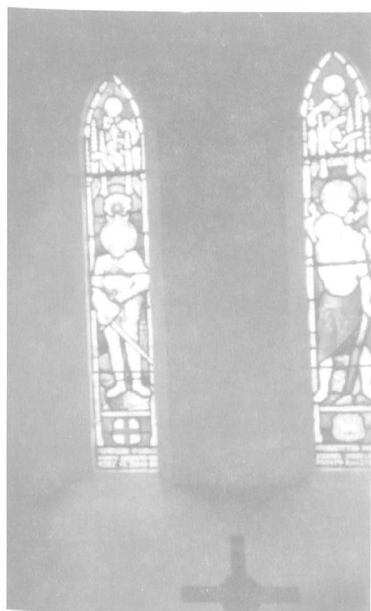
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association thank The President of Woking Town Football Club for paying such a memorable and generous tribute to our longest serving member.

Two days later, at the Annual Dinner of the 5th Bn The Queen's Old Members Association, further tributes were paid to the "grand old man" of the Regiment who was toasted as the "Centurion Soldier".

Brigadier R W Acworth CBE, President of the Association presented a life history to him, a worthy record for a brave and spirited old soldier who, despite losing a leg at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, went on to lead an active and full life in the fields of sport and in the occupation of Schools Inspector.

All who know Clarrie wish him well and it is hoped that he will continue to grace Regimental and Association functions on many occasions in the future.

JCR



The article on Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser of North Cape on page 22 of the November 1995 issue of the Newsletter mentioned the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the stained glass window over the Fraser Altar in Thursley Church.

There is a pair of stained glass windows depicting St George and St. Christopher respectively. It is at the bottom of the latter window that the Paschal Lamb appears. The inscription from left to right across both windows reads "In memory of Albert Fosberry of 2nd VB The Queen's Regiment who died at Modder's Spruit South Africa July 6 1900 aged 23 years".

We now know a little more about Private Fosberry. He lived in Thursley, near Hindhead, where his father was a builder and he was a carpenter and joiner. At the age of 18 years he had joined the Godalming Company in 1894.

On 6th March 1900 a special Service of Thanksgiving was held in Holy Trinity Church Guildford for the men of 'K' Company. The Company marched to church from Stoughton

Barracks and the Mayor and Corporation with the borough justices processed from the Guildhall to arrive at the church before the marching Company.

Following the service each man was given two artistically produced cards reproduced here.

On 17th March 1900 the Company entrained at Guildford station for Portsmouth. Our Regimental history tells us that the band of HMS *Excellent* was at the head of the detachments, including 'K' Company, when they marched to the ship to embark for South Africa in the SS *Tintagel Castle*. HMS *Excellent* also sent a baggage party to help stow the baggage of the men of 'K' Company and wish them Godspeed.

The Church of St Michael and All Angels at Thursley is of Saxon origin and the first incumbent is recorded as being in 1248. Set on high ground above the village it has many interesting features which are well worth exploring.



In the churchyard there is a memorial to men from the parish who died in both World Wars.

The inscribed names of former members of The Queen's Royal Regiment from the parish are:

World War I

Pte Grevitt, R
Pte Grevitt, W.
Pte Sharland, P.G.

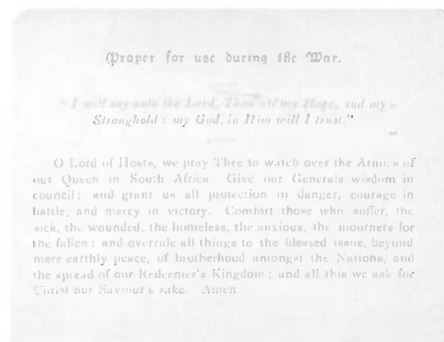
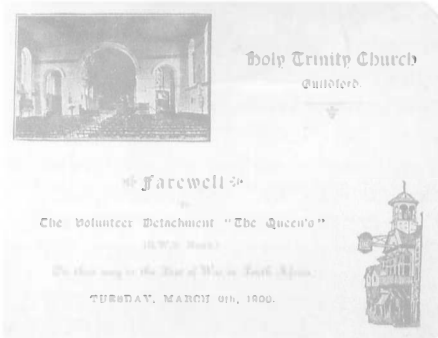
World War II

L/Cpl P. Francis

Pte Snelgrove, A.G.
L/Sgt West, A.E.



I am indebted to Captain Streatfield-James a former Captain of HMS *Excellent* for alerting me in the first instance to the existence of the memorial stained glass windows in Thursley Parish Church and also to Mr Reggie Fosberry, a great nephew of Pte Fosberry, who still lives in Thursley and kindly gave me additional information. Mr Reggie Fosberry's uncle was Sergeant C Rapley MM of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment who was killed in France on 10th November 1918. Sgt Rapley's Military Medal group was presented to the Museum in 1958 by his sister and is on display in Case M24 in Room 4.



Regimental Deaths

Aldridge - On 29th April 1996, Private Henry Aldridge, aged 87 years, 1st and 2nd Battalions and 2/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

Bastyan - On 30th March 1996, Private Ken Bastyan, 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Billows - On 8th June 1996, Reginald Donald Billows, aged 65 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Don Billows served with 1 Queen's in Iserlohn and was batman to the then Lieutenant Charles Millman. He was a life long supporter of The Queen's and his collection of badges, Queen's medals and memorabilia was one of the finest collections in private hands. He was very supportive always to the Association and the museums at Clandon and Dover Castle.

He was involved with the Army Cadet Force before joining the Army and continued his interests with them after completing his full time service. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow Marjory and his family.

Clark - On 9th September 1996, Sergeant Roy (Nobby) Clark, 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. Sergeant Clark served with the 1/5th from 1939-45 and was the MT Sergeant. He was a member of 5 OMA and was a regular attendee at functions. Died suddenly at his home in Cambridge.

Collyer - In June 1996, Major Alfred (Alf) Collyer, aged 73 years, The Buffs, The Special Air Service and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Drage - On 9th August 1996, Captain S H W Drage, 1/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

Ellis - On 25th May 1996, Colour Sergeant Ralph Ellis, 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Finlay - On 25th May 1996, Private Norman McCandless Finlay, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and The British Battalion.

Gray - On 18th June 1996, Captain Erik Gray, aged 72 years, The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Green - On 5th April 1996, Private Charlie Green, aged 80 Years, 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. Green served with the 1/5th throughout the war. A staunch supporter of all OMA functions, he died suddenly tending his garden.

Hannaford - On 13th May 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Basil, Anthony, Hannaford, aged 80 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Kaulback - On 27th June 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Roy, James, Alfred, (Bill) Kaulback DSO, aged 85 years The Royal Irish Fusiliers. He commanded 1/6th Queen's during the 2nd World War from El Alamein to Medenine where he was wounded.

Mallett - On 5th June 1996, The Venerable Peter Mallett CB, aged 70 Years. Chaplain-General to the Forces 1974-80.

Marshall - Private Billy Marshall, aged 76 years, pre-war TA and B Company 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment throughout the war.

Miller - On 22nd September 1996, Captain David Harry Miller TD, 565 LAA Royal Artillery and 3 Queen's Surreys. On the amalgamation of the Territorial battalions of the Queen's, The Surreys and 565 LAA in 1961, the new unit formed was 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA). David Miller ex 565 was posted in as the first second in command of D Company at Bermondsey. With his expertise all the administration of the the company went like clockwork. A perfect gentleman he was respected by all ranks. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Rosemary and his family

Moore - On 26th July 1996, Sergeant Robert H Moore DCM, aged 74 years, 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

Morris - On June 23rd. Alfred Morris, 2nd/7th The Queen's Royal Regiment, MT Platoon, HQ Company. A Dunkirk veteran he was also standard bearer for the Cheam Branch of the Italy Star Association.

Morris - On 23rd June 1996, Private Alfred E Morris, aged 88 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

Naumann - On 28th April 1996, Major John G F Naumann, The East Surrey Regiment. He served with 1st Glosters in Korea.

Piggott - On 21st July 1996, Major General Francis, James, Claude Piggott, CBE, CB, DSO., aged 85 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Colonel, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment 1964-66 and Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment 1967-69.

Rose - On 1st November 1995, Private William John Rose, aged 88 years, 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. In later years John Rose assisted with the administration and welfare of The Burma Star, Portsmouth Branch. He was Vice President of his Branch.

Rousell - On 28th July 1996, Major (QM) Charles George Rousell, aged 83 years, The Grenadier Guards and The East Surrey Regiment. Rousell was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded The Belgian Croix De-Guerre in 1945. He joined The Surreys in 1946.

Ruddick - On 28th July 1996, Reginald Victor Ruddick, aged 80 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was a patient at The Royal Star and Garter Home at the time of his death.

Spearing - On 7th June 1996, Major Herbert, Edward, Peter Spearing TD, aged 84 years, 6th and 2/6th Battalions The East Surrey Regiment. Mentioned in Despatches three times during World War II.

Stevens - In June 1996, Private Vernon (Inky) Stevens, aged 55 years, The East Surrey and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Stevens served with the 1st Battalion in Germany, Aden, and Hong-Kong.

Taylor - On 9th April 1996, Private R H Taylor, aged 80 years, 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the Chindits in Burma.

Truesdale - On 27th August 1996, Private Frank Truesdale, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. Truesdale was a Japanese POW during the war.

Wheeker - On 3rd August 1996, Colour Sergeant David Wheeler, aged 74 years, The Queen's Royal and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiments.

Whitney - On 8th August 1996, WOII (RQMS) Ernest Charles Whitney, aged 88 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Served from 1925-1947 with 1st Queen's Depot Queen's, 5th Queen's and with 3rd Queen's Surreys as a civilian storeman.

Regimental Families

Burgess - Enid Olive nee Caley. Wife of Lieutenant Colonel John Burgess, died on 1st May 1996 in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford after a stroke caused by a brain haemorrhage. John met Enid in Cyprus in 1958 whilst serving in Nicosia with the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment. Enid was a Nursing Sister (QARANC) at the BMH Nicosia. They were married in May 1959 after the Battalion had returned to Bury St Edmunds.

Finch-White - On 14th October, Mrs Irene Finch-White, beloved wife of Major B B Finch-White MC.

Marriner - On 3rd May, Grace Marriner widow of the late Sergeant Joe Marriner The East Surrey Regiment.

Obituaries

Major General F J C Piggott CB, CBE, DSO.



Major General F J C Piggott
CB CBE DSO
Last Colonel, The Queen's Royal Surrey
Regiment.

Major-General Francis Piggott who died on 21st July at the age of 85 was the second Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, becoming Deputy Colonel (Surrey) when the Regiment joined with the other Regiments of the South Eastern Counties to form the new large Queen's Regiment. While the relinquishment of his Colonelcy after only two years was a disappointment he loyally supported the change to the Large Regiment, both during the preparation phase

and then as Deputy Colonel to Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, the first Colonel of the new Queens. It is a matter of regret that this loyalty by General Piggott and many others was rebuffed in 1992 by the Army Board's reversal of the clear policies of their predecessors. Still the example set by him and everyone in the 1960s provide a strong and continuing support for The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

General Piggott was born on 11th October 1910, the son of Major-General F S G Piggott who at that time was serving in Japan. His grandfather, Sir Francis Piggott, had been legal adviser to the Japanese Government in the late 19th Century, and the family had extensive connections with the Japanese Imperial Court and Government. General Piggott was educated at Cheltenham and then the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, before being commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1931. On commissioning he joined the 2nd Battalion and served with them until 1935. This period coincided with the command of General Sir George Giffard, where Adjutant for much of the time was Captain L C East. Thus high standards of efficiency, professionalism and smartness were inculcated in all young officers from the outset, and these stayed with General Piggott throughout his life. However with his background it was not long before he was offered a language course in Japanese, which then took him to Japan where he was able to renew family connections and friendships, some of which survived the War, and were useful when he returned to Japan in 1946 as GSO I (Intelligence) on the Supreme Commander General MacArthur's staff. His initial time in Japan was unfortunately cut short when he lost the sight of his left eye in 1937, and he returned to become Adjutant of the Regimental Depot at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford. His tour from 1938 to April 1940 saw the Munich Crisis, the introduction of the Militia in April 1939, leading to the expansion of the Depot into Queen's Camp, which later became the WRAC Queen Elizabeth Park, and the first months of War. As Adjutant, General Piggott had a heavy load and had much to do with ensuring that the standards of The Queens were well grounded into the expanding Regiment. In April 1940 he became Adjutant of 2/7th Queens, who were part of the 12th Division being sent to France for Lines of Communication duties - the Division had only minimum equipment and no artillery (2/6th Surreys were part of the same Division). When the German assault broke through the French defences the 12th Division were committed to battle east of Abbeville. It was an impossible task for this under equipped

and under trained Division to hold a line against the German Panzer Divisions, but the Battalion gave a good account of itself and was eventually evacuated from Cherbourg - the then Captain Piggott was Mentioned in Despatches for his conduct. In early 1941 he was posted to the War Office and then was selected in 1942 to be part of the Military Liaison Mission to New Zealand, returning to be GSO 2 (Training) in Northern Ireland. He was promoted in late 1943 and went out to India to be GSO I on the staff of Major General Orde Wingate, commanding the Chindit Forces. After the end of those operations he was selected to command the 9th (Hallamshire) Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. He led this Battalion with significant success, being awarded an Immediate DSO in January 1945. The Battalion was in 25th Indian Division, and at that time was engaged in clearing the Arakan and destroying withdrawing Japanese forces escaping across the Kaladan river. On the night of 11th/12th January a strong Japanese force tried to break through the area where General Piggott with his Headquarters and two weak platoons were located. Fierce close quarter fighting ensued in which he was personally involved leading to the killing of 22 Japanese, the destruction of their force, and the capture of numbers of prisoners with considerable quantities of arms and ammunition. Throughout the action General Piggott set a fine example of coolness and was an inspiration to his men, as he had been to the whole Battalion throughout the operations.

After his return to Japan in 1946 a year later he came home to the Joint Services Staff College, from whence he went to the Middle East, and then back to the War Office as a GSO I Headquarters British Troops Egypt at the time of "the troubles" in the Canal Zone, and for his work then was awarded the OBE.

From there he was selected to command the 1st Battalion of The Queens, and took command in Iserlohn in December 1952. His command covered a first nine months in BAOR., the move via Maidstone to Malaya, and the first nine months of the Battalion's successful operational tour. In BAOR the Battalion confirmed its reputation as a Shooting Regiment, sending a team to Bisley where much success was achieved, and this was continued importantly on operations with a good kill rate achieved, and in the Malaya Rifle Meeting. Throughout his command the Battalion maintained a very high standard of efficiency and smartness, despite the continual change over of officers and men caused by National Service.

After his command General Piggott was promoted as Colonel M13 in the War Office, and then was further promoted in 1956 to command 161 Infantry Brigade TA From this he became DDMI at the War Office and received his final promotion to Major-General in 1961, being appointed ACOS (Intelligence) at Headquarters SHAPE, then in Paris, under General Norstad. During these last appointments he received the CBE in 1961 and became CB in 1963.

On his retirement from the active Army, General Piggott was re-employed in security vetting from 1965 to 1975, which he was able to continue with his duties as Colonel and Deputy Colonel of the Regiment. As Colonel he was interested and caring, keeping himself well informed and giving full support to both the Battalion and the TA Battalions if need arose, but never unnecessarily interfering. He remained throughout his retirement a consistent attender at Regimental events until increasing deterioration of his eyesight made travelling too difficult. He also continued annually to attend the re-unions of his Hallamshire Battalion in Sheffield. Locally in Essex, where he lived for many years, he was a Parish Councillor for some time and President of the Royal British Legion Branch.

As a man General Piggott was an energetic and dynamic leader, who could be somewhat fiery and stern, but underneath he was thoughtful and compassionate when the occasion required, and he had a very good sense of humour. Before he lost the sight of one eye he was an above average cricketer, as a bowler, both at school and afterwards, being a member of the

Free Foresters and other clubs. He also played hockey at regimental level.

In July 1940 he married Joan Cottam, and they had a son, Richard, and daughter Jane, who gave him much support. In the last year of his life they moved to Somerset to be near his daughter, and it was in Somerset that he died. At his specific request there was no Memorial Service.

JWS

Major H E P Spearing, TD.

Herbert Edward Peter Spearing who died on 7th June 1996, was born on 12th June 1911. He was educated at Lancing College. In 1930 he was employed at The London Stock Exchange and became a Member in 1932.

On 28th March 1931 he was commissioned in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment with whom he served until 1939. On the doubling of the Territorial Army in 1939 he served in the 2/6th Battalion. The Battalion was embodied on 24th August 1939 and landed in France in April 1940 as part of 12 Division. Peter commanded D Company and later became Battalion second-in-command during the fighting withdrawal from the River Somme to St Valery where he was taken prisoner on 12th June 1940. For his services in that short campaign he was Mentioned-in-Despatches twice. For his services as a Prisoner of War he was Mentioned for a third time. Peter was a great extrovert and no mean performer on the saxophone and also on the trumpet. He had the facility of making all those around him feel better for his company.

After the war Peter moved to Rhodesia where he farmed tobacco from 1947 to 1955. In 1955 he represented the Central African Federation Government (Rhodesia and Nyasaland) in London and was a senior manager of the Imperial Tobacco Group plc from 1959 to 1973 when he retired. He was Master of The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders Livery Company in 1984-85.

Peter married twice, first Muriel Lopez in 1945 who died in 1987 and then Iris Wade in 1990. He leaves one son, Nicolas, who was born in 1946. In his last few years Peter suffered considerable pain from ill health but managed to keep buoyant and cheerful. A fine man who attracted many friends.

NFT. AJR. GLAS.

Lt Col R J A Kaulback, DSO., MA., FRGS. (The Royal Irish Fusiliers).

Commanded 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from November 1942 to March 1943 when he was wounded.

Roy James Alfred Kaulback, known as 'Bill', was born on 11th May 1911 in Canada and was educated at Rugby and Pembroke College, Cambridge. In 1931 he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery, Territorial Army and in 1932 was granted a Regular Commission in The Royal Irish Fusiliers. Between 1932 and 1938 he served with the Regiment in India, Sudan, Cyprus, Egypt and England. From 1939 to 1941 he was adjutant of the Small Arms School (Heavy Weapons Wing), Netheravon and then attended The Staff College, Camberley. In 1941 to 1942 he was an Instructor at The Staff College, Haifa. In October 1942 he was posted as second-in-command of 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and the following month was appointed to command the 1/6th Battalion. In March 1943 he was severely wounded and was in hospital and convalescing for the next six months. In January 1944 he was appointed to command 1 York and Lancs in Italy. In December 1944 his Battalion was transferred to North West Europe. He was awarded the DSO for his fine leadership of 1 York and Lancs. In 1946 he was GSO 1 1st Infantry Division in Egypt and Palestine and in 1947 attended The Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich and Joint Services Staff College. After this he was placed on the unpaid list at his own request and joined an Oil Company. He was a keen sportsman and played for

Harlequins 1st XV in 1929 and with intervals to 1937. He was Light Heavyweight Inter-Service Boxing Champion, India in 1932. When in India in 1933 he took leave and crossed the Himalayas on foot via Sikkim and Bhutan to travel to Tsang Po River in South Central Tibet. When in Sudan in 1934 he took leave and travelled by camel 2000 miles to explore the South Libyan Desert between El Fasher (Sudan) and the Tibesti massif (Chad) and discovered hitherto unknown Palaeolithic cave dwellings and paintings in Ennedi massif. For this he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Captain E A Gray

Captain Gray enlisted in The Middlesex Regiment at the age of eighteen and later transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment. Further transfer to the 1st Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment. He was commissioned in 1944 following their heavy losses among infantry subalterns in early battles. A former colleague describing him, says "At that time he was 20 years old - upright, handsome and every inch a soldier". After victory he stayed on in the Army of Occupation until 1948. On leaving the Army he became a Civil Servant within the Home Office finally retiring as Principal in the Immigration Branch.

In retirement he was active in matters of welfare for ex soldiers, particularly those of The Royal Norfolk Regiment. His efforts resulted in pensions being awarded in some cases and, in at least one, the award of an MBE. Interested in Genealogy, he became an acknowledged authority on Army history and was always of great assistance to researchers into military matters. He will be greatly missed.

Editors Note: Erik Gray assisted the Association in many ways, particularly in the matter of research at the Public Records Office at Kew. He would always undertake to look for details of soldiers service when visiting Kew and on many occasions would write a full report for relatives. An article on Pensioners of The Royal Hospital Chelsea, written by him is printed in this Newsletter.

Lieutenant Colonel B A (Tony) Hannaford

Basil Anthony Hannaford was born on 6th June 1915 and was educated at Malvern College. He was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment from the Supplementary reserve of Officers on 27th August 1937. He served with the 1st, 2nd and 11th Battalions at home in the Sudan, Shanghai, Italy, Palestine, Somaliland and Tripoli. After attending Staff College he served in many interesting staff appointments at various levels including GHQ Middle East and the War Office.

In early 1945 whilst on the staff at GHQ Caserta, Italy, he learned that the 2nd Surreys were due to fly out via the USA and land by glider in Japan. Wanting an opportunity to have a crack at the Japanese for what they had done to his comrades in Malaya, Tony applied for a transfer to regimental duties. He was posted as a company commander, but the Japanese war ended and the battalion was posted to Palestine where it was engaged in internal security and were periodically involved in clashes with the Stern Gang and the IZL. The battalion missed him when he was posted as a staff officer to Palestine HQ. Here he did a very important job being involved in preparation for the evacuation of British troops and handing over to the Israelis. He was mentioned in despatches.

In 1954 back in England he commanded the Regimental Depot at Kingston. Two years later he was promoted and appointed to command The 23rd London Regiment (TA). Tony as a regular soldier was to command a battalion of civilian part-time soldiers, which after 18 years as a tank regiment had just been reformed to its previous role as an infantry battalion. There were difficulties but his splendid and tactful leadership together with his charming manner won them round. They were extremely sorry when his tour of duty was over.

In 1958 he retired but in 1969 he was recruited to the Foreign Office as a member of the Corps of Queen's Messengers with

whom he served fifteen years. During these years, Tony who had a great interest in medals worked at the regimental Museum, Clandon where he took over the card indexing and arrangement of our vast medal collection.

Tony spent much time on the golf course and was an enthusiastic member of the regimental golfing society. He was a delightful companion with a great fund of amusing stories. Many are the tales he told of his journeys round the world with the diplomatic bag during his service as a Queen's Messenger. In 1946 Tony married Didi Hasland and in 1953 their son Michael was born. In 1958 Didi died as a result of a tragic accident. Six years later Tony married Tasha Summer and they made their home in St Leonards on Sea.

PGEH & TAB

Major A Collyer



Alf died on 20th June 1996 aged 72 at Ferndown Dorset after a long illness but, in his own words "at ease with himself and the world". He had served as Regular RSM with 4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt. (TA) from 1964 to 1966, and with its successors 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regt from 1966 until that Battalion was reduced to a Cadre in 1969. This final tour of duty involved a total restructuring of its predecessor and an entirely new military role. It also coincided with the failing health of his wife Emma, whilst severe restrictions on Defence expenditure resulted in the gradual loss of all the other Permanent Staff. The burdens falling upon him were therefore considerable but his enthusiasm, cheerfulness, efficiency and capacity for hard work ensured that the Battalion operated effectively until the end. He was then commissioned and having served in the Italian campaign as a signaller with the Long Range Desert Group it was fitting that he should complete his military service as Admin. Officer with 21st SAS. Alf leaves a son and step-daughter.

WE McC

Colour Sergeant D L Wheeler

Many old 1st Battalion Queensmen will remember Dave Wheeler who died suddenly in August after a short illness.

Dave had seen a wealth of service since joining 1/6th Queens in 1943 including the Normandy Landings, the fierce fighting at Villers Bocage and then the indignity of capture and the long march to Eastern Europe. He escaped twice and on the second occasion was recaptured by the Russians! The ending of the war in Europe did not see a complete cessation of hostilities as Dave was then sent to Palestine where Jews were forcibly settling from Europe but being opposed by the various Palestinian factions: the army was there to keep the peace, and that was 1948! After a spell as a civilian working for Lloyds Bank and Shell, Dave re-enlisted in 1 Queen's Royal Regiment and joined the battalion in Malaya, where he was posted to the Orderly Room under the guidance of Eddie O'Loughlin and "Hoop" Burdett.

Prior to the battalions return to BAOR from Malaya in 1956 Dave was selected to attend an MMG Course together with John Davidson. Both achieved high gradings although whose was the highest was always the subject of fierce debate. In BAOR in 1957-59 Dave was an MMG Sergeant and tactician and several Brigade Majors fell foul of him as they attempted to site his Vickers, on forward slopes.

After the amalgamation at Bury-St-Edmunds in 1959 Dave decided that his quality of life would be vastly better serving on Loan Service with the Kings African Rifles in Kenya for two years. Rejoining the Battalion in Hong Kong, Dave was selected for the UN Honour Guard in Korea which was a memorable tour by all accounts.

In Bahrain in 1968 Dave decided to leave the service and embark on a third career in the City which he did successfully with Lloyds, finally selling and trading in Eurobonds. With the proceeds of his financial success Dave then returned to Leigh-on-Sea, close to his sister and her family, to a superb flat with adjacent promenade walk. Retirement for Dave was enjoyable. His love of cricket was satisfied by following Essex CC and long haul holidays to Malaya and Kenya amongst other exotic locations interspersed with walking and eating expeditions in UK and France.

We will all remember Dave for his dry sense of humour, the raising of the eyebrows when he disagreed with his superiors and the contemptuous flick of the index finger on the always present cigarette; a man with a wealth of experience of both civil and military life who was always available to assist friends and enjoy a good meal whilst doing so. He will be missed by all those with whom he served over the years and kept in contact with thereafter.

RAJ & SL

RSM F Gill

Fred joined The East Surrey Regiment in India in 1928. His skills and abilities quickly became evident, and he was posted to the pioneer platoon. He was a 1st class shot and excelled at revolver shooting. In 1933 he was chosen to represent the battalion in the revolver competition for the Queen's Jewel at Meerat. He was at times disconcerted during practice shooting because the .45 ammunition he was using was of first war vintage. As a consequence some shots went 'Bang!' whilst others went 'Phut!' However he was not successful in his bid to win the competition having caught malaria during his preparations for the event. Fred and his tools were always in great demand in the battalion and his cheerful demeanour endeared him to all who were fortunate to know him. He went to France in 1939 with the battalion and after the evacuation at Dunkirk was stationed at Bournemouth where he met his future wife Irene who was in the ATS.

After successfully passing many examinations he applied for and was accepted to serve in the RAOC which became REME. He became WO1 in the REME and was involved in the Radar section. He eventually retired from army service having served 32½ years. He emigrated to Australia on retirement where his background and technical ability was soon recognised by the Australian government, when he was offered and accepted a senior position with the Weapons and Research establishment where he was employed until he retired. He enjoyed many years of retirement and especially enjoyed the company of ex-Sergeant Archie Evans of the Surreys who lived locally and according to Irene, they spent many hours together with old soldier talk over many cups of char.

Fred died on September 17th 1995. His last wish was that his ashes be brought to England and be scattered on the Thames at Cleopatra's Needle on the Embankment.

SVB

Major S Hill TD RA

The museum at Clandon opened late 1979. We soon realised extra help was required in sorting, cleaning and assembling our vast amount of exhibits that had arrived from Kingston. Through Jean Anne Stock we had the assistance of NADFAS ladies (National Association, Decorative and Fine Arts Society). They had a man on their books, and he, Sidney Hill, asked if he could come along. It was not long before the chairman, Bob Hill found out he was an excellent cabinet maker. Many jobs were discussed and made during his time with us, 1983-1990. He was an amusing and interesting companion to have with us in the work party, always ready to take the mickey out of the Infantry! So it is with sadness that we record his death, aged 74, after a period of illness earlier this year.

Sidney joined The Surrey Yeomanry in 1939 and was later commissioned into 22 Field Regiment RA who were in the 4th Division, so supported the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from their arrival in North Africa through the Italian campaigns and Greece. After the war he re-joined the Territorial Army combining his soldiering duties with those of banking in the city. He was a Freeman of the City of London, supporter of his church, a keen sailor among a lot of other interests and hobbies.

We have very happy memories of our association with Sidney.

DH

The Venerable Peter Mallett CB

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of The Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallett, CB, was held in London on 23rd July 1996. The large number of Regimental members who attended clearly indicated the great respect held by so many for someone who had once been their Regimental padre.

A full church heard how after National Service with the RAF, the 5' 5" Peter became a miner before attending Kings College in London and eventually being ordained as a priest. After work as a curate in a parish he joined the Royal Army Chaplain's Department and was immediately posted to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya. The presence at the service of so many battalion members who had served with Peter in Malaya over 40 years ago testifies both to his character and the work he achieved - for which he was Mentioned in Despatches.

Peter Mallett later served with distinction as a padre elsewhere before eventually becoming Chaplain General to the Forces from 1974 - 1980. He was Honorary Chaplain to The Queen's Regiment as well as to The Royal Artillery and the Royal Tank Regiment and later The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

But his links with the Regiment began in 1954 in Malaya and they remained extremely close until his early death, aged 70, this year. An account of Peter Mallett's work as a padre in Malaya written by a then fellow platoon commander follows. It demonstrates why he is remembered so clearly.

MJD

Peter Mallett joined the Army in 1954 and, after a two week indoctrination course with the Chaplains' Department, was posted to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He joined us in Singapore on 12th March 1954 two weeks before we went up country for the start of our 3 year operational tour in Malaya. He knew little about the Army, but he knew about people. He had become a coal miner (Bevin Boy) at the end of the war, because, he told me, he was too small to see out of the cockpit of a fighter plane and therefore failed to make the grade as a pilot in the RAF. He had thus seen life in the raw and immediately he endeared himself to the cockneys and country lads that comprised the bulk of the regular soldiers and national servicemen in the battalion: he could speak their

language. He was equally at home with the officers and I doubt if there is an officer or soldier who served with us at that time who does not remember him with great affection.

As a platoon commander I got to know him well and, whenever possible, would invite him to join my platoon on 3 or 4 day patrols. He loved doing this. It gave him a chance to get to know the men and gain their respect. Whenever the operational situation allowed, he would hold a Service in the platoon base camp and it was fascinating to me to see how the young soldiers, few if any of whom had ever been inside a church, would enthusiastically and of their own volition set about building an elaborate altar from jungle materials. In the jungle, he always insisted on doing whatever the men did, including sentry duty. He carried a sub machine gun (the Geneva Convention did not apply), though he had no clue how to use it and the more prudent platoon commanders ensured that he had no ammunition. And he revelled in being given the compass and invited to lead the platoon out at the end of a long patrol.



Padre Peter christening Jane Lesley, daughter of the Editor, St Andrews Cathedral, Singapore 1956

Very soon, he had endeared himself to the Regiment. He had a wonderful sense of humour and entered fully into all aspects of battalion life. He will be well remembered as the Good Fairy in the 1954 Christmas pantomime, *Babes in the Ulu*, which toured company and platoon locations. He was an outstanding battalion padre, who brought religion into the lives of many soldiers. He did not believe in church parades, but was not averse to subterfuge to get the men to church. He used to publish in advance the subject of his Sunday sermon. He had heard of the reputation of "Tampin Mary" and the church overflowed when the subject of his sermon was to be "Mary the Prostitute". In later times as an Army chaplain, he was to make a habit of bringing an animal into his church for his sermons. Sheep and dogs were OK, but a tiger caused a stir; to my knowledge he never succeeded with an elephant. He completed a full operational tour with the Battalion in Malaya and fully deserved the award of a Mention-in-Despatches in recognition of distinguished service.

Peter's departure from the Battalion in 1957 was not the end of either my personal or the Regiment's close connection with him. From 1959 to 1961 he was Tanglin Garrison chaplain in Singapore when I was on the staff at GHQ and as a close friend helped with the plans for my wedding in England. In 1967 he came to Munster to christen our daughter Carolyn and said he looked forward to marrying her one day. In 1975, when Chaplain General, he stayed with us during a visit to the Battalion and spent the evening playing Monopoly with Carolyn to keep her mind off starting boarding school the next day. He will be sadly missed at her wedding later this year.

He was a regular preacher at The Queen's Surrey's Association annual service in Guildford Cathedral and became the honorary chaplain to the Association. In whatever capacity, personal friend, honorary chaplain or Chaplain General - he was always willing to come and partake in important Battalion events. He came to Werl twice. Once to dedicate a window we

had put in our church in memory of soldiers killed in Northern Ireland and once to dedicate the new Colonel's Colour. His down to earth approach was well illustrated during the former event. Distance did not allow us to return to my quarter to change between the rehearsal and the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess fancy dress ball, so he suggested rehearsing in our ball outfits. The Battalion Padre and Adjutant were somewhat surprised when the Chaplain General appeared in the church for the rehearsal dressed in a grass skirt with the Commanding Officer in drag!

Peter was the perfect Army chaplain and an inspiration to us all. We shall miss him enormously. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Joan, his three children and his grand children.

JGWD

Major J G F Naumann

Major John Naumann was of the first batch of post war regular officers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He joined the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in Barnard Castle in April 1950.

He served with the Battalion for nearly a year as a Platoon Commander. The Korean War broke out in 1950 and John was posted to 1 Glosters, he was wounded in the knee and leg by an accidental discharge. He was evacuated to Japan, where he remained for the rest of that year. John was posted to the Depot East Surreys at Kingston as Training Officer, he was then posted to rejoin 1 Surreys in Tel El Kebir, Egypt, and then moved with the Battalion to Brunswick, Germany. His tour with the Battalion was over four years.

He moved with 1 Queens Surreys to Aden and then to Hong Kong, where the role was taken up of Garrison Battalion on the "Island". He continued his training activities, becoming Training Company Commander. At the end of 1962, John Naumann was posted back to the UK, taking up an appointment with MOD AG(2) (10) for a three year tour. This was very convenient for those who wished to influence their careers, postings and promotion. John had many friends during this appointment!. In 1966 he was posted as Company Commander to the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Oswestry. This was to be his final posting and he retired from the Army in 1969.

He embarked on his second career with enthusiasm and after a number of projects, joined the Blood Transfusion Service in Cambridgeshire, eventually becoming Deputy Director of the Area. The Naumann family settled in Cambridgeshire, where there was good shooting and a pleasant environment.

Anne and John Naumann met in Barnard Castle in 1950 and were married in 1954. Anne entered Army life with zest and she and the children followed John around the world, wherever it was possible. Unfortunately in later years John did not have good health and retired from the Blood Transfusion Service after a heart by pass operation. Nevertheless, he and Anne settled down to a fruitful retirement, determined to enjoy life. Sadly this was not to be and after a long and unpleasant illness, John died on 28th April 1996.

John Naumann was an excellent infantry officer, who demonstrated great loyalty and service to the Regiment, of which he was proud to be a member. He was a good cricketer and a very good shot. He was very much a family man with deep affection for his children. He is so very much missed by Anne, daughters Felicity, and Alison and son Charles, as well as by all his friends and colleagues.

DA

Thoughts shared by a Veteran, on VJ Day 1995

As I was in 'The Queen's Regiment in Burma, I was very proud to be asked to say the Kohima Epitaph at the Open Air Service in the field on August 20th. My wife and I thought it was most appropriate for the VJ Ceremony and thought it was a lovely service. As I stepped onto the grass, my thoughts went back to May 1945 when we had fought the most dreadful Battle at Kohima. My friend and I were on the Bren Gun and his shoulder was blown to pieces but I was saved from the bullets. After that terrible battle which seemed as though the end of the world had come, the Japanese were at last turned back. A few days later our Padre and some of us soldiers who were uninjured went down the hill to a grassy patch where prayers were said and we sang some hymns. It was so quiet and peaceful and we could hear the birds. It was like living in another world. Although the actual war did not finish until August, those dreadful days were over. As I stood in the field on August 20th I thought of all my comrades who never came back and my friends who have died since. Now 88 years old I feel God was indeed with me all the time and I feel very proud to say:-

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

John Rose

o o o

Pilgrimage to Burma

Following on the success of previous joint ventures with The Burma Star Association to Kohima, Imphal and to Thanbyuzayat in Southern Burma, The Royal British Legion's Pilgrimage Travel Department are making special arrangements to visit some of those areas associated with The Chindit Operations 1943 and 1944.

Places to be visited include:

Myitkyina, Mogaung, Mandalay, Maymyo, Gotkeik Gorge, Rangoon, Ava Bridge, Railway through Indaw, Hopin etc Rangoon and Htaukkyan War Cemeteries, Site of Rangoon Gaol: Rangoon Hospital: Rangoon Central Station Cultural sites
Date: March 1997 - Anniversary of Chindit operations. Also anniversary of Fall of (March 1942) so Service in Rangoon Cathedral will be dedicated to those who died.

How to Register: simply write to:

War Graves Pilgrimage Travel, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX, or telephone for registration form 01622 716729. Priority in booking will be given to Burma Star Veterans and relatives of those who died in Burma (you do not have to be a member of The Burma Star Association or The Royal British Legion). ANY ONE MAY APPLY.

The Royal British Legion's Pilgrimage Travel Department administers, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, the grant scheme for widows. War widows are entitled to a grant of 7/8ths of their costs for a first time visit to Rangoon or Htaukkyan Cemeteries. Other very close relatives may apply to The Royal British Legion for financial help if their circumstances warrant it.

Korean War Veterans Pilgrimages

The British Korean War Veterans Association is organising pilgrimages to Korea starting next year. The pilgrimages, of two-week duration, will be open to all Korean War veterans, their families, and the relatives of those who died in the conflict. Anyone seeking further information should write to BKVA Pilgrimages, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 3ER, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope, or telephone 0161 477 4521.

o o o

Rupert to the rescue

The Platoon was working well and they obviously respected me. By a round about way I had found out that they had even given me a nickname, surely a sign of affection. It was a little baffling, for they called me Wally. I found this very odd because Walter is not one of my given names. But it was good to know that I was now accepted and they thought enough of me to use this more personal form of address. I must remember to ask the Platoon Sgt if he can shed any light on the use of the name Wally. Surely they do not really equate me with some of those great sporting heroes Swinburne, Hammond, Hagen, Washbrooke or Winterbottom. If so, I should be very flattered. I decided that I needed to do something to give my career a boost. I had recently been reading the autobiography of Lt General Sir Brian Horrocks KCB KBE DSO MC. I avidly scanned the pages to see if there were some pointers that I could use to further my aims, in preparing myself for higher command. I thought that it was never too early to prepare myself for the call that was bound to come. His book was a little disappointing in that, as a young officer, he describes himself as idle, scruffy and having a rolling walk that consigned him to places of discreet oblivion on any ceremonial parade. However, he did get himself on the right courses which educated and changed his outlook. So I decided that this was the way ahead. I should get myself selected to attend the best courses that were on offer, that would suit a leader of men, such as myself.

A few days later I found the opportunity of speaking with my Company Commander, David Froud. He had been a man of action and had seen service with The Parachute Regiment, so would be well tuned to my ambitions. I explained that I was eager to better myself and train my mind for the greater challenges that would lie ahead. He seemed a little surprised but promised that he would keep his eyes open for any suitable opportunity. He was as good as his word. It was not long before he had me in to explain that the Adjutant had been having great difficulty in finding an officer to attend the First Aid Instructors Course. Apparently all the other potential candidates had very pressing engagements that made it impossible for them to attend such a course, much as they would have liked the opportunity. The Company Commander explained the importance of the course and the outstanding chances that it offered someone like me. I was flattered that they had selected me for such a challenging and worthwhile course. This could be the start of great things for my budding rise to eminence.

I reported to The Royal Army Medical Centre at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. I had some difficulty in finding the place. But once I learned that it was not pronounced 'Cough Barracks', I was soon on the right tracks. I joined my intake which was a mixture of officers and NCOs. There was an aggressively fit Cpl from the Special Air Service Regiment and at the other end of the scale there was 2nd/Lt Freddie Wills from the 11th Hussars. Apparently Freddie's family were big in cigarettes which gave him the wherewithal to spend every evening up in London and asleep during most lectures. We spent half our time in lectures and the other half either going round the assault course with a 'casualty' strapped immobile on a stretcher or rescuing casualties from burning cars and buildings. After several circuits of the assault course we became very tired of the incessant nagging from the SAS Cpl. The ceaseless shouts of "*Come on catch up!*" and "*Get a move on!*" began to become wearisome. It was now his turn to be lashed to the stretcher. We did our job thoroughly and when we finished he was trussed turkey-style to the stretcher, inside one of those body splints that are used to rescue people with broken backs from the side of mountains. At the end of a leisurely canter around the course it was time for a NAAFI break. We left him propped upright, still lashed to the stretcher, against a tree in the woods. It was really quite sad to hear his plaintiff bleating gradually fading away as we made our way to the NAAFI.

The casualties all seemed to be ex-actors who had gone into the RAMC for their National Service. They had the capacity for letting out horrendous screams whenever your treatment was not according to the First Aid Manual, they were also very temperamental. They spent their time being made up with the most appalling injuries and then wedging themselves into some impossible position under an upturned wreck of a car. We soon learned that two Woodbines was the going rate to stop the screaming.

At the end of the course there was to be a final practical exam. The candidates were to wait outside the door leading to what used to be the Grand Drawing Room of Keogh House. When the signal was given the candidate would enter the room where he would see a number of casualties in differing states of distress, including a fake suicide. The actor/RAMC Pte had really got a rope round his neck and was indeed hanging, but naturally he had taken the precaution of holding the rope around his neck with both hands. The over-turned chair was nearby. It was now up to the candidate to prioritise the casualties and then treat them accordingly.

If this was going to be an enhancement to my career opportunities, I knew that I had to really impress the examiners with my skill and knowledge. I had to make my move now. I was certain that they would be impressed with my enthusiasm, dash and courage. All the things that had helped Horrocks become Corps Commander in the Middle East. When it came to my turn to wait outside the door I decided to adopt the position of a sprinter on his blocks. That would show the examiner that I really meant business. On the word "*Go!*" I leapt forward, wrenched open the door and catapulted myself into the room. This would really impress them and show them that I was going to be one of the best and most daring First Aid Instructors that there had ever been.

Unfortunately, as I tore into the room I tripped over the chair and lost my balance, in fact I went headlong over the wretched thing. My outstretched arms grasped the first thing that came to hand. Unfortunately, I had flung my arms round the dangling legs of the suicide victim. The yank applied to his legs was quite severe. His fingers which had been round the rope were now forced into his neck and his face had gone quite blue. There were little flecks of white froth around his mouth that dribbled down round his chin. His eyes were showing mainly the white bits. Through the blue of his neck you could see the white outlines of where his fingers had been. The only sound was a slight gurgling and an ominous creaking as he gently swung back and forth on the end of his rope. With the assistance of the directing staff we soon had him down from his predicament and it was not long before his breathing was restarted. An ambulance arrived and I saw him safely onto the stretcher. I believe he made a full recovery and now has a minor position with the Royal Shakespeare Company; he is apparently renowned for his gravelly voice.

I have just checked again in the Horrocks book and I am pleased to say that I can find no mention of him attending the First Aid Instructors course. It is quite plain that the, lower than expected, grading from the course should not affect my career adversely. If Horrocks could get to where he did without being a First Aid Instructor, then so could I. It is quite surprising how few of our military leaders attended the First Aid Instructors course. I have carefully perused Field Marshal Montgomery's memoirs and I can find no mention of him attending such a course. Of course, it could be that it is included as part of the Staff Course at Camberley. In which case I shall probably be excused this part when it comes to my turn to attend for my Staff training. In the meantime I decided that it would be a good idea to write to the RAMC Commandant pointing out the dangers of upturned chairs. They were always keen, so they said, to have ideas as to how their courses could be improved.

Rupert

Rupert

"Rupert" is a title earned by/given to subaltern officers on joining their regiments. It is a title to be honoured by, revelled in and survived and endured as denoting the lowest of the low. History on its origins is obscure and may be based upon, or at least ascribed to, by the Rupert Bear Club which was the RMA Sandhurst Parachuting Club whose emblem or motto was Edward Bear (which may or may not have something to do with the Pooh Bear of A A Milne, or Rupert Bear of The Daily Express. "Rupert" has contributed several articles to this journal and in so doing has saved me much time and space in listing the prerequisites of a Rupert. Undeterred they must include: an accident prone propensity, righteous fear of their CSM, abject fear of the RSM, an ability (out of sheer pity) to be backed up by their soldiers, a confidence (out of all proportion to their ability), and finally a requirement to keep smiling when disaster (self-inflicted) surrounds them.

I am prohibited from guessing who "Rupert" is. But many will surely recognise him. He was accident prone, charming, quite competent when isolated from perverse circumstances and possessed of a good memory and a wonderful platoon sergeant.

As the Daily Express might have said:

*Rupert says to Company Commander
"Colour Sergeant's stew is not very tender.
Lots of spuds and carrots and things;
Looks like socks and onion rings."
"Eat it up," says Company Commander;
"To itemise it would be slander.
Thank your stars you stand the stink
Ruperts are not paid to think."*

Anon

Regimental History as seen by G. Robinson



"O Valiant Hearts"

The Order of Service for the Dedication of the 4th Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment Memorial at Croydon Parish Church on 5th November 1922 includes the moving hymn "O Valiant Hearts" which is doubtless well known to our members. Less well known perhaps is the fact that it has police connections.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Chester-Master, DSO and Bar, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, was killed in France in 1917 while serving with The King's Royal Rifle Corps. His brother-in-law, J S Arkwright, wrote the poem "The Supreme Sacrifice" which was read at the memorial service at Almondsbury, Gloucestershire. Later put to music, it became "O Valiant Hearts". Colonel Chester-Master was buried in the grounds of the Hospice at LOCRE where his grave was lovingly tended by Sisters of the Convent. At least one of his former policemen (my father), serving as a gunner with The Royal Garrison Artillery, journeyed to his grave to pay silent tribute to a popular and highly esteemed Chief Constable.

RF

Guildford's Second World War Memorial



On 5th November 1995 Bishop Hugh Montefiore dedicated a Memorial to the men and women of Guildford who lost their lives in The Second World War. There are 28 officers and men of The Queen's and 2 of the Surreys recorded on the Memorial. It is hoped to publish a further article on these officers' and men in a later edition of The Newsletter.

L.W

Annual Reception for Freedom Town Mayors of Surrey



The President, Brigadier Bob Acworth with the Mayors and their ladies at the annual reception for Freedom Town Mayors, Guildford, Kingston upon Thames and Reigate and Banstead.



The Chairman, Colonel Peter Thompson explains the finer points of soldiering in the Peninsular wars to Miss J Holgate and the Matron of Gifford House, Worthing, Mrs Mary Childs.



The President presenting a cheque on behalf of our Charity Trustees to the Secretary of The Army Benevolent Fund, Lt Col Simon Brewis. The Association are most grateful for the continued support of the ABF in all benevolence matters.



Miss J Holgate MVO and the Matron of The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home accept a cheque presented by the President on behalf of our Charity Trustees. Many of our members have received holidays at Worthing and Captain Bill Roadnight is now a permanent resident.



Colonels Peter Thompson and John Francis listen to an account of "the one that got away he was so big" by Major Derek Conran.



The Reverend James Bates from All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames trying to convert the Editor!



The President with his right and left hand men!



Colonel Toby Sewell with the Mayor of Guildford