

NOVEMBER 1997



NUMBER 62

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER



Pictured above: Guildford Cathedral 1997 - Pictured below: The Grille Gates at The Regimental Chapel

Photo: Eagle DP





## Regimental and Association Events



1997

20th December BRITISH BATTALION DAY.

1998

27th February	Queen's Surreys Museum Meeting - Clandon.
10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846).
7th March	Queen's Surreys Territorial Trustees Meeting - Clandon.
13th March	The Queen's Regiment Reunion, Victory Services Club, London.
14th March (TBC)	Queen's Surreys Regimental Council Meeting - Clandon.
21st March (TBC)	Queen's Surreys Association and Charity Trustees Meeting - Clandon.
23rd April	YPRES DAY (1915).
7th May	Golf Society Spring Meeting, Sudbrook Park.
9th May	5 OMA Annual Dinner, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. Details from: I Chatfield, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN (01483 429425).
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811).
19th May	Golf Society Annual Golf Match v The Royal Marines Fleet.
22 or 29 May (TBC)	Presidents Reception for Freedom Town Mayors of Surrey - Clandon.
1st June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).
7th June	Queen's Surreys Association Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral, 11 am for 11.15 am service.
1st August	MINDEN DAY (1759).
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943).
20th September	Museum Open Day - Meet your Mates - Clandon.
2nd October	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club, Ladies Luncheon - Clandon.
7th October	Golf Society Autumn Meeting, Woking.
October	East Surrey OCA Reunion, Clapham Junction. (Date to be published in May Newsletter).
5th November	Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey - London.
6th November	Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club (Details in May Newsletter).
8th November	Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Southwark and the Cenotaph - London.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

### Editorial

Parades involving Colours have featured since the last issue. On the 30th June at a meticulously executed ceremony, HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark presented the first stand of Colours to the 1st Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Great credit is due to all members of the battalion who took part. The standard of drill and turnout was superb. Many old comrades attended and all agreed it had been a wonderful spectacle. During the parade the old Colours of 1 Queen's and 1 Royal Hampshire were marched off parade for the last time.

The Laying Up of 1 Queen's Colours took place at Guildford Cathedral on Friday 12th September. 1 PWRR carried out this parade with much elan to the delight of over 800 who watched. The following day they Laid Up The Colours of 1 Royal Hampshire in Winchester Cathedral.

The London Regiment was presented with Colours by HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York on the 25th July in London. Another superb parade, carried out this time by some of our Territorials from London.

This edition has been heavily over subscribed with articles and photos for which I, as Editor am delighted. I have had to carry forward some articles until our next issue in May, but **DO** keep the articles coming in. Once again on behalf of you all, I should like to thank Major John Fowler for continuing to give us the paper on which to print our Newsletters. We are most grateful to him. Whilst you will receive this Newsletter in November, I wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

With all good wishes

Les Wilson

### President's Notes

The Association continues to thrive but two matters deserve special comment.

We were all very shocked by the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales who clearly meant so much to so many people all over the world. For the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment she was an energetic and greatly respected Colonel-in-Chief who was admired by the soldiers and their families and in whom she took a genuine interest. It was therefore a great honour that the Earl Spencer should ask the Regiment to provide the funeral party at Althorp for the private part of an otherwise extraordinary day.

The second matter concerns the museum. The Chairman of the museum Trustees, Colonel Peter Durrant, has been working exceptionally hard to find an alternative location for our museum. His efforts have not been in vain and the Dean and Chapter of Guildford Cathedral have kindly offered us a site on Stag Hill to build a new museum. We have accepted, but there are financial, legal and other considerations to be overcome first. To this end the Regimental Council and the Association Trustees are meeting to discuss not only the future of the museum but inevitably of the Association as well. We will keep you informed of any developments and decisions.

With best wishes

Bob Aeworth

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales Colonel-in-Chief The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
(Queen's and Royal Hampshire) 1992 - 1996



Diana, Princess of Wales, held the appointment of Colonel-in-Chief to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment from 1992 until 1996 when she relinquished the post. The Regiment was privileged and honoured to have had her as head of the Regimental Family where she was held in great affection by all ranks.

This page is dedicated to her memory by the President and all members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association.

Photos show The Princess of Wales on visits to her Regiment.





## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The 9th September 1997 (Salerno Day) was the 5th Anniversary of the Formation of the Regiment. This is a small step forward in the life of a Regiment but the happiness of this anniversary was tinged with extreme sadness by the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Regiment's former Colonel in Chief. The National outpouring of grief was also reflected within the Regiment. Outside all Barracks flowers and touching notes were left in memory. It seemed that the notice boards were something tangible to relate to for passing on that grief. The Regiment was represented at the funeral at Westminster Abbey by the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Julia Denison-Smith and the Regimental Secretary. Six ushers were provided in the Abbey (2 x Officers, 4 x SNCOs) and 2 wives from the Kindergarten School at Howe Barracks walked in the cortege behind the gun carriage. Perhaps the biggest compliment to the Regiment was that Lord Spencer asked personally for the Regiment to carry the coffin at the private ceremony at Althorp House. This duty was carried out by 2 PWRR (2 x Officers, RSM and 10 SNCOs/ORs). No publicity was allowed for this. The Princess was always enormously supportive during the Regiment's formative years and she always took a particular interest. The Regiment owe her a real debt of gratitude for all her support, encouragement and practical help during her time as Colonel in Chief.

The four Battalions have been busy. In the last notes it mentioned that the First Battalion had been stood up and then down for Zaire. They were stood up again and two strong Companies and Bn HQ deployed to Gabon and the Congo ready to evacuate whites from Zaire. They deployed with troops from USA, France and Belgium. They were not required but their deployment provided great comfort for the whites. It also provided excellent training for those that did deploy. As soon as the Battalion returned it was preparation for the Presentation of Colours by the Colonel in Chief (Queen Margrethe II of Denmark). This took place at Howe Barracks Canterbury on the 30th June 1997. The rain just held off and a crowd of 3000+ enjoyed the whole day. The Battalion then exercised the Freedom of Eastbourne on the 4th July with a polished performance and finally Laid Up the Colours of 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment at Guildford Cathedral on 12th September 1997 and 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regiment at Winchester Cathedral on 13th September. In between all this ceremonial, tactical training was taking place and now Northern Ireland training for deployment in November 1997.

The Second Battalion arrived in Tidworth in early September. The Battalion has just completed a testing two years as a resident battalion in Northern Ireland. Although based in Omagh the Battalion had a 'patch' that extended from the Sperrin Mountains in the North of County Tyrone to the very southernmost tip of the Fermanagh border. The CO had up to eight companies under command, including Royal Irish and Regular reinforcements, to cope with the biggest area of responsibility of any regular battalion in the Province. The Battalion had a highly successful tour. Despite intense terrorist activity the IRA failed to mount a single successful attack against the Battalion despite evidence of several serious attempts. They came away with a fine reputation for achievements on operations, the sports field and as the Northern Ireland Skill At Arms Champions.

The Battalion looks forward to a busy and rewarding programme as they re-role for their new position as a Saxon Battalion in I Mechanised Brigade. Highlights of the coming year include an exercise in Kenya, numerous Regimental sporting, social and ceremonial events and a return to Northern Ireland as the Belfast Reinforcements Battalion next autumn.

The 5th Battalion and the 6/7th Battalion have also been following hectic training programmes. The 5th Bn completed an interesting Defensive Exercise on the Battle Group Trainer now based at Warminster. This is a man versus computer Exercise but in a real battle environment. Success at the Divisional Skill at Arms Meeting qualified the team for Bisley. Weekend Cadres and Field Training Exercises at Stanford improve the combat effectiveness of the Battalion and as these notes are written the Battalion is off to Annual Camp at Stanford Training Area (Main Camp was in Belgium earlier this year). The 6/7th Bn has been training hard leading up to a shared Annual Camp with the 5th Bn. They did well at the Divisional Skill at Arms winning many cups. They sent members to join HMS Southampton on her return journey from Crete. A memorable trip (along with members of all the Battalions). The Battalion had to sponsor and run an Exercise called "Executive Stretch". This is subjecting civilian middle management to demanding military tasks in an effort to improve their fitness and decision making process. Adventure Training has been carried out in Snowdonia and good sailing in the South of England.

Both Battalions are still providing volunteers to serve in Bosnia, Falklands and Northern Ireland - a welcome support for the hard pressed Regular Battalions.

In summing up, the Regiment is in fine form.

AJM

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## Congratulations and Best Wishes



### Best Wishes:

Best wishes to all ranks on this Glorious 1st June 6087294 Josling, E. (Ted)

### Golden Wedding Congratulations to:-

Ron and Joyce Velvick on the 12th July 1997.

Stan and Eva Mountain on the 4th October 1997.

Ernie and Joan Clamp on the 18th January 1997

### Birthday Greetings to:-

Major General Michael Forrester who celebrated his 80th birthday on 31st August 1997.

Major General David Lloyd Owen who celebrated his 80th birthday on 10th October 1997

### Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to:

Major Max Maloney now recovering at home after major heart surgery. We still expect to see you as MC at the reunion at the Union Jack Club Max!

Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Harris now recovering at home after an operation.

### Congratulations to:

Lieutenant Colonel John Salmon on his award of the OBE. Colonel Salmon commanded 6/7th Queen's and has remained a subscriber to the Newsletter since relinquishing command.

1 PWRR on winning two important trophies for Cricket, The Army Cup and The Infantry Cup. In the Army Cup they beat 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) and in the Infantry Cup 1 PWO

## The life of Riley

In 'May 1951 I was posted from the Home Counties Training Depot, Shorncliffe, Kent to the Regimental Depot, The Queen's Royal Regiment at Guildford, Surrey as a Lance Corporal instructor. Posted with me were C/Sgt George Mileham (later to become Pay Sergeant), Peter Todd, Paddy McCormack and Geordie West, all of either Corporal or Lance Corporal rank. On our arrival at Stoughton Barracks we were met by other training staff. Under command of a Major, they were Captain Scott-Gall, Lieutenant Millman and Sergeants Keith Yonwin and Bennett. We were all ordered to exchange our large Paschal Lamb badges for the smaller current issue. Our first task in the barrack rooms was to evict the existing residents - large numbers of pigeons who hereto had been "*sitting tenants*" for some considerable time. More welcome was a trip to the cookhouse where we met one of the Regimental characters, "Chuck" Sheffield, a soldier of many years who had been at the Depot since 1929 and was performing the duties of dining room orderly. After dinner we were paraded and informed as to what our training duties were to be, namely instruction of intakes of National Service recruits, the first of whom were imminently expected.

About ten days later the first intake arrived, via Guildford station, and commenced their absorption into the military machine by a routine which will no doubt be familiar to many readers. After documentation there were visits to doctors, dentists, aptitude assessment officers, barbers and the quartermaster's stores from which the embryo soldiers emerged under mountains of equipment, bedding and uniform which would eventually have to fit. Introduction to instructors followed in the evening when the outlines of the forthcoming six weeks course would be explained.



Sgt Keith Yonwin, receiving the "Best Platoon Trophy", 1951 (NAAFI block in rear)

culminating in the final Passing Out Parade. On the parade ground parents, relatives and girl friends would watch as "*their lads*", looking at peaks of smartness and fitness, were inspected by a visiting dignitary while appropriate music was provided by the WRAC Band. (At earlier rehearsals a Tannoy system erected by Sergeant Les Wilson supplied the necessary musical renderings, including the Regimental March "*BRAGANZA*"). I was to encounter Les many times later as he made steady progress upwards in his career, modestly followed by me.

After the Passing Out Parade the recruits (now proud of being "*trained men*") would hand in kit and depart for leave before onward transfer to their respective postings. All aspects of

training came under the eagle eyes of the Depot RSMs, the first of whom was Jack Groves MM who was soon followed by RSM "Chunky" Kettle from Shorncliffe. CSM 'Nobby' Hall was the Training Company CSM. Following the Pass - Out of each intake discussions would be held by the training staff to decide whether any improvements in the instructions or the course could be effected. Much was achieved by introducing a competitive element, awarding points for such successes as "*Best Recruit*", "*Best Shot*", "*Best Platoon*" etc. Woe betide any unfortunate individual who let the side down. Some realism was injected into the training programme by the inclusion of night exercises involving a "*call - out*" to defend a Government establishment which in our case was a place near Abinger Hammer from where the Greenwich mean time "*pips*" were recorded for broadcast on the radio. A late call - out sometimes resulted in the unusual luxury of being allowed an extra hour in bed.. It was as well that the award points system did not extend to the personal lives and conduct of the Instructors or I may have been on the debit side on occasions.



One of the last platoons to be trained at Guildford. The platoon won various training events including - Drill - Weapons - Best Recruit. The Platoon Commander was Lt G B Redfern, Platoon Sergeant R Riley.

Some of my escapades were not missed by the eyes of authority and were to have repercussions some eighteen years later when I was due for my Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. On one occasion, when we returned from a day's training, my boots and anklets were waterlogged so my bunk mate, Ray Bushell, conceived a brilliant idea for drying them by putting them on the cookhouse hotplate. What he returned to me the next morning, was literally a packet of (shoe) crisps with a sprinkling of metal studs and toe caps. The sequel was a place for me on Depot Captain's orders followed by a reprimand and a requirement to pay for the boots!

Ray fell from favour with me after that but we were comrades in arms again by the time of the occasion when we threw a portion of jam at a comrade and hit the Provost Corporal full in the face. Another reprimand resulted from that episode to be followed some time later by a severe reprimand on Commanding Officer's Orders for "*failing to march my platoon to breakfast and being unwashed and unshaved fifteen minutes after Reveille*". There was no shortage of such punishments. Insult was seemingly added to injury when, after foregoing two days leave to fire at Bisley, I left my rifle for a friend to clean and hand in as I departed on leave. He, newly married and doubtless with other things on his mind, failed to do this so - another severe reprimand!

Major "Buzzy" Waspe was a retired officer who was active in the Old Comrade Association re-unions where he seemed to excel in the art of erecting tents and marquees. He also gave appropriate lectures to recruits, resulting in many of them eventually becoming members of the Association. Following permission from Captain Scott-Gall I kept two goldfish named Caesar and Cleopatra in my room. They served a useful purpose as on inspection days they often distracted officers' eyes from other faults and failings. Later they were installed in the Depot pond where they became fruitful and multiplied.



Instructors at the Depot 1951. Front row: Cpl Bob Riley, Cpl Ian Hurley, Sgt Harry Boseley, Lts Charles Millman and Ian Morley Clarke. Captain Scott Gall on extreme right giving the orders. Centre: Cpls Bob Watson and Paddy McCormack also to the rear Sgt Keith Yonwin and RSM 'Chunky' Kettle.

On the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation the Depot took part in a pageant in Guildford. I was dressed as a 1661 soldier and hoped I looked better than the Orderly Room Sergeant, a small man, who wore a breast plate and carried an enormous pike, looking like "Garth" gone wrong. Although I did not know it at the time my future wife was also in the pageant as a member of the WRAC contingent. On another occasion a display was put on at the Earls Court Tattoo, but due to an arm injury I took no part in this. Skylarking of even greater magnitude occurred when an anti-tank platoon, on the eve of demob, stripped the anti-tank gun at the barrack gate and hauled it up onto the roof of the Keep where they laid it out for inspection. To add insult to injury they flew a "Jolly Roger" flag from the flagpole. Later the gun was chained to blocks to prevent removal and repetition of such antics. As part of several postings in 1953 Captain PAWG Durrant became Depot Captain in place of Captain Scott-Gall.

Boxing was one of the highlights of recruit training, one of our "champions" being a big Cornishman whose name escapes me. This lad transferred into the Parachute Regiment. I next met him at one of the Union Jack reunions a few years ago. There were other forms of sport, a particularly welcome one of the "close contact" variety being the WRAC recruits dance at the end of their training. On one occasion, when booking in at the WRAC guardroom, Ray Bushell indicated the Queen's shoulder flash on my uniform and told the "rooky" girl's that I was a "Queen's corporal" and entitled to a salute which I duly received. But the deception did not last for long!

At a dance in Aldershot once I pinched a paratrooper's bum and in answer to his query of "Who did that?" I pointed to Ray who finished up at the bottom of a staircase. Another visit to Aldershot resulted in some of us not getting back to barracks until 4am due to thick fog and a broken down car. The consequent oversleep in the morning resulted in us getting extra guard duties. To rouse members of the Band I once sounded the hand operated fire siren excusing myself, after complaint by the Bandmaster to the Adjutant, by saying that I was merely exercising the Band in fire drill. Some old soldiers had their own much prized individual billets in the Depot. These were such people as Gerry Howlett, the Officers' Mess waiter who had been in the Quetta earthquake in India, "Chuck" Sheffield, Jim Battleday, the Quartermaster's storeman and Stan Bellord the Depot Pigman. The first three often had visitors to their bunks but the last, by reason of his occupation, was seemingly less popular. In November 1953 I was posted back to the Battalion prior to going to Malaya and then to Germany but I returned to Stoumont in 1958 having, surprisingly, become a Sergeant. Before leaving Germany I said goodbye to Bill Elkins the Training Company Sergeant Major and also to Dave Wheeker my room mate, leaving him a farewell present in the form of some tear gas capsules taped to the back of his radiator. Arriving at Stoumont I found that there had been some changes in my absence but nevertheless

some of the old hands were still there including "Chuck" Sheffield and Gerry Howlett. As it was considered I had become a little rusty on some old routines, and needed up dating on some new ones, I was sent on various courses which included drill, nuclear warfare and, significantly, Religious study at the Army Chaplains Depot at Bagshot. On the last named I met an old friend, Sergeant Keith Argent who was now with the Small Arms School Corps and who had become the Queen's Champion Shot at Bisley. After leave I took over a new intake platoon whose main claim to fame seemed to be playing the part of hostile Arab in classes on "Aid to the Civil Power". At one stage of my tour RSM Tommy Atkins installed me in the appointment of Sergeant's Mess Caterer, a pleasant task where I developed the art of pulling pints and calculating how many spirit tots to the bottle. Some light relief was accorded when a film company took over part of the barracks to produce one of the first "Carry On" series films. We became acquainted with several well known actors and later many of us watched the film.

In 1958 Chuck Sheffield retired from the Army after at least 37 years service. On one inspection Field Marshal Montgomery himself had commented favourably on the number of Long Service and Good Conduct stripes on 'Chuck's' sleeve. After official retirement he continued service for a time as the civilian NAAFI orderly. Eventually we, as Training Staff, were posted to Canterbury but not before Tommy Atkins had organised a never to be forgotten "Glorious First of June" celebration in the Sergeants Mess which was attended by two Naval Petty Officers who introduced me to some mystical drinks containing liberal portions of rum. Officers of the Depot and of HMS *Excellent* dined in the Dining Hall where an excellent mural of the Glorious First of June battle scene had been painted and displayed by an officer's wife and two National Servicemen who had been artists in civilian life.



Depot - Corporals Mess. Front row left to right: Ian Hurley, Roy Bushell, Peter Todd, OC Depot Maj P Kealy, RSM Kettle, 'Spud' Taylor, 'Paddy' McCormack and 'Geordie' West. Included in the rear rank are Bert Cable, Len Rice, Ian Morley and Bob Riley.

The Sergeants Mess closed soon after that and while awaiting transfer to Canterbury we were invited to eat and drink in the WRAC Sergeants Mess. One happy outcome of that arrangement was that I met my future wife, a WRAC Sergeant, and in December 1959 I returned to Stoumont to get married from Alec Cager's married quarter. He was my best man and his wife Kay was Matron of Honour. I finally left the portals of Stoumont Barracks in 1960 with mixed feelings, thinking of all those who had gone before me, some of them never to return. After leaving the Army in 1971 I joined the Ministry of Defence Police so I still maintained a military connection. This was amply demonstrated when I had to escort a British Rail employee to photograph a certain railway engine in the Royal Ordnance factory at Birtley. On entering the Police office he immediately exclaimed, "Corporal Riley, I would know that voice anywhere". He was one of my ex recruits! So the Army hadn't forgotten me as I will never forget the Army and the good times I had as "a soldier of the Queen's".

## The Honorary Regimental Solicitor

*The Association's Honorary Legal Adviser wrote the following article for publication in the Journal of our parent Regiment, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire). He advises that Regiment as well as the Associations of its other founding Regiments, but the article is repeated here because so many of his comments and anecdotes apply to our Regimental Association, its Benevolent Fund, its Museum and its Territorial Charity. It may also serve to reassure our readers, if any reassurance is necessary, that our financial and other affairs are well managed and diligently supervised!*

*Editor*

As this is not a military appointment it is hardly surprising that few people (Senior officers and Royalty included) know what he does, or why he does it. As many readers are, or will become, trustees of a Benevolent Fund, or Museum or other Charity, Regimental or otherwise, it is probably time for a definitive answer. The present incumbent having done the job for nearly 30 years and nearing his "sell-by" date, the following may serve not only as an explanation to such readers but also as a Job Specification for his successor! First, and foremost, he has nothing to do with either the Army Legal Service or the Judge Advocate's General's Department. He is a mixture of Family Solicitor and Corporate Lawyer, who has served in and "understands the Regiment".

The bare necessities of a Regiment are provided by the Government, but the "extras" that improve the quality of a soldier's life and enhance the reputation of his Regiment have to be bought by the Regiment out of whatever private funds it may have. These extras include things like adventurous training, sports equipment, insurance, mess furniture, musical instruments, TV sets, some recruiting and other PR expenses, some reunion expenses, official entertainment, some items of clothing, and a whole host of other things. Further, a good Regiment looks after its own, and private funds are needed to help former members of a Regiment who have fallen on hard times. By no means least, the history and traditions of a Regiment are preserved for posterity in its Museums and although these are an important part of our National Heritage, the State does too little to maintain and assist them, so once again much of the cost falls on the private funds of the Regiment. It is in connection with the creation, growth, status and maintenance of such private funds, and with the lawful administration of them, that the Solicitor's services are most needed.

Such funds are created in a number of different ways. For example money (and occasionally other property) is given to a Regiment in the form of donations, covenanted annuities, legacies and bequests by Will, or by Deed or Declaration of Trust, and not least by serving soldiers under the "Day's Pay Scheme". Regimental Associations derive some funding from Members Subscriptions. The Regiment and also Regimental Associations accumulates funds through bar and other trading profits made by the PRI and the Messes.

When a Regiment or Unit goes into suspended animation, amalgamates or disbands, Queen's Regulations freeze all such funds, and all other private Regimental property, in order that their future disposal may be considered by the Charity Commissioners, a quasi-judicial body which exercises the powers of the Chancery Division of The High Court in all matters relative to Charities. The Commissioners usually authorise such funds, or the income arising from their investment, to be applied for a successor Regiment or Regimental Association, "cy pres", meaning for purposes or objectives similar to their original purposes. This authority is set forth in a formal document known as a Sealed Scheme

which establishes such funds and other property as a Charitable Trust, sets out its objectives, appoints the Trustees who are to manage it, and lays down basic management rules. The Solicitor negotiates and ultimately agrees the wording of the Scheme with the Charity Commissioners and thereafter advises the Trustees in connection with management procedures, and the ever increasing body of laws governing them.

A Charitable Trust may also be created by legal inference. Not many people know that the Mess President and Committee hold the Mess property and accumulated funds on Charitable trusts for the Mess including not only present but also future Members, hence the quasi judicial control over such funds on amalgamation. A Charity may also be created by Deed of Trust. For example, on the creation of a "new" Regiment it is customary to establish a general Benevolent Fund. The Colonel of the new Regiment, by Deed prepared by the Solicitor, declares the Charitable objectives of the new Fund, appoints the first Trustees and lays down the basic management rules. The Solicitor then applies to the Commissioners (and thereby indirectly to the Inland Revenue) to recognise the Deed as creating a Charitable Trust, and to register it as such. Such a Deed must comply with strict legal criteria demonstrating that the object of the Trust is legally "Charitable" meaning benevolent, educational or otherwise tending to the efficiency of the Regiment.

Exemption from taxation is the most important of several advantages of Charitable status, so registration entitles the Charity to recover from the Inland Revenue all tax deducted at source from Covenanted payments, Dividends and other Investment income. Moreover a Charity pays no Capital Gains Tax and being capable of living for ever avoids Inheritance Tax. It is therefore important to a Regiment, to Regimental Associations and to Regimental Museums that Charitable status is obtained for its Funds and other property, and once obtained is maintained. The law places the onus of carrying out the Charitable objectives and the lawful management of the Trust upon the shoulders of the Trustees and it is absolutely vital they ensure that money is only applied for approved purposes, that proper books of Account and other records are maintained, and that they fully comply with Charity Law as well as with the Law relating to Trusts and Trustees. If they lend or invest Trust money unlawfully, no matter how wisely or sensibly, or grant money for a non-approved purpose, no matter how meritorious, praiseworthy, or deserving the cause or recipient, the consequences may be catastrophic. An article in The Times (Newspaper) of 29th July 1997 headed "So who would be a trustee?" emphasises how recent legislation increases the personal responsibilities of trustees of Pension Schemes and Charities and how they now face "... a formidable array of new sanctions from disqualification to civil penalties, fines and imprisonment". The article quotes a Law Commission Consultative Paper No.146 on the powers and duties of trustees and then quotes the comment of one of its authors that "The modern trustee needs professional help to steer the trust through the thicket of modern investment practice and to ensure that it is properly managed to secure the best returns for the benefit of the beneficiaries or purposes of the trust".

The Solicitor provides much of that professional help and his tasks include overseeing accountancy and audit procedures and the content of Investment portfolios, the drafting of Will clauses, Trust Deeds, Covenants, Trustees Resolutions, Annual Reports and other documents and letters, attending meetings of or being "on call" to the Trustees of the various Regimental Museums, Benevolent Funds and other Charities within the Regimental Family, advising the Trustees when asked, but more often because of the rapidly changing patterns of the law offering them advice when NOT asked !

In addition to negotiating the wording of Schemes with the Charity Commissioners, the Solicitor needs, in a rapidly changing world, to keep under constant review the question of whether circumstances have arisen that would justify application being made to the Commissioners for an Amending Scheme enlarging or redefining the Trustees' powers or the objects of the trust. Sometimes these applications lead to correspondence and negotiations which continue for years before reaching a conclusion. For example in 1965 our Association succeeded to the control of no less than nine separate registered Charitable Funds each having a primarily benevolent intention though differently described class of beneficiary. Each had its own separate Scheme or Trust Deed, its own body of Trustees, its own Bank Account, its own Portfolio of Investments and its own separate Books of Account. It was an administrative nightmare! Several requests to the Commissioners to amalgamate the Funds failed and it took a significant change of policy on the part of the Commissioners, possibly provoked by the persistence of the Solicitor and the RO's responsible for the benevolent affairs of that Association, from 1965 until 1988 to persuade the Commissioners to amalgamate seven of the Charities, and until 1997 to amalgamate the others! Whereas until 1988 income could only be applied for the benefit of a very narrow class of beneficiaries, the combined Fund now benefits the whole of the Regiment, its Regular and Territorial soldiers, its Museums, its "old and bold", and the Homes and Hospitals which care for its sick.

The Solicitor also has a part to play in the enhancement and preservation of other kinds of property than money and investments. As to enhancement, a certain Territorial Battalion was, many years ago, left a small estate comprising the freehold ground rents of several suburban houses. By reason of disputes about rent and the state of repair of some of the houses and the conduct of some of the tenants, the cost of professional management exceeded the minuscule ground rent income, so management was undertaken by the Solicitor until over the course of a few years he was able to sell the estate very profitably. The re-invested sale proceeds now produce a substantial income which the Trustees of that Charity apply for the benefit of the Regiment, its Territorials, and two of its Museums.

As to preservation or protection, in the late 1960s a gentleman of apparent substance decided to make a present to the Regiment of a portrait of Catherine of Braganza then attributed either to Sir Peter Lely or Jacob Huysmans, an article of not insignificant sentimental as well as monetary value. The presentation was made to mark the 300th Anniversary of the raising of the 2nd Foot (which had been raised on the marriage of Catherine to Charles II to defend Tangiers, part of Catherine's dowry). The presentation was made to the Colonel of the Regiment, openly and publicly in the presence of senior officers of the Regiment, Members of Parliament, local Mayors and other VIPs at a cocktail party at the donor's house. Many years later the Solicitor received an anguished call for help from RHQ. The divorced or divorcing wife of the donor had instructed solicitors to demand the return of the portrait alleging that her then husband, the donor, had had no right to give away the portrait. It was, she alleged, her sole and unencumbered property, and High Court proceedings were threatened if the Regiment refused to return it! The Regiment wanted neither the litigation nor the potential publicity, but neither did it want to lose such a prestigious possession accepted in good faith, insured and generally cherished. Although it took longer to achieve than this narrative may suggest, the Solicitor interviewed some of those who had attended the presentation and had remained sufficiently sober to clearly recall the donor's speech, and his wife's apparently willing acquiescence. On the evidence thus collected he had

several meetings with her Solicitor following which her claim was discontinued, and the portrait is still in the Regiment's possession.

The Museums of the Regiment and the founding Regiments also call for the support and advice of the Regimental Solicitor. The premises occupied by most are leasehold and some of the Leases give rise to problems of legal interpretation, particularly where the formerly mutual interests of the Museum Trustees and the Landlords start to diverge! Some employ civilian staff which involve the Trustees in the pitfalls and potential minefields of Employment Law, and Revenue Law and Practice. Some sell souvenirs, books and "regimentalia" thereby involving the Trustees in the legal liabilities of shopkeepers, and therefore in questions of Corporation Tax and VAT from which Charitable status may not protect them. All of these matters call for the Solicitor's advice and occasionally his intervention.

Finally (although there is no apparent finality or limit to the areas in which the Regimental Solicitor is asked for advice) all of these Museums possess artefacts of substantial market value. Despite increasingly professional management of such collections the Solicitor is occasionally called upon to advise the Curator or the Trustees when ownership of an artefact is disputed, or when, as recently happened, someone offers to sell the Museum, an artefact stolen from it years previously!

To sum up, the Regimental Solicitor is both a safety device and a potentially useful management tool. Like a navigational aid, the Regimental ship can sail satisfactorily without him, but is likely to sail safer, and faster if he's on the bridge and the skipper makes good use of him!

WEMcC

0 0 0

Doug and Margaret Mitchell



As many readers will know Doug has been the Secretary of 5 OMA for many years. A suitable presentation was made to him by the members of 5 OMA in appreciation of all he has done for them over the years.

## Corporal E Foster VC

On a beautiful hot afternoon on the 7th June 1997, a new headstone was dedicated at the grave of Corporal Edward Foster, VC, in a Streatham Cemetery (South London). This tribute to a very gallant soldier was due mainly to the initiative of Mr Paul McCue, Assistant Director of Leisure and Amenity Services, Wandsworth Council, with help from Colonel Les Wilson and others.

Some seventy people gathered to see the fine new headstone with gold lettering unveiled by Ted Foster's son Denis. Amongst many of Corporal Foster's descendants present were grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Seven NCO's of 5 PWRR formed an Honour Guard, and Colour Sergeant Stokes of 'A' Anzio Company 5th Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment read the citation for Corporal Foster's VC. After the unveiling of the new memorial, floral tributes were laid by Councillor Beryl Jeffrey (former Mayor) on behalf of the Mayor and Councillors of Wandsworth and by A Company 5 PWRR. The Company raised one hundred pounds towards the cost of the new headstone. Accompanying C/Sgt Stokes on the Honour Guard were Cpl Page, Hancock, Jones, Wark and 1/Cpl Evans.

Corporal Ted Foster, (known as 'Tiny' because of his tall stature) was an employee of Wandsworth Council and served in the 13th (Service) Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment. He won his VC in April, 1917, in action in front of the Hindenburg Line. During an attack at Villiers-Pluich (now twinned with Wandsworth) the advance was held up by two machine guns which were entrenched and strongly covered by wire entanglements. Corporal Foster, who was in charge of two machine guns, succeeded in entering the trench and engaged the enemy weapons. He rushed forward, recovering a lost gun, and bombed the enemy, killing the crews and capturing the guns.

Ted returned to ordinary life in Tooting after being invalided out of the army in 1918, shortly before the Armistice. A grateful Wandsworth Council held a dinner in his honour and granted him the position of Dusting Inspector, overseeing the Refuse Collection contract on which he had previously worked as a dustman. In 1920 Ted attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in June and on 11th November that year he was present at the Cenotaph in Whitehall for the burial of the Unknown Warrior. In 1931 he was presented to Prince George (later King George VI) at the opening of Wimbledon Town Hall, but by and large he was content to let his wartime achievements be forgotten. "My VC?" he told the Daily Express in 1937, "I want to forget it. But it did me a bit of good all the same". Ted's lungs had never been the same after his service in the trenches. In early 1946 another attack of bronchial pneumonia gripped him and after just two days off work, he rapidly worsened and died on 22nd January. His funeral and burial, in Streatham Cemetery, Garratt Lane, Tooting, attracted national Press coverage and was attended by many local dignitaries.

DJ

Headstone unveiled at  
Streatham Cemetery, Tooting



Regimental Association Standard Bearer, Honour Guard From 5 PWRR  
with Dennis Foster

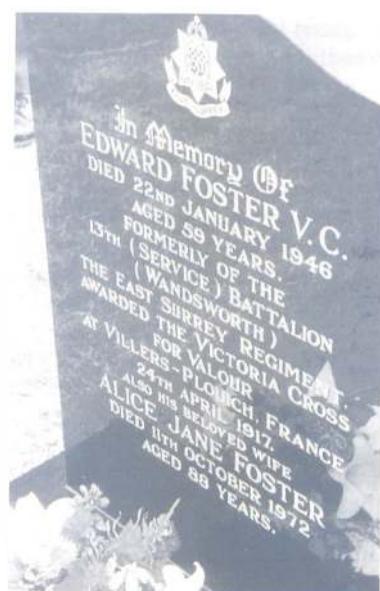


Left to right: Colonel Peter Thompson, Mrs Thompson, Lt Col Robert Knight, 5 PWRR, Paul McCue

## 13th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment

The 13th (Service) Battalion (Wandsworth), The East Surrey Regiment was raised in Wandsworth by the Mayor of the Borough Alderman Archibald Dawnay, J.P. and was composed almost entirely of local men. The first recruit was posted on the 3rd June, 1915, and by the end of the second month the Battalion had been completed. Lt. Colonel A.T.W. Burton was appointed commanding officer and in September 1915 he led his command to Witley in Surrey where training began in earnest. On arrival the 13th Battalion was posted to the 41st Division. The rank and file passed through the various stages of recruits' training while the officers went to classes of instruction. In October the Battalion moved to Barossa Barracks, Aldershot and transferred to the 39th Division. While at Aldershot the organisation of the Battalion was completed and section, platoon and company training took place. Early in November the 39th Division marched back to Witley Camp for brigade training. The 13th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, together with the 20th and 21st Battalions, Middlesex Regiment and the 14th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, formed the 118th Infantry Brigade.

In December, 1915, the Brigade undertook musketry training and in January, 1916, the 39th Division fired its course on the Ash rifle ranges. In February the 39th Division left for active service, but some formations had been found to be insufficiently trained. The 118th Brigade was left behind and after being transferred to the 40th Division, was broken up.



The 13th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment and the 14th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were transferred to the 120th Brigade. There they joined the 11th Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, and the 14th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. The 40th Division remained at Blackdown, near Aldershot, and trained hard until orders came to proceed overseas. On 3rd June, 1916, the 13th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entrained at Frimley for Southampton and embarked for France during the afternoon.

The Battalion arrived at Le Havre the next day and then entrained for the front where it took up positions in the trenches opposite Lens and north of Albert. Later the Battalion moved to the Somme Valley and was in the front line near Bouchavesnes when the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line commenced in the Spring of 1917. In April, 1917, the Battalion was in action in front of the Hindenburg Line and captured the village of Villers-Plouich. It was in this action that Corporal Foster, an employee of the Borough Council, was awarded the Victoria Cross and the Medaille Militaire. The Battalion spent five months in the line in this area and in November 1915 it was involved in the bitter battle for Bourlon village. The Battalion suffered badly and was withdrawn to the line between Arras and Bapaume, before moving into reserve near Arras.

In March 1918, the Battalion saw action at Ervillers and Mory where it fought a rearguard action before the Germans' Spring offensive. It moved north in early April and took part in the battles of the Lys until surrounded at Fleurbaix, where heavy losses were suffered. The Battalion was withdrawn to refit in the St. Omer area and was then reduced to a training staff. After a short period training an American regiment, the Battalion returned to England to recruit to normal establishment. Its disbandment was, however, then ordered and completed on 3rd November 1918 while at Lowestoft. On Michaelmas Day, 1920, Wandsworth Borough Council adopted the village of Villers-Plouich, under the scheme of the British League of Help, in memory of its recapture by the Battalion from the Germans. Funds were sent to enable the village to rebuild its school and utilities.

As disbandment had taken place before the Armistice, it was not until 16th July, 1921, that arrangements were made for the presentation of the King's Colour to the Battalion. The ceremony took place on Wandsworth Common in the presence of the Mayor, Alderman T.E. Comins J.P. and the members of the Borough Council. After the consecration service, the King's Colour was marched to All Saints' Church in Wandsworth High Street and handed into the keeping of the vicar. Sadly, it has since disappeared.

The 13th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment wore a special badge which was authorised by the War Office shortly after the Battalion was raised. In place of the Arms of Guildford on the central shield, borne on a star, the Arms of Wandsworth were instead displayed, with the motto "*We Serve*" on a scroll beneath.

### The Bronze Plaque

One of my first memories was visiting my grandmother and seeing a Bronze Plaque on the mantelpiece. It had a name on - Percy Sellers - and she told me that it was my grandfather who had died in the first war, two months before my father was born. I also remembered the photograph she had shown me of him in his uniform with a nurse, who was his sister.

I remember being taken to the War Memorial in Mitcham, Surrey, on Remembrance Sunday and being shown where his name was. My grandmother died when I was ten, and my grandfather was forgotten about until my mother moved house after my father's death, and gave me my grandfather's photograph and medals. My sister has the Bronze Plaque.

Soon after that I was watching a programme about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and the work they do keeping all the graves and cemeteries of soldiers who died during the wars in good condition. They also said that every soldier had a grave or their name recorded on a memorial if their body had not been found, and that even if they only had the smallest of information they could usually identify where that was.

That was when I began thinking about my grandfather again and wrote to the CWGC. All I could give them was his name, Percy Sellers, and the fact that his name was on the Memorial at Mitcham. I was delighted with the information they were able to give me. Not only his full name, rank, regiment and battalion, but also his parents names, which I had not known. They were able to tell me the cemetery he was buried in, the plot, row and grave number, and where the cemetery was located.

Two years later I heard about the British Legion Pilgrimage Department and was able to arrange to go with them to visit the cemetery. In the meantime I had looked up the regimental history and read more about his battalion, The 13th East Surrey (Wandsworth). The story of the battalion is interesting in itself. During 1915 there was a call for battalions to be raised locally and the Mayor of Wandsworth did this during the summer of 1915, and my grandfather enlisted in June. The battalion went into training in Aldershot and finally left for France in the early summer of 1916, just before the battle of the Somme, which they were not involved in.

Their first big battle was during Spring 1917, at Villers Pluich. I think it is during this time that he was wounded. In his photograph my grandfather has a stripe on his sleeve, which is called a "wound stripe", which the soldiers received each time they were wounded, some had two or three stripes by the end of the war. He was at home in July and August 1917, when he married my grandmother. He must also have been home during October, as my father was born in July 1918.

He returned to the front and in November 1917 was involved in the battle of Cambrai, at a place called Bourlon Wood. This was the first big battle where tanks were used. In the Spring of 1918 the Germans started a big attack. My grandfather's battalion was in a battle at a place called Mory and it was here he was wounded again. He would have first gone to a casualty clearing post and then been evacuated, probably by train, to an area south of Boulogne where there were a lot of military base hospitals. He died on 8th April 1918, two or three weeks after the battle. Many soldiers did not die of their wounds but of the gangrene which infected them. This could have been a slow process, an affected limb might be amputated only for the gangrene to recur again. As it is quite a long time between my grandfather being wounded and finally dying, I have often wondered if this is what happened to him.

There are several cemeteries in the area, where soldiers who died in the hospitals are buried, but the biggest, where my grandfather is, is called Etaples (the Tommies called it eat apples)! there are about 11,000 graves there, some Indian and Chinese. The grand terrace was designed by Edwin Lutyens, who also designed the Cenotaph, and you can see the similarity. When I visited Etaples with my husband, mother and step-father in 1993, nothing could have prepared me for the impact it would have on me. The cemetery is beautiful with the English Channel in the background. There are gardeners there who work constantly and it is all beautifully kept. After a short service on the terrace, we made our way down with the standard bearer from Cornwall Royal British Legion, and located my grandfather's grave. My mother laid our wreaths and we spent some time there before rejoining the rest of the pilgrimage party.

The inscription on his grave reads "tis but a stream divides us - on either side the land is God's" I think this such a lovely and appropriate sentiment. That visit had such an impact on me, and left me with the feeling that it was so sad that so many of these men had been forgotten by their families. I joined the Western Front Association after hearing about work they did in making sure these soldiers are not forgotten - in fact, their motto is "*remembering*".

I have been back to France since then, to the areas where he would have been involved in the battles. Later this year I am going back to Etaples with my daughter to take her to her great-grandfather's grave and share the experience with her. I recently read in the journal of the Western Front Association an article by Paul McCue, who is researching the 13th Wandsworth battalion of The East Surrey Regiment. After the war many towns in England "*adopted*" towns where their local battalions had fought which had been devastated during the war. Wandsworth adopted Villers Pluich and through Paul's efforts the links between these two towns have recently been renewed and the only Victoria Cross of the battalion has been commemorated.

TESR

#### **Corporal John McNamara VC 9th Bn The East Surreys "The Gallants"**

On 3rd September Kay and I were invited to attend a moving ceremony at Bamber Bridge, Preston, Lancashire. Major Ralph Ewart and Major Tony Daly both of whom had Surrey connections were also present.



Clandon but local people, Councillors and family members thought a plaque would be a fitting tribute in his home town.

Those who attended the ceremony included a large number of five generations of the family most of whom live locally. They all agreed that the ceremony was moving and a just tribute to a brave man which will record forever his bravery. Both young and older members were grateful for a regimental presence at the ceremony. Following the ceremony all those who were present were invited to a buffet lunch at Lancashire County Hall in Preston where we were able to meet some of those who had organised the ceremony.

It was inevitable that I was asked on many occasions how Cpl John was serving with the East Surreys. I explained what happens in war and cited an example, the formation of The British Battalion, in Malaya, in 1942, (The Leicesters and The East Surreys).

RAJ

#### **Museum Notes**

Looking again at the museum notes in the May issue of our excellent Newsletter, one might be forgiven for thinking that was in another age. So much has happened that needs to be passed on to you.

Our search for another site was proving to be fruitless, despite visits to twenty-three locations and, at the last count, one hundred and fifty-three letters. At the same time, we continued to bring pressure to bear on the National Trust (NT) to renew our lease. Eventually, the Museum Trustees decided that to remove for all time the uncertainty associated with our tenure at Clandon Park in the absence of a substantial lease we would accept the NT decision and move when we could.

Out of the blue and unexpectedly the Dean and Chapter of Guildford Cathedral offered us a site on Cathedral ground. A most generous offer which we have warmly accepted. Shortly before this, on the initiative of Professor David James (Penny James's husband) the University of Surrey also offered to help. Their space is limited and with integral difficulties such as lack of parking facilities we all agreed that the Cathedral site was the most suitable alternative location for the Museum and all efforts are being directed to this end. In the process we are forging close links with the Cathedral Authorities and the University which can only benefit the long term attraction and well being of the Museum.

The Cathedral Architect has been briefed on our requirements and as I write the Dean and Chapter and Borough Planning Authorities are meeting to discuss the acceptability of the Museum's location on Stag Hill. If all goes well we would hope to open the new Museum early in the year 2000. We have two main hurdles to overcome - firstly, obtaining full planning permission and secondly, raising the large sum we can expect the new building to cost and fit out.

For the latter we are proposing to make application to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the end of this year who can decide to allot up to 75% of the overall cost.

Spurred on by two recent independent and extremely complimentary reports on our high standards of conservation we have made and are making a major effort to complete all their recommendations. Penny James and Roy Harding are busily re-packing our reserve collection of uniforms in the approved manner whilst two of our volunteer working party members, Peter Henman and Andy Cakebread, are completing the storage of our considerable collection of personal and general documents in archival standard material. We are grateful for the generous grants and support of the South Eastern Museums Service, the Esme Fairbairn Trust and The Queen's Surreys Territorials Charitable Funds enabling us to complete these tasks.

The Museum continues to receive welcome gifts of memorabilia and presentation of medals. Most recently they have been: medal groups of Pte F W Norman, Sgt T Downes, Capt M R Dell MC, Pte D Davis DCM, Pte L Small, Pte H Darvell and Pte J Mayes. With the bequest from Brigadier MacWilliam mentioned in my last notes we purchased Joseph Cribb's original sketch of the headstone design for the Imperial War Graves Commission of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment crest.

My predecessor, Brigadier Michael Clarke, applied to register in 1992 under the Museum & Galleries Commission scheme which was successfully achieved. We are now about to apply for re-registration under Phase 11 of the same scheme which calls for even higher standards. We do not envisage any difficulties in achieving a successful application. You are now

up to date on Museum matters after a very busy six months and with no sign of letting up.

Stand by - we may yet need you so don't emigrate.

PAWGD

### Museum Open Day

Open Day at the Museum took place this year on Sunday 21st September and what a splendid turn-out there was. Our "people counter" showed that 503 came through the entrance that day. We have no means of knowing how many were Regimental Association members but a visual check confirmed that it was the majority.

It was good to see so many and I hope you all enjoyed the afternoon inspecting (and, I hope, admiring) your museum, catching up with friends and jogging memories. Several times it was almost impossible to squeeze another person into the office because there were so many looking at photograph albums and, much to Roy's delight, supporting the shop. Many thanks, too, for your generous giving to the donations boxes. It must have been more than a coincidence that the total donation count that week was more than double the usual amount.



Mrs Maureen Rickman with her daughters Trisha and Terry, examine the photos in the album of 23rd London Regiment at Clandon. C/Sgt Keith Newman-Knott advises from the side

It could all have come to an untimely end when the fire alarms rang out. However, thanks to the ingrained instant obedience of most of our visitors and our excellent evacuation procedure,



Thomas Jowett our youngest visitor held by his proud mother Mrs Lucy Jowett and doting granny - Mrs Penny James our curator. Note the accession forms held by Penny ready to take young Thomas 'on charge'

the museum was emptied in 64 seconds despite a certain lady's protestations that she wanted to "go with the boys". Everyone carried on their reunions on the lawns in lovely sunshine. Happily it was a false alarm and once the all-clear had been given by the fire officer in charge, most people went back into the museum and carried on as if nothing had happened. Could it be that some of you were so impressed, inspired, motivated

etc that you are burning to join our much valued volunteer group? That would be good.



RSM Sid Lea achieves the impossible - silencing Colonel Toby Ward - for 30 seconds

PJ

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### Military Justice

The Naval and Military Gazette reported on a flogging at Chatham, when the Depot of the 70th Regiment was stationed in the town in 1857.

**Military flogging at Chatham** - *The sentence of a general court martial held at Chatham in May last on a private of the 70th Regiment, on a charge of insubordination and knocking down with his fists Dr. Piper, the chief medical officer at the Military Prison, Fort Clarence, was read to the prisoners on parade, and in the presence of the troops by the adjutant. The prisoner's name is Thomas Farrell. It appeared that the court sentenced the prisoner to be transported for seven years, but on the case being investigated at the Horse Guards, it was found that some words had been left out in the charge against the prisoner and the members of the court were ordered to re-assemble, which was done, when another sentence was recorded, and which was approved at the Horse Guards, that the prisoner receive fifty lashes and be imprisoned with hard labour for twelve lunar months. The usual forms having been read, the troops were marched to the spur battery, the place selected for inflicting the corporal punishment on the prisoner, who, on being pinioned, told the Colonel that he would not flinch, they might flog him until they were tired. The fifty lashes on his back having been given he was released, when the prisoner made use of some horrid expressions against Colonel Jarvis, and what he would do to him when he got his liberty; and that he would also do for Dr. Piper the first opportunity, if he got transported for it. The prisoner's threats and imprecations were taken down in writing to form a charge against the prisoner, which will call for a general court martial on him on his leaving the garrison hospital.*

*Editors Note: It never did pay to argue!*

## Patmore's return

The CX250 Cathay Pacific flight from Heathrow to Hong Kong has taken us across Russia, Northern China, passing over the Gobi Desert and the Plateau of Tibet, before turning south across Southern China to Hong Kong, all this in 12 hours. I had done this journey before, back in April 1962. Then it was different, an RAF chartered flight from Stansted Airport stopping at Istanbul and Bombay, before touching down 22 hours later at Kai Tak Airport. Our inflight meals then were dry sandwiches, an apple and glucose sweets, all packed in plain brown cardboard boxes. I mean, what a way to treat a "Government Official", well that's what it said on my Passport. Actually, I was 23887896 Pte Patmore G.F. of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment sent to this far off British Colony to protect it. Protect it from what? I don't know, anyway, I had other ideas, well one anyway and that was "Fun", lots of it, this "Fun" was to include Cheong Sam clad girls with an eye for a young stud with blonde wavy hair from England who will, without the slightest hesitation attempt to out drink all and sundry wherever and whenever the fancy took him and what better place to find this "Fun" than in Hong Kong "the Fragrant Harbour". Two years later, having overdosed on "Fun", it was time to return home, return home? Hong Kong was my home. I had grown to love this land in the East, and it was with a heavy heart I left, promising myself that by hook or by crook, one day I would be back.

February 1997, with my blonde hair that is now waving "goodbye" and a waistline that is slightly wider, (my 601bs back pack is now round the front), I am coming into Kai Tak Airport once again, 34 years on, this time accompanied by my wife, Desney. Desney has now got six days hearing and now seeing for herself all the places and stories and rabbit she has put up with for the past 30 years, this she will endure, on the promise of just one day's shopping in the World's greatest shopping arcade. As we cleared customs I am approached by a beautiful Chinese girl, clad in an Amarni suit, hold on, "where's your Cheong Sam" I felt like saying. "Meester Perlatmore", she asked. Meester Perlatmore, what happened to "Hey Johnnie you like me, you buy me drink?" bit they used to come out with. Anyway, I am "Meester Perlatmore", I mean Mr Patmore, "I answered", "with Mrs Patmore", trying to sound enthusiastic, "Of course", she said, somewhat relieved, with a graceful wave of her hand, "Your car sir", as the biggest, newest Mercedes you had ever seen glides to a halt. The driver, wearing a dark silk suit, black tie and patent black shoes is out, the boot opens and my wife's three suitcases, along with my Sainsbury's bag are in. "Oh Christ, maybe there is such a person as Perlatmore". Oh well, enjoy. But as we purr out of the Airport past the cab park, there is a smile on my face, so big that my glasses were digging into the back of my ears. Could it be the twenty or so Japanese business men fighting over the three taxis waiting there? "No"!! I was back home. After 34 years I was back home. Yes, yes, yes, the smells, the heat, the hustle and bustle, Oi vay, the traffic, where are all the rickshaws I wonder, daring not to speak as being a London cab driver I am prone to open my mouth before my brain is engaged.

Staying on the Kowloon side we purr into the reception area of the Grand Stanford Harbour View Hotel, the Mercedes tyres squeaking on the mock marble flooring, where the Pin man dressed, "sorry" Commissionaire, dressed in grey slacks, white tunic with brass buttons (stay brights actually) gold braided epaulettes and a white peak cap opens the door for me and mine to alight. I normally just get out, but today I will alight. I stand erect for a moment to take in the atmosphere, a tear wells up in my eye, I do feel emotional, yes but I was actually wondering how much all this was costing. Des takes my arm and puts her head on my biceps or where a biceps used to be and says "Don't worry darling, we are here to reminisce and enjoy ourselves, anyway you have got four years to pay it off". Formalities done, we are escorted to our room 428 on the fourth floor. Must remember that for when I get home to the UK, use them in the lottery. Oh crikey, I will need some luck. Please let me stay healthy. What a time to start thinking of Dial-a-Cab's Health Scheme. At least let the cab keep going. Hold on, what is all this panic creeping in? Come on son - you panic you the stud with blonde wavy hair, seen action in the Wan Chai and Kowloon areas, hard nut of countless drinking contests with victories in other fields such as the 100 metre breaststroke in 1953, the egg and spoon race at Stamford Hill Junior School 1949 and more recently the Knowledge, Penton Street 1983. You are here to remember and to retrace your youth and maybe have bits of "Fun" along the way.



The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Sha Tin

The first two days see us doing the tourist bit, trips out in coaches, visits to museums, the lot. Popping over to Hong Kong Island to stroll the once familiar streets of my teen years, recognising the street names, Lockhart Road, Luard Road, Hennessy Road, all the streets of Wan Chai district, the red light area, but that is all, where are all the bars, the rickshaws, the dirt, the poverty and most importantly, the 'Cheong Sam's'. Instead, traffic and Europeans. In 1962 the only Europeans here worked for the Government, or soldiers and American seamen, fighting it out for the prettiest bar girls, now Europeans, Japanese, Australians, everywhere a truly cosmopolitan place. We take a coach trip through the New Territories to the Chinese Border expecting to see mile after mile of paddy fields, but they have gone, only to be replaced by satellite cities and the huge Hong Kong Jockey club racecourse at Sha Tin. We are treated to a full Chinese lunch at the Club, chomping away with our chopsticks. Desney complaining quietly in my ear about the mess, I pretend not to hear, but quick as a flash a more sympathetic person in the guise of a waiter produces a fork and spoon for her and the mess is cleared up. "I told you to practise before you came," I snap. "I did", she said, "but the kids laughed at me". "Anyway, roast beef and yorkshire pud is not a good thing to practise on". (Got an answer for everything she has).

Having left the Jockey Club we tour round looking at the fishing villages that dot around the coast, they remain, for the time being but not for long. The fishermen in their sampans used to look out to sea for their living, now they look out with one eye while the other looks towards the land at the huge concrete and glass monster bearing down on them. Will they be joining the paddy fields in the history books? while Grandma longs for her paddy field and Grandpa worries about his sampan, the grand kids have shot off to Victoria and Central Districts to be part of the more lucrative financial markets. This is progress, and progress is what I complain about when my kids are off doing their thing. "Get a life pop", rings in my one good ear as their new cars rev on my driveway.

Leaving the last few citizens left in the villages, to ponder their fortune, we travel on to more familiar ground, the Gurkha Barracks at Shek Kong, already, I can hear their little legs with ammunition boots attached, marking at double quick pace up and down the parade ground. Sergeants shouting orders which are carried out before the words have left their mouths. Over the hill and there is the camp. But silence not a soul, weeds, barrack blocks with roofs that have fallen in. Everything gone, just broken concrete which was once the main gate and guard room. Always spotless, always brilliant white but now a pile of hardcore waiting for the next satellite city to spring up. Lets get out of here, its depressing, get back and have a drink.

Next day is Sunday, 23rd February and today is all mine. If the wife wants to tag along, she is welcome, it will be boring for her to say the least. Des decides to come along. I will hire a cabbie who can speak English (there's arrogance for you - why can't I speak Cantonese?) but don't mess with me. I know the form, remember!! Bingo, there he is, on the point at the Hotel I explain what I want, Military Barrack at Stanley, Stanley Fort, wait and onto Stanley Military Cemetery two miles away. "Yes, I know well", he said. "I pay waiting time, yes", I said "and we go on yes?", I said if he speaks English, why am I speaking in this funny accent? Okay, he said. The lad did well, in and out of the traffic, through the tunnel onto Hong Kong Island on to Repulse Bay, now I begin to recognise the place, the beach on the right, a bit larger than I remember, looks like a nice bar down there, that was not there before. But on the left, huge pale blue skyscraper blocks I scream out with excitement, there was a hotel there, Repulse Bay Hotel, yes it was only small but very exclusive. I remember, I remember, Chan slows down (we are on first name terms now). "All this old Hotel", pointing to the reception and entrance. Of course, the old Hotel was this front piece only, now I notice the main hotel to the rear. "Blimey, they've had the builders in"!

Chan puts his foot down, take away all the skyscrapers and I recognise the way the land lies. I was so excited I was jumping about in my seat, the wife thinks I have flipped, Chan is giggling, do all grown English men act this way and get excited at a bit of waste ground he thinks. Round a bend and stop. Oh, a traffic jam, out here, how comes then I see Guards, unarmed Guards, unarmed but I sensed they were not very far away. As I try to look past Chan's shoulder, a Guard comes from behind and to my left, we look at each other, I try not to appear startled, and let him have a faint smile. I learned years ago that when in trouble, smile and appear ignorant, sometimes it works. Suddenly Chan takes off, up on our right two Guards are at the gate, they wave us through, passed the gate, passed the Guardroom, the Guardroom, our Guardroom. My old Guardroom, its there, its there. Go Chan go. Never mind the speed bumps, we follow the road round, yes its here "Fort Stanley", a bit tatty but still so am I, who cares its here, and so am I. "Here Chan, how comes they let us through and sent everyone else back?" I ask, "you big hofficer", he said, all I ever was was a sneaky Lance Corporal and that wasn't here". "You know that and now we know that, but they don't know that do they?", adds Desney. You are right, onward. "Stop here". Des and I get out of the cab and Chan said he would meet us by the main gate as I wanted to walk Desney through the camp. So loaded down with Camcorder and cameras, I start to explore, there is the old Church but a service is in progress.

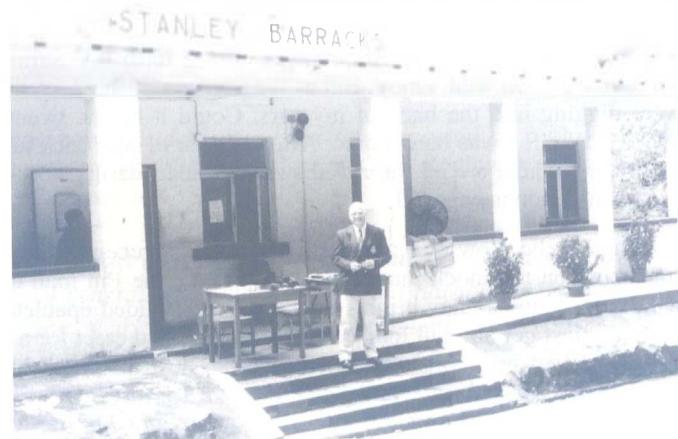
It appears tiny now but things do when you get older, your memory plays tricks on you. Desney is talking to a lady connected to the Church and beckons for me to approach. Impatiently I run up the slope (I'm running now, when was the last time I ran?). Desney introduces us, "so you remember this Church when it was Anglican?" "Yes, I do, I read the lesson once in front of the whole battalion" I blurted out proudly and asked us to be excused as I had hundreds of photos to take. She laughs and lets me run off. Desney says "I had better go with him, he is liable to fall over or do something silly the state he is in." "Where are you going to start?", Des asks. "Here of course, the Sergeants Mess right next door to the Church." "That was a rowdy old place that was".

It was still standing, just, it looked as if there had been one hell of a party. There was a gap where a gap used to be, this gives me some indication of where the blocks stood. Yes the Orderly Room next door, Major Sewell's office, next door Lieutenant Colonel Lowry's office and next Captain Pereira. Later Captain Hare took over, and next to that the stairwell, got it. Under all this bamboo scaffolding is our block, BHQ. Next to Captain Hare's office is the stairwell, with RSM Wildgooses' office behind.

I squeeze through the bamboo poles, sod the boots, sod the jacket, sod the wife, she's coming too. We prise open a door and get to the rear and there is the view I gazed upon for 22 months. I see the bay which we called the prisoners beach with a small rock island about half a mile out, which I attempted to swim to but bottled it as the sea was too rough and there had been a shark warning the day before. After much clicking and whirring of cameras, its back through the rubble, this is a restricted area, and back home it would be classed as a breaking and entering job. Oh well, I'm not travelling 6,000 miles and going home empty handed. Back outside and standing at the top of the few steps leading down to the road, I stop and stare at the Battalion Square with the sports field beyond. The Square is being used as a car park now, sacrilege. To the left of the square is the Education Centre, altered somewhat but still there. Just to my left would have been the flagpole directly outside the C.O's Office. Where Cpl. 'Maxie' Maloney or one of his fellow members of the Corps of drums would play reveille. Didn't they know we were trying to sleep on the first floor, just above their head, probably been down town the night before, da tee da tee da da da da tee da on and on. After first parade of the day (breakfast) its at my desk in the Orderly Room acting as Major Sewell's personal clerk, it was my job to keep up to date all the training manuals and any personal typing Major Sewell had.



St Andrews Church today



Pat Patmore on the steps of the guardroom.  
(Editors note: he wouldn't have been like that in 1962!)

We walk along the road towards HQ block and the armscote, passing the signal platoon office, happy memories but sad also as I remember Pte Anderson of the Signal Platoon. He ran into our barrack room dressed for an exercise in the New Territories and said "Pat, lend me \$5. I've got no fags and I won't be back for a few days". Begrudgingly, I gave him my last \$5 and that was the last I saw of him. He died after a freak accident when his antennae touched an overhead power line up in the New Territories. Desney and I are now standing outside HQ Company block, and Major Abbot's office overlooking the cookhouse. The cookhouse has changed or rebuilt and I don't recognise it at all now, but that's where it was.

The road bears round to the right and up to the Officers mess and telephone exchange. If it was still there, I'd call in for a drink, but no, I've taken enough liberties for one day and I still have to get out by the main gate. Would the Guards have sussed me out by now? At this junction, officers mess to the right, we turn left. What's this, the NAAFI shop right next door to the medical centre, so that means the NAAFI bar is opposite. No, that's gone with the cookhouse. Here is a treat for Colonel Wilson - two of the rifle Coy Blocks with their familiar crisscross balustrade still here. As a CSM I can hear you now, scaring the life out of the riflemen or anybody else who displeased you. I climb up onto the balustrade to have my photo taken by Desney, mistake, spotted by the Guards, he is coming towards me now. What do I do? Got it, smile, grin for all your worth. I climb down, after having another desperate look at the flaying fields and battalion square from a different angle. I approach the main gate, Desney is already talking to the Guard by now, they seem friendly enough, she's laughing. She's just been told I'm nicked and will be locked in my own cell knowing her! As I get nearer, I see Chan sitting in his cab, that's comforting, at least we have a lift back. Anyway, it's no surprise he's still here, there must be a packet on the clock by now. As I near the main gate the guard who was talking to Desney comes to meet me, smiling. I am assured all is well. The guards are all ex Gurkhas and, apart from my blazer with the Queens Surrey badge, I am wearing a Gurkha Brigade tie. That's it. I look like "big hofficer", we get nearer. Please don't salute me, it would be embarrassing in front of my wife. I would have to carry on the pretence and that would be cheating and dishonest. I can see the headlines now "*London Cab Driver caught impersonating an Officer and breaking and entering a restricted area*". Boy that's gotta be life.

I offer my hand before he can raise it to his cap, he takes it warmly, we both laugh. I take over the story from Des on how I know the place and he seems genuinely pleased for me. After a photo session where I produce a black beret with the Home Counties cap badge attached, amid laughter from the younger guards behind us, we say goodbye and this time it is "goodbye". Travelling back down the Stanley Road, I ask Chan to pull over by the Stanley Military Cemetery and to give me a few more minutes. He does so willingly, after all there's a week's wages on the clock now!

The Cemetery is well kept and I would have liked to dwell longer but Desney was on her last legs now. Ah well, I have been running on pure adrenalin for hours, so after more photos of some headstones of men of The Middlesex Regiment (which was my original Regiment), to be studied later, I said farewell to Stanley and Hong Kong for tomorrow Thailand awaits, but this is not a pilgrimage, this is a holiday and part of Hong Kong is coming with me, for that part will stay with me forever.

Pat

## 90th Birthday

Arthur Steadman, Sergeant-Major of Headquarters Company 2/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment throughout its wartime service overseas, became 90 years of age in July and to mark the occasion he spent a day in the Surrey countryside with three friends from those far-off days. All served together in Iraq, North Africa and Italy.

Accompanying Arthur were former RSM J W Dunkley and ex-Sergeants J.S. Jeffery and L.W. Gibbs. It was appropriate that Jim Jeffery should provide the car for the outing. He was Motor Transport Sergeant when the battalion made its epic journey across deserts from Iraq to Tunisia for the last weeks of Montgomery's Campaign in North Africa. Len Gibbs was in the Orderly Room throughout this period.

After lunch at a golf club near the Sussex border a stop was made at Chiddington Church to visit the grave of Major-General J Y Whitfield, who commanded 2/5th Queen's. The youngest of the four was aged 79 and two have got well past their golden wedding anniversaries.



*The Square today*

## From the past



*Grand Shaft Barracks Dover, from the air*

LWG

## Ruperts advice

Dear Reader, I have bad news for you. I am afraid that as a result of the information that I gave away in the last edition, I have aroused the wrath of those in absolute power. They did not take kindly to me giving away tips to the would be aspiring young officer, wishing to attain substantial advancement in his search for high command. As you know my tips would go a long way to keeping him in the so called promotional eye. But that is no longer to be the case - the security forces, incensed with my releasing information of this nature, to the young up and coming thruster, have ordered the gagging of all future articles by yours most truly. .

This is quite likely to adversely affect morale in many a young officer's heart. So let me take this very last opportunity to give a final boost to their education with the hope that thereafter they will be able to spread their wings and fly from the nest on their own. So a few useful little tips:

Do make sure that you have not left any shaving soap behind your ears. This exposes you to ridicule and scorn.

When dismounting the guard, do ensure that your Pyjama jacket sleeves are not showing beneath your tunic. Remember the sorry tale of the Guards Officer on duty at Windsor, who attended the Service in St George's Chapel wearing (quite properly) his Greatcoat. After the Service, Her Majesty the Queen invited the Duty Officer to accompany her up the hill to the Castle and thereafter to stay for lunch. He did not appreciate the honour quite as much as he would have, had he not been wearing a Tee Shirt under his Greatcoat. Be prepared.

Do not say "Jolly Good." More than once a day.

Never tell jokes. Everyone, but everyone, knows you are not funny. Especially those in your own platoon.

Do not try and impress your Platoon Sergeant - he is liable to yawn.

Never sing - your soldiers will jeer and then you'll be sorry.

Do not try and whistle loudly with two fingers in your mouth. Spit will run down your chin.

Do not try and test for dust on top of high lockers. You will fall out of the window. Stay away from No 1 burners or their modern equivalent. You will need plastic surgery.

Never be seen talking to anyone from the RMP.

Take off headset/earphones before jumping down from armoured vehicles. People will not be impressed with your screams.

Be very nice to Senior Officers wives - they know all the nice young girls and will invite you to all the best parties. If they think you are safe.

Do not take your silk pyjamas on exercise or operations. They tend to attract snipers. Always be nice to Colour Sergeants and Quartermasters. They have long memories and can hit you where it hurts - in your bank balance. Nobody was ever criticised for crawling to a Quartermaster. If you think I am exaggerating, just wait until you lose a pair of binoculars.

Do not try and impress people with your technical skill. Ever after, you will walk with a limp.

Try to stop your Company Commander writing 'funny' comments on your confidential report. "Somewhere there is a village looking for an idiot." - does little to enhance your prospect of promotion.

Even if you do not know what it means - always say "Yes I am most keen to do some early study towards the Staff Exam."

Do not let the Editor of this magazine know anything about your private life.

Do write to your Mother at least every other month. It is embarrassing when she writes to the Adjutant asking after her little Lambkins.

Do not drive anything. You will crash it and then you'll be sorry. Never lead a convoy. You will lose most of it.

Pretend you like dogs.

Do not go around with your Sam Browne over your left shoulder. You just look silly. Try not to tie left lace to right lace. You will fall down.

Do not stroke the CO's dog. You will have to wash your hands, or you will need bandaging..

Do not try and watch the grenade explode when on the range. Your face will look like a pineapple for evermore.

Keep away from the Sergeant's Mess bar - even if invited. They will poison your innocent, fresh little body and they will tell you things that will give you nightmares. Do not throw thunder flashes into the showers. You will go deaf then they will break your legs.

Do not let your hat/cap come off whilst on parade. The battalion will enjoy marking time on it.

Do not report sick. If you do, you will wish you hadn't.

Try not to tell Mummy that you are now a trained killer and have been specially selected for an unarmed combat course by the same people who train the SAS. She will smack your legs for telling fibs.

Do not keep grenades in your sock draw. They play havoc with the washing machine.

Never say "*The compass must be wrong.*" You have just become irretrievably lost. Try to remember where the Adjutant's office is. You lose credibility having to ask. Beware Guest Nights. Remember the Court of Enquiry report which started "*Sir, I was standing on the mantelpiece, minding my own business, when I was run over by a Motorcycle.*"

Which reminds me... I took my duties as Orderly Officer very seriously. So when, at about 4 minutes past midnight, in the brand new Officers Mess of Hyderabad Barracks Colchester, the Adjutant arrived with three other senior officers, I was fully alert and properly dressed. Captain M N O'D Pereira was not the sort of Adjutant you trifled with. Especially not when he was demanding the presence of the Duty Officer. After I had assured him that I was on duty and that all was well, he ordered me to lay out a golf course which could be played there and then by the assembled officers. Foolishly, I thought they were jesting. So I informed them that there would be 4 holes. Along the corridor, up the stairs, down back stairs, out the back door and round to the front door.

I watched with fascinated horror as the Adjutant teed up his ball in the centre of the corridor carpet and addressed the ball with a driver. The ball flew off the walls with a thudding doppler effect. Local rules said that the ball could be placed at the foot of the stairs. Half way up the stairs there was a large sash window. Major I D Beattie then played the most incredible shot with a sand wedge. The ball missed the plate glass window, on the half landing, hit the frame of the window and bounced back on to the top landing. Sadly it removed a divot from the carpet. It was a shot that Tiger Woods could not play in a million years. Eventually the game became somewhat undisciplined when it reached outside the back door. The participants were having trouble hitting the ball - no doubt due to the poor light. The Adjutant at last hit a real corker which screamed off into the night air and with that the party broke up.

The following morning I dismounted the Guard. The Guard Commander marched forward, halted, saluted and contrary to normal form said "*I think this is yours, Sir.*" With that he handed me a golf ball. I believe the Mess Damages that were paid by the golfers created a new record which has not been surpassed to this day - unless you know better!

Enough of this advice. I have enjoyed your company and I hope my words of wisdom and encouragement will not lodge

in your memory for too long. But it would be a sadder world if we could not occasionally cast a sideways glance at ourselves.

You the young officer of today must live your own life. You have a different, smaller and much changed Army. But the challenge and the traditions remain the same.

But above all else, remember this young Sir - yours is the greatest privilege - to Serve, to Command, to Share your life with the greatest soldiers on earth. Savour it.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

Rupert

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### The Italy Star Association

Graham Swain the National Secretary reports that the last year has been a momentous one for the Association. Membership has increased to over 1750 and a new branch has been established in central London. An 18 day pilgrimage to Italy was held and in May the Annual Parade and luncheon were held in Canterbury with some 200 members attending in the presence of the Association Patron Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge GCB DC former Chief of the Defence Staff.

The pilgrimage to Italy was made up of 49 members and the party also included former members of The Royal Fusiliers, The Royal Artillery and RASC. Unfortunately due to the illness of his wife, Chairman Maurice Cheadle had to withdraw so his duties were taken over by Graham himself. Visits were made to appropriate cemeteries where wreaths were laid and the lament '*Flowers of the Forest*' was played by the accompanying piper a Korean veteran from The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. At many cemeteries local Mayors and representatives of Civic authorities also attended. Many notable Italians were met including Professor Monte-Maggi, a well known historian whose speciality is research into the Gothic Line and who expressed the utmost admiration for the late Brigadier M E M MacWilliam. Referred to as "*The Hero of Gemmano*", the Brigadier's obituary was printed in the Italian National Press.

In Rome a guided tour of the city by Colonel Huggan from the British Embassy was followed by lunch with the British Ambassador and his wife together with service attaches. The piper 'played for his supper' and took the customary dram afterwards. Moving ceremonies took place at Anzio beach head and war cemeteries. At Narni in Umbria there was a big turn out of local citizens headed by the Mayor and the National President of The Italian War Veterans Association (the equivalent of The Royal British Legion). Their gratitude to the British Forces was for the war time liberation of their town and the recovery of a much prized flag which had been looted by the Germans. Similar commemorative ceremonies took place at Argenta, scene of the battles of the Argenta Gap.

The final highlight of the pilgrimage was the welcome accorded by the citizens of Rimini where a public holiday celebrating the 52nd Anniversary of the end of the war in Italy was taking place. Some 5000 people assembled at the main square together with the town band and the City of Rimini choir who sang an anthem composed in honour of the visitors. An impromptu speech by Graham, at the request of the Mayor, was warmly applauded.

Graham sadly reflects that this will be the last official Association Pilgrimage (age and disability now taking their toll) but it will long be remembered for the warm hospitality shown by the Italians and for the chances to recall and pay respects to those former comrades who, so many years ago, did not return.

GS&RF

### Farewell luncheon for the 23rd London/42nd RTR Association

On Wednesday, April 23rd a party from the 48th RTR, consisting of the President, Chairman, Committee Members and other Members, attended the above function, at the invitation of the 42nd. Chairman, Major Derek Conran TD. This was a MUST for us, the luncheon being held at the Drill Hall, Clapham Junction, where we all, the original members that is, flocked to the Colours, so many years ago.

To the satisfaction of Major Conran, the function was very well attended, 50 Members and guests being '*On Parade*', plus about a dozen wives. This being the final assembly of the 42nd, it was a poignant time for all, especially for Derek, who has held the Association Branch together for so many years. Among the guests were Col. (Rtd). George Forty, Editor of the TANK magazine, himself an ex Member of the Regiment for a period after the war, alongside our own Frank Harris, who, unfortunately could not attend the, luncheon.

Another guest was Lt. Col. (Rtd). Anson-Squire MC, this gentleman commanded a battalion of The East Surrey Regiment. I took the liberty of introducing myself to him, and he was delighted to meet someone from the last fledgling Regiment of the East Surrey's. We had a long chat, and he sends his regards to all the 48th Members and wishes us well for the future.

Les Perkins of the London Branch, presented Derek Conran with an RTR Regimental Plate as a memento of the occasion, a nice gesture, appreciated by all. As to be expected, knowing the hospitality of the 42nd, the buffet spread was so excellent, it could have been provided by The Ritz. An open invitation has been extended to all now 'Ex Members' of the 42nd, to attend our Reunions, and no doubt, as in previous years, they will accept. And so, the final ties have been severed with our original Headquarters. It is all stowed away in our memories now, and will live with us for as long as we survive..

The 42nd Roll of Honour hangs with pride in the foyer of the Drill Hall, bearing names of so many men who died in those epic battles of the Western Desert.

"Farewell, the 42nd, Royal Tank Regiment."

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### Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

"What's for lunch today my dear?" "No idea", was the reply. "You should know better than that it is Saturday March 15th". "Yes of course, it's meat pie and two veg down at the old Union Jack Club".

It is the new concept for the Annual Reunion of 1/7th Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association for year 1997. Luncheon '*Mit Frau*' in place of the usual all male evening dinner. In total there were fifty one diners present, the Hon Secretary Major John Tamplin TD and committee had again arranged this most convenient and acceptable number of OCA members and guests.

Presiding over the occasion was Major Stuart Playfoot MC, the guest of honour was Major J C Rogerson, Secretary to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association who gave a very informative narrative concerning his function and the workings of the Association. Representatives from 1/6th Queen's and The Royal British Legion, Braganza Street were in attendance, together with our good friends from St Niklaas, Belgium. Alderman Willie Meersnor, Commandant Rene Van Den Burgh and Andre Veisauren. The party was dismissed at 1600 hrs and ordered to parade again in a years time.

SP

## Bringing Home the Colours - 1947.

1947 was for many a year of great change. Much of the clearing up after the war had been accomplished. We no longer utilised fatigue parties of Japanese prisoners, although a number of bad prisoners were still within Changhi Prison and after due trial and sentence were still being hanged for war crimes. Another sign of the times was the arrival of Dennis Gibbs to take command of 1st Queen's. I was one of the advance party at Singapore and was detailed to meet our new C.O. who had flown out in a matter of a few days from the U.K. in a York aircraft of the R.A.F.

There was a general desire to get down to peace time soldiering. The Colours of the battalion were retrieved from war-time storage in Peshawar and since these were approaching one hundred years in age a decision was taken to replace them with Colours of the current size and design. As yet these New Colours were without distinctions awarded following the actions of the war of 1939-45. After presentation of the New Colours on the Padang at Singapore City the Old Colours had to be transported to the U.K. and since Captain 'Dizzy' Kirby and I were both due for repatriation under the Python scheme in September of 1947 the honour fell to us. Dizzy, a Hampshireman, had been educated at the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover and had seen a lot of action with 1 Queen's including Jail Hill at Kohima.

An aircraftcarrier, HMS *Glory* was to be our transport home. I had visions of getting in some flying on the way home but it was not to be. The carrier's hangars were full of aircraft and mail. On the flight deck additional Firefly aircraft were tethered both fore and aft. There were also a number of large naval stores containers on the flight deck. We met HMS *Glory* at the Naval Base, Singapore where she was alongside and we embarked the Old Colours, cased as they were to be henceforth, on the 2nd of September 1947. Guards of Honour were provided on the quayside by the Royal Navy and the Battalion. The escort to the Colours, apart from Dizzy and myself, comprised WOII George Bolton and Fred Wickens and Private H. Howlett. All were comfortably accommodated in the appropriate messes of HMS *Glory*.

The Colours themselves were stored in the chapel of the carrier deep down inside. This chapel was the only spot on the vessel to be fitted with air conditioning. In the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea we found it necessary to make numerous visits to check our charges! We also found the ward room of the carrier to be a most hospitable place. We learned that the naval bugle call for 'up spirits' was very similar to the regimental call of The Queen's Royal Regiment. We also learned that a 'horse's neck' at twopence per tot (old money) was a most worthwhile investment.

The actual journey home was a most leisurely affair. We stopped and went ashore at Aden, Valetta and Gibraltar before arriving at Plymouth. Large numbers of boxes came aboard ... especially at Gibraltar it being so near the Jerez bodegas. The naval term for such presents for one's loved ones was 'rabbits'.

On first arrival at Plymouth HMS *Glory* dropped anchor in the Sound and then off-loaded a large quantity of the mail that she had been collecting all the way home. Having done this we steamed up the Irish Sea and into the Clyde and unloaded the aircraft at RNAS Abbotsinch. We had yet another run ashore - our last whilst still technically on foreign service! Then back to Plymouth but this time to tie up at the North lock at Devonport Dockyard with HMS *Vanguard* moored immediately astern.

We finally brought the Colours ashore on the 14th of October 1947. It was quite a ceremony with Guards of Honour, one from HMS *Excellent* and one from Shorncliffe commanded by

my old friend Peter Whenmouth. The Royal Marine band of HMS *Glory* played as we picked our way over a rather cluttered dockyard. There were a number of senior and distinguished members of the regiment present and after we had safely deposited the Old Colours in the R.N. Barracks all adjourned to the Captain's cabin on the *Glory* where Captain W.T. Couchman DSO.RN. entertained.

Next day we travelled from Plymouth to Guildford by train. No expense was spared - we changed at Waterloo not Woking and arrived at Guildford in mid afternoon. We marched then through Guildford with the Regiment's Band, and escort from HMS *Excellent* and another from the Regiment. His Worship the Mayor of Guildford accompanied by General George Giffard took the salute at the Guildhall and General Giffard took another salute before we entered the Depot Gates at Stoughton. We deposited our charges in the Officers' Mess - our task completed.



*The arrival of The 1st Battalion, Old Colours at Stoughton Barracks, 15th October, 1947*

Meanwhile back in Singapore the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment received the astonishing news that it was to be reduced to a cadre, return home and that the 2nd Battalion was to be placed in suspended animation, a parade which took place on the Olympiste Platz, Berlin on Salerno Day 1948.

AJP.

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## Donations

The Trustees wish to record their very grateful thanks for the following bequests and donations.

To the executors of the late Major A W V Domoney - £1000.00, and a member who wishes to remain anonymous of £1000.00. And to all those members who send "a little more" with their Newsletter subscriptions to help postage for another comrade to receive this Newsletter.

**Presentation of Colours to 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
(Queen's and Royal Hampshires)**



*Her Majesty inspects the Battalion*



*The Colours of 1st Battalion The Queen's and 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshires are marched off parade for the last time*



*The New Colours piled on the Drums during the Consecration Service*



*Her Majesty presents The Queen's Colour to the Ensign*



*The New Colours in front of the Battalion*

Photos: L Wilson

## So there we were

**1677** The Queen's were at Tangiers where, as usual, they were subject to periodic attacks by the Moors and, again as usual, in arrears with their pay. So bad was the position in this respect that some of the soldiers were reduced to selling their clothing to local inhabitants, a practice strictly forbidden by both the Deputy Governor and the Mayor. For good measure an outbreak of plague added to their troubles.

**1697** Having been in Surrey and Hampshire during the early part of the year, the Queen's were ordered in May to proceed to Flanders but as there was some delay over transports, embarkation from Greenwich and Tilbury did not take place until July. The campaign in the Low Countries ended in September and the Regiment returned to England where they occupied various quarters in the East and South East of the country.

**1717** The Queen's were in England where Army strengths were being reduced. As a form of "redundancy payment" discharged soldiers were allowed to keep their clothes and knapsacks and were paid 3d each for their swords or bayonets. They were also to be paid fourteen days subsistence for their journey home. The 31st Regiment were in Ireland under the command of Lord John Kerr.

**1747** Both the 31st and the Queen's were among Regiments withdrawn from campaigning in the Low Countries to service at home for defence against rebellion. In November a detachment of the Queen's at Gibraltar was ordered on board the Fleet under Admiral Byng.

**1767** The 70th Regiment were in the West Indies where living conditions were poor, especially as regards sanitation, and sickness was rife. Many officers sought transfer to other stations although some hardy individuals remained for ten years or more and gained consequent promotion. The Queen's were in the Isle of Man where the Governor and the Commanding Officer were in some dispute over the matter of granting leave to officers.

**1787** At Gibraltar the Queen's were incurring the King's displeasure regarding officers being lax in taking up their appointments and being absent without leave. After completing eleven year's service in North America the 31st Regiment embarked for home at Quebec on 4th October and arrived at Portsmouth on 7th November.

**1807** On a state of war arising between England and Denmark, an expeditionary force numbering 2,500 men of which the 70th were a part, was prepared under General Henry Bowyer against the Danish West Indian islands of St Thomas and St John who, however, surrendered without a struggle.

Also expedition minded, the Queen's were part of a force campaigning against the Spaniards in Buenos Aires. They distinguished themselves in battle at Monte Video where Lieutenant Everard led a successful assault on the defences.

**1837** The Queen's were in India where they received a creditable report after inspection at Belgaum in May by Brigadier General J Salter. A similar report in August was marred by references to the incapacity and conduct of Colonel Baumgardt. (An article on Colonel Baumgardt, entitled "On Tact and Tactics" appears on Page 16 of the November 1996 Newsletter).

At Dinapore the 31st were suffering from the effects of extreme heat (temperatures of 115 degrees being recorded) and many deaths occurred from apoplexy.

**1857** The 70th were in India where they were involved in actions against rebel native forces during the Mutiny. Strangely

mobile, they were mounted on elephants at Hoti-Mardan on account of the great heat.

At Peshawar they witnessed the execution of mutineers by the method of blasting them at the muzzles of field guns. (Several Indian Mutiny medals to members of the 70th are at Clandon Museum). The Queen's at Fort Hare, British Kaffraria, were inspected by Major General Michel CB who, commenting on messing arrangements in his report, said "*Officers spend in various extras more than is desirable*".

**1877** At the commencement of the Russo-Turkish War, in which British participation seemed inevitable, certain overseas garrisons were hurriedly reinforced and the Queen's were dispatched in haste to Malta. The 31st, in England, mobilised certain classes of Reserves and retained them until the following year.

**1897** The East Surrey Regiment, as it was now called, was in India where, despite some earlier outbreaks of disease, it was reported to be "*in many respects exceptionally efficient and fit for field service*".

The Queen's were also in India where, not unusually, there was trouble on the North-West Frontier. Several fierce engagements took place and numerous casualties occurred. Lance Corporal (later Sergeant) Simpson showed great courage and leadership when his escort party beat off an attack on a baggage train.

**1917** The Queen's, despite heavy war commitments in Europe, were still maintaining a presence in India where, due to troubles from tribesmen, they were mobilised for action with the Waziristan Force. Due to heavy sickness, however, from causes such as heat stroke, malaria and sand-fly fever, they had to be replaced by another Unit and then sent to stations at Dugshai and Jutogh in the Simla Hills.

The Surreys, as well their equally heavy commitments on the Western Front, were campaigning with the British Salonika Army on the Struma Valley Front where intense cold and heavy rain was being experienced.

**1937** The East Surreys were in India. At Fyzabad in May five men (Cpl R Ridley, L/Cpls J Williams, J Bull and L Hamilton and Pte S Hillier), attempted to climb Mount Kamet and reached a height of 23,500 feet before being forced to turn back.

In England the Queen's took part in ceremonial proceedings for the Coronation in London providing a street-lining party of forty three under Captain H G Veasey and a processional party of six under Captain D L A Gibbs. The weather was at its worst and everyone suffered constant drenching and discomfort.

The 22nd and 24th Battalions' of The London Regiment became the 6th and 7th Queen's and they, with the 5th Queen's, formed 131 Queen's Brigade of the 44th Home Counties Division.

**1957** The East Surreys were in North Africa where, between 1951 and 1958 they served in four different stations. Returning home in January of the latter year they were, largely unknowingly, beginning the road to re-organisation and amalgamation with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

The Queen's were in Germany where they were to remain until their amalgamation with the East Surreys in 1959.

RF

## The Barracks, Kingston upon Thames

The home of the East Surrey Regiment had an uninspiring name. Just 'The Barracks' always sounded rather dull. After the Second World War it was considered that something more exciting, such as 'Sobraon', or a World War Two battle honour would be an improvement, but all suggestions were ignored.

Apart from its name it certainly was not dull, and for a Victorian barracks quite attractive. From an officers point of view being on the edge of Richmond Park with the West End of London just up the road, plus Lords, the Oval, Twickenham and several well known race courses nearby it was ideally situated. That the barracks was attractive was reflected in a report printed in the 'Surrey Comet' when it was being built in 1874, it had "by no means an unhandsome appearance".

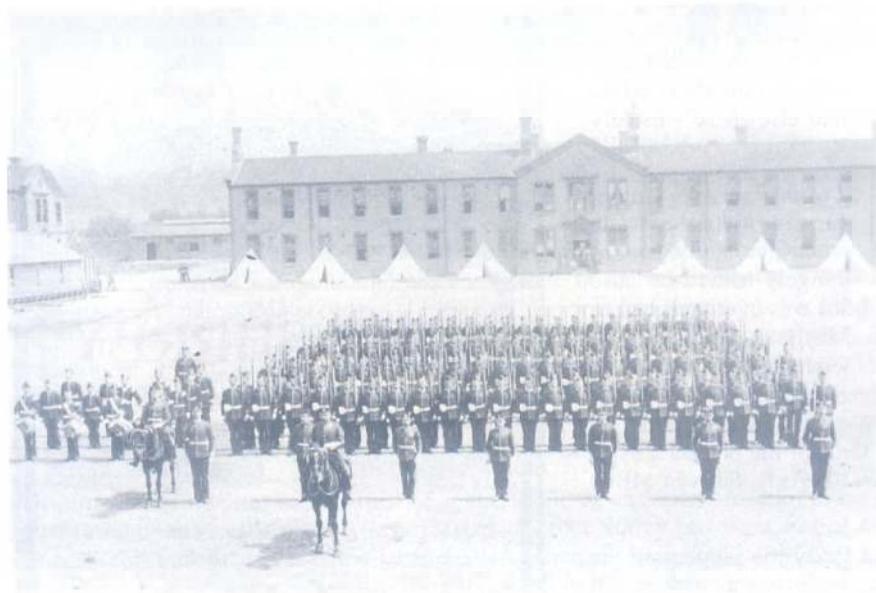
It was built on agricultural land, the fields of Park Farm still being shown on three sides of it on a map of 1879. Park Farm belonged to Lord Liverpool, what the war department paid for it is not known, but its buildings themselves cost £40,000.

No doubt there have always been soldiers stationed in Kingston. Situated at a Thames crossing and on the road between London and Portsmouth it was always a busy place. Seven Anglo-Saxon kings were crowned in the King's town, and later its proximity to Hampton Court Palace probably added to its importance. In 1554 the protestant Sir Thomas Wyatt attempted to overthrow Queen Mary, but after burning the bridge his rebellion came to nothing. One hundred of his followers, including himself were executed in the town as traitors.

It is recorded that regular troops, including the 8th Foot (later the Kings Liverpool Regt) were stationed in Kingston in 1685 and this is not surprising when considering the troublesome reign of King James II. Most of his standing army was usually on standby at Hounslow Heath which is only a few miles away. Regulars in those days were billeted out on the civilian population, this being one of the reasons why the army at home was unpopular, and later why it was more convenient to keep most troops abroad. The Militia and volunteer units being locals could usually live at home or be billeted near by. Garrisons were mostly kept in fortresses and castles for strategic purposes. Barracks as such were not required until Victorian times; but early in the 19th century there was a Militia barracks in the Fairfield.



The barracks in Kings Road were built in 1874 and became the depot of the East Surrey Regiment, which was awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 1944. When the Regiment merged with the Queen's Regiment, the barracks closed. Only the castellated entrance shown in the picture remains today.



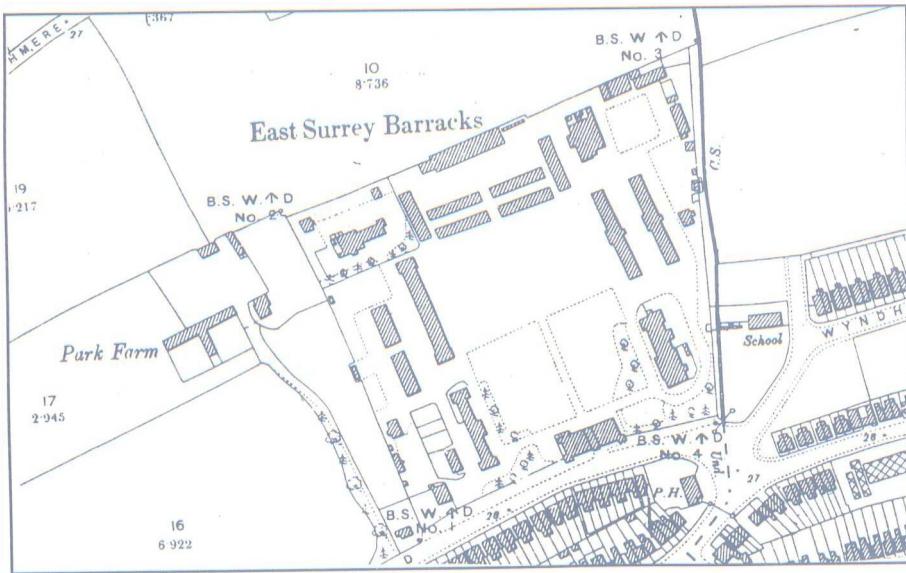
Depot The East Surrey Regiment, Kingston -upon-Thames, June 1885

thousand stand of arms, with another 2120 weapons accommodated over the whole of the upper floor. (They could presumably have been mainly Martini-Henrys, though the bottom windows had "iron bars and musket ball proof shutters!)

In another fine building was situated canteen, bar, tap room, recreation rooms and library, etc. Facing the Keep was a drill shed 130 feet by 20. Another prominent building housed the hospital, which included two wards, infections ward and nearby a small mortuary and dissecting room. There were quarters for 31 married soldiers, and returning towards the entrance "commodious quarters" for the Quartermaster, CO's room, tailors' shop and offices for The Militia. Behind this was a wash-house, wool stores and coal yard.

In 1782 county titles were introduced for Regiments of Infantry, ostensibly to foster a connection with a particular county, but primarily to establish a base for the ever present problem of raising recruits. In April 1873, eight years before their final amalgamation, the 31st and 70th were linked together into 47 Sub-District Brigade. The Brigade Depot was established at Kingston and it was here that recruits for the two Regiments were trained. The Barracks were designed by the Royal Engineers as a 'Brigade Depot Centre', and recruits for the 31st Foot, then in Gibraltar, and recruits for the 70th Foot, then in India were to be trained there. The barracks were built in 1874/75 and according to the Surrey Comet, 'it was the last word in barracks building for its time'. Its designer was a Major Siddon, RE.

To the left of the Keep archway were the guard room, cells, prisoners day room, and on the right armourers stores with racks for a



### *The Barracks c 1879*

prices. A cup of tea or coffee is sold at a penny, and a large slice of bread and a liberal piece of sausage may be had for a penny ha'penny".

The Cardwell Reforms finally abolished the old numerical titles, and the 31st and 70th, whose recruits had been training together for several years, were amalgamated to form the new East Surrey Regiment. Recruiting for the new Regiment began in 1881 and continued unbroken until 1958. (Each Regiment had 2 battalions, one at home and one overseas).



Pte Draper with the football he kicked at Montauban and wearing a captured German hat.

was here that the much respected Arthur Scriven (WO II A. R. Scriven MBE) worked as OROMS.

Beyond the Crimea huts was the playing field, and lastly the piggery in the efficient hands of Mr Bill Reid. Sometimes there were one or two small R.A.S.C. units hidden away somewhere and usually known as the 'grocers', one of which was responsible for the rations used on the first Everest expedition.

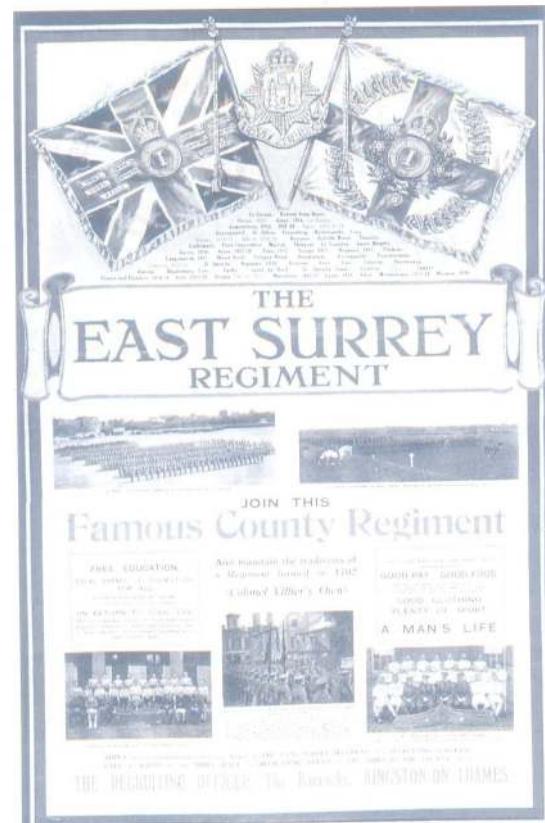
Much could be written of the many characters who at various times served at the Depot. For over 20 years Miss Dodd ran the NAAFI, helped by her pretty assistant, Doris. When the barracks closed down Miss Dodd was presented with a silver salver by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell VC. Gold watches were also given to Bill Reid and Jasper Dineen. Bill Reid

All the floors of passages and landings throughout were of artificial stone the cement from which this was made having been tested "by Mr. Onslow" to a pressure of 800lb to 1000lb. The single mens' blocks were fitted with ventilating stoves, the married men having a range, oven and boiler. The officers' rooms had Captain Galton's patent ventilating grates.

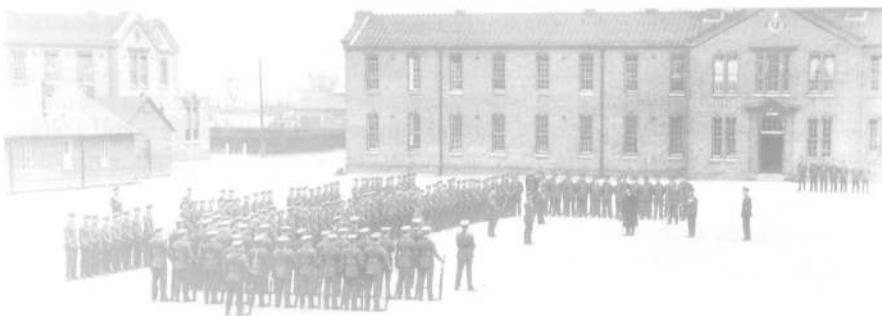
The playing fields, where it says East Surrey Barracks on the map must have been added some years later. There was a library, reading room and gymnasium. *"Here young fellows are put through a course in gymnastics which very soon expands their chests and develops their muscles so that during their five or six months service as recruits a very great difference is made in their physique. The coffee-shop is laid out as a restaurant with marble-topped tables. Here a soldier may obtain extra food at extremely reasonable*



*Kingston Barracks 1914. Recruits coming in*



### *Pre-war recruiting poster*



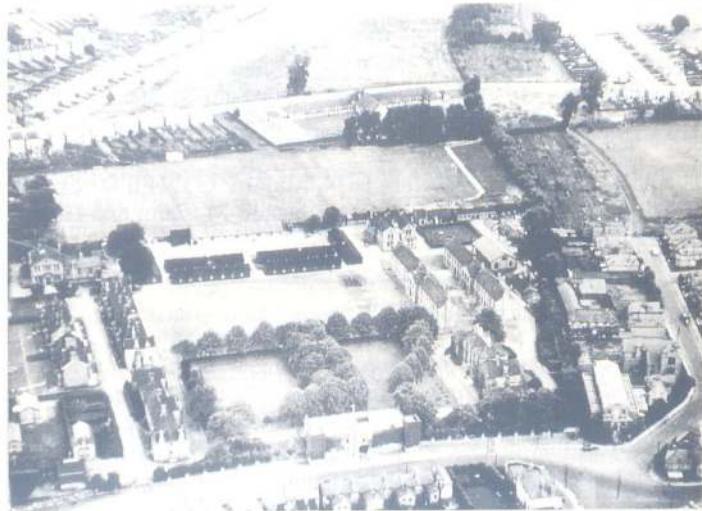
*Recruits and Reservists being addressed by the Colonel of the Regiment,  
Major General Sir John Longley KCMG, CB - July 1939*

after his fruit trees. This left the new OC with 60 pigs and no-one to look after them! Several National Service men eagerly volunteered presumably in order to get out of basic training. It did not work out, and as soon as possible the pigs were disposed of in Kingston market.

'Rosie' Sutton (Major A L Sutton MC) commanded in the war and later as an RO III until closedown. Always cheerful with an infectious laugh he was devoted to the Regiment. He spent most of his time as secretary to the Colonel of the Regiment, and when one bold CO suggested that he might take on other duties such as MTO or PMC., he was given a withering look. He had the highest standards, even if at times somewhat out of date. He did not take kindly to WRAC officers visiting the mess, or American officers coming to a guest night. He was quite bemused when he discovered that the last OC Depot was going to Kingston College of Art, to learn drawing and painting, one evening a week. He lived for the Regiment and we all owe him a great debt.



*250th Anniversary Parade of the raising of the Regiment - 1952*



*Pre-War aerial photograph of the Depot*

One person to whom all Surreys owe so much is Peter Hill (Major P G E Hill). It is he above all who has looked after the records and archives of the regiment for so many years. But for him much of our history might never have been recorded.

The writer driving back from London one evening was thumbed-down in the King's road, Chelsea, by a smart young Surrey's soldier. When tactfully asked what he did he explained that he was doing his National Service in Kingston barracks, and was thoroughly enjoying it! The food was good, the NCO's helpful. In half an hour OC Depot discovered more about his command than he would have learnt on endless conferences. At least one man was happy with his lot; but his face fell and he was somewhat surprised when the car turned into the Keep and he discovered that he had been discussing army life with his commanding officer! George Will the professional at Walton Heath Golf Club was called up for his National Service. The C.O. being a kind man made him sports storeman after finishing basic training, as a year in Cyprus with the 1st Bn. would not have helped his career. He was entered for the Army Golf Championships, which he easily won. OC Depot received a rocket for allowing a private soldier, and a National Service man at that, to take part. Later George Will became famous in the golfing world.

ORQMS Camp was not the smartest of soldiers, and it was unfair for him to be nicknamed "Harry the Tramp". During the war as a POW in the Far East he secretly kept records of other Surrey prisoners so that after the war their stories would not be lost. How he managed this under the eyes of the Japanese was extremely hazardous. CSM Clemens was also a POW in Malaya. Before the war he had been Army cross-country champion, yet after all his hardships he managed the London Marathon for several years before his death. So many more names come to mind. The last QM was Jack Cox (Major J C Cox MBE) who had served in India, the Sudan, and France in 1939 as pioneer sergeant. ORQMS Hoddinott was the last of those in the orderly room - and not a bad cricketer. RSM Woolley came from the Grenadier Guards and served with the 1st Bn in Sicily, and all the way up Italy. The last RSM was Peter Collman a model of smartness and efficiency.

The home of the Regiment is now no more, but apart from its uninspiring name it was never a dull place. Most Surreys must have happy memories of having served there. Connections with the Regiment still remain. The Regimental War Memorial consists of the Trinity Chapel in the parish church, and at the entrance the memorial gates with The East Surrey badge.

had served with the Regiment in Gibraltar in the twenties. Day in, day out, he worked stripped to the waist, in all winds and weathers, looking after the 'piggery' and the gardens. He could never be given an order. Everything had to be tactfully suggested to him so that in the end he would have thought he had worked it out by himself!. Jasper Dineen had been in the Leinsters. (On the formation of the Irish Republic many Irish regiments were absorbed into the British Army). He was the QM's storeman, and also 'Rosie' Sutton's batman.

When the last but one OC Depot left (Major A C A Cater) he took Bill Reid with him to look

Of the barracks only the Keep now remains and as it has been for over 100 years. The rest of the buildings are now demolished and the 14 acres turned into attractive marined quarters. In 1952 the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames referred to the East Surreys as 'our soldiers'. Although the name has changed so it must remain.

In 1995 a plaque was unveiled on the wall of the Keep by the Mayor, in the presence of many old soldiers and Les Wilson (Lt Col L M Wilson MBE) who arranged and organised the occasion. Among other sentiments it states that this was the home of the regiment between 1875 and 1958.



Depot The East Surrey Regiment  
Members of the Corporals Mess, Spring, 1958



Entrance to Depot The East Surrey Regiment  
Kingston-upon-Thames

R.C.T.

#### Acknowledgments

Thanks to - The Surrey Comet 1874, Major P G E Hill for extracts from 'Farewell to Kingston', The Public Records Office, Kew. Mr T Everson. Local History Officer. Kingston Museum and Heritage Service and the Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment museum, Clandon.

#### One hundred years ago - 1897

1 Surreys was stationed at Jhansi and Nowgong, India, under command of Lt Col F F F Roupell. The Battalion was reported to be ".... exceptionally efficient and fit for field service." The report also mentioned that the individual intelligence and initiative shown by all ranks was especially observed. Shortly after its arrival at Jhansi two officers died of enteric fever making a total of seven officers who had died of that disease within four years. One of those officers was Lieutenant Walker, whose mother left a legacy of a thousand pounds to the officers' mess in his memory. From this legacy the magnificent set of Silver Drums was purchased in 1926.

2 Surreys was stationed at Dover under command of Lt Col R H W H Harris, who later commanded the Battalion in the Boer War, when on 23rd February 1900 he was wounded nine times and was rescued under fire by Pte A E Curtis aided by Pte T Morton. Pte Curtis was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallant conduct and Pte Morton the Distinguished Conduct Medal. While at Dover the Battalion combined the usual garrison duties with training and much ceremonial drill in preparation for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Volunteer Battalions (later to be named the 5th and 6th Bns The East Surrey Regiment and the 23rd London Regiment) with Headquarters respectively in Wimbledon, Kingston and Clapham Junction were engaged at their various drill halls and ranges in musketry and close order drill.

#### Father and Son



In Pensioner Whiting and his son, Guildford Cathedral

#### The London Regiment - The Courage Trophy

A team of Territorial soldiers from The London Regiment won London District's prestigious award - The Courage Trophy. Eight soldiers from B Company based at Edgware and Hornsey won the coveted prize, beating thirty two other teams from all over London to first place. Competing against teams from 10 Para and 101 Engr Commandos the Territorial soldiers faced a gruelling weekend including assault courses, forced marches, night navigation, shooting and cross-country driving - most of which the B Company team won outright. It was tough work - but the winners were rewarded not only with the trophy, but also a generous supply of beer from the contest's sponsor, Courage Breweries!

Well done the Territorials of The London Regiment

## Between the lines

Railway enthusiast and former Queen's man Ray Ruffell has forwarded to the Editor an interesting account of his service in Malaya in terrorist days when he was able to combine his soldierly activities with his railway interests.

A member of the 1st Battalion, Ruffell arrived in Singapore with colleagues after travelling from Southampton in the MV *Georgic* to become part of the 17th Gurkha Division who were engaged on anti-terrorist duties. Soon they were on their way by train to Gemas which, as Ruffell says, was to be their home for the next eighteen months. For him the initial attraction was not that of the new territory but was the technical details of the train in which they were travelling and the track they were traversing contrasting features of the "*Great Western coloured coaches*", pulled by a "*564 Pacific*" engine, were the facts that while some of the coaches had open verandas the engine was fronted with armour plating.

Gemas was a small railway town at the junction of the main Kuala Lumpur line and the east coast line to Tumpat. The army camp, consisting of tents and tin huted buildings was close to the railway line which it was the duty of the troops to guard. This task was a welcome one for Ruffell. Less welcome were night time guard duties, on the first of which there was a surprising and rather too close encounter with a prowling tiger which was approaching the camp, but which thankfully made off when detecting the presence of the understandably nervous sentries. But the night guard duty had its compensations as, among other things, it entailed going down to the railway junction to pick up mail from the north and south bound trains. This led to Ruffell making friendly contact with railway officials.

Journeys through the jungle by day were on foot and the terrain could be variously interesting, beautiful and dangerous. Tigers seemed to be numerous on the ground and even more alarming was a narrow escape from a herd of stampeding elephants who resented the presence of soldiers at their regular watering hole. With his attention seemingly off the railway for the time being, Ruffell was able to contemplate the exotic plant, bird and insect life before him, but the occasional interruptions of predatory animals caused him to describe the jungle as "*a beautiful but cruel place*". Coming out of the jungle after a seven week tour of duty, nothing could have been more welcome for Ruffell than the sight of a Malayan 531 class railway engine at the head of a lengthy mixed train. He describes the resulting trip in wooden seated 3rd class carriages as a luxury.

Further connections with railway personnel, combined with guard duties on trains, led to him being sometimes allowed

to travel on the footplates of some locomotives and occasionally actively drive them. Loads of some of the goods trains were varied, consisting of such things as oil, timber, latex timber and bananas. When a leave period intervened, Ruffell, instead of going to the normal leave camp at Penang, managed to persuade his OC to let him go on a tour of Malaysian railways. The whole thing was on an unofficial basis with Ruffell travelling in plain clothes and keeping his Army identity secret. (On one occasion he was actually referred to unwittingly by an Army officer as a "*railway chappy*").

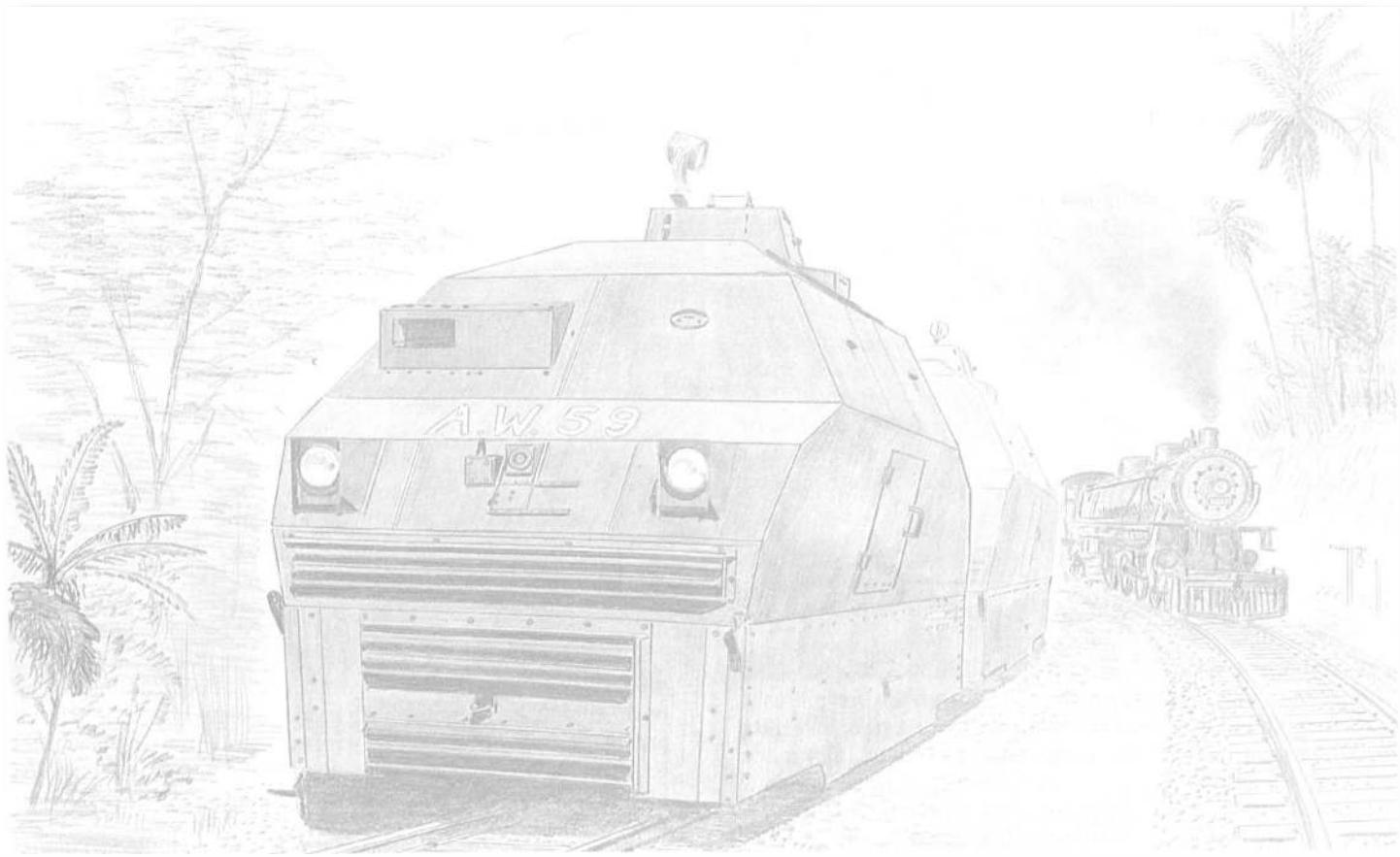
His first journey took him to Singapore and on the return route he travelled in the cab with the driver handling the regulator for part of the way. Various types of locomotives and carriages passed before his practised eye, ranging from heavy "*Pacifics*" to a small shunting "*Baldwin*". After a change of trains at Gemas, Ruffell set off again on the East coast line. A significant factor on the train was the presence of two truckloads of earth in front of the engine to set off any lurking mines. Further along the line Ruffell transferred to a train known as the *Golden Blowpipe Express*, named after hunting weapons used by earlier aborigines of the area. An unwelcome interloper was a wild boar who charged the engine head-on but retired somewhat the worse for his attack. More welcome on the train was a former railwayman who, after being blown up on an engine, had become a Malaysian Police Inspector. Ruffell had interesting conversations with him at the the time and later renewed the acquaintance when they found themselves engaged on joint Army/Police anti-terrorist activities.

An overnight stay at a Railway Officers' Rest Home at Tumpat resulted in mutually interesting conversations with local officials. The return journey to Gemas was exciting, the natural animal hazards of tigers and elephants being supplemented by evidence of mining attacks. Overnight travel to Kuala Lumpur revealed a railway station which Ruffell describes as "*one of the most ornate and beautiful in the world*" - more like a palace with its turrets and minarets. Onward passage to Ipoh revealed more varied rail traffic, some of it passing through steep mountainous country. A stay at the little town of Alor Star obviously had its dangers as Ruffell was offered police escort to a hotel or the possibility of overnight residence at the

police station. Having regard to the still unofficial status of his travels, he chose the hotel but noticed that a policeman remained on guard outside his door all night.

Travelling south from Prai he thought his civilian disguise may have been penetrated by the numerous service personnel on board but luck was with him.

Armoured Wickham Railcar No.AW34 + Malay Police and Queen's soldiers wait in loop line near Tampin  
Malayan Railway 4-6.2 553.03 (North British 1930) Heads a Singapore bound freight in 1954



Armoured Wickham Railcars used in Malaya during the Emergency (1950s)

Returning to his base at Gemas at the end of his leave Ruffell told his interested OC of his adventures and was then told that he was just in time to join a chase and ambush of some terrorists. Accompanied by an Iban tracker they penetrated deep into the jungle where they once encountered a python and heard lurid tales from their tracker and local natives about poisonous spiders and a mythical huge monster (apparently of Loch Ness proportions). Nature showed its violence one night at South Johol when a terrifying thunderstorm occurred. Despite extensive damage there were thankfully no casualties. A hazard of a different nature occurred at Mount Ophir when the camp was invaded by hordes of ants. Larger enemies were crocodiles which were found at Pengerang Peninsular.

Some more acquaintances with railways and railway folk was made by Ruffell while in Singapore. He endeavoured to extend his travels to Borneo at one stage but necessary permission was not forthcoming. Nature again showed her teeth at Gemas

when monsoon rains resulted in heavy flooding. Food had to be taken to beleaguered villages in a combined Army/Police operation. Helicopters eventually had to be used.

Ruffell sadly records the loss of several friends, presumably by terrorist activities, at Fort Iskander. Guarding the tarpaulin covered bodies while awaiting the arrival of helicopter hearses was a melancholy task. A trip home in the troopship *Devonshire* ended the Malaysian tour. Still railway minded, Ruffell managed a visit to the loco sheds at Colombo during a stop by the ship. On through the heat of Aden, he soon found himself back in the cold and damp of England at Liverpool but later he was warmed by the news that his old job in the railway sheds was still open to him.

With happy memories of his Army Service and travels he was soon "back on track" in Civvy Street.

RR & RF

#### Can you name them?



The Lance Corporal does look rather familiar? Note the sandals and the badge worn in the centre of the head! Not A Company!!

#### President's Reception



The President presenting a cheque to the Chief Executive of Gifford House, Colonel Peter Hewlett-Smith, on behalf of our Trustees

## South Africa 1899-1902

### 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal West Surrey, 2nd Battalion The East Surrey

The Battle Honour, South Africa, 1899 - 1902, is borne on the colours and appointments of practically every Infantry regiment in the army and in the cavalry only 5 regiments were unfortunate not to participate in the campaign. Together with their Militia Battalions and Volunteer Companies and with troops from India and the Dominions most of the British Army was involved in the war, numbering some 400,000 men.

Two medals were awarded for this campaign, one with the head of Queen Victoria and the other with the head of King Edward VII. There were 23 clasps which could be appended to the Queen's medal and the two date clasps, South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902. Both the Queen's and the East Surreys have the Relief of Ladysmith clasp and both date clasps. Surprisingly few Battle Honours were authorized for the two and a half years duration of the war. Out of the six, both the Queen's and the East Surreys carried two with pride, those for The Relief of Ladysmith and for South Africa, 1899 - 1902.

The relationship between the British Government and the Boers had never been cordial and war became unavoidable when the British High Commissioner became convinced the Boers intended to establish a Dutch United States of South Africa. On October 9, 1899 an ultimatum was handed to the Agent in Pretoria couched in such terms to render hostilities inevitable. War was declared on the 11th October, 1899. Both 2nd Battalions of the Queen's and East Surrey's embarked within a few weeks and the Queen's Joined the East Surrey's at Durban early in November.

Both regiments formed part of the Second Brigade of the First Division together with the 2nd Devons and 2nd West Yorks. During summer manoeuvres earlier in the year the brigade had worked together as a unit so they were familiar with each other's good training, high morale and fitness. However it soon became apparent that the training was inappropriate for dealing with the Boers who knew every inch of the ground and had learned from the Zulus the penalty of not shooting straight. They were, in fact excellent and fanatical guerilla soldiers.

There is not space here to detail the history of the war nor to apportion blame on the lack of foresight of the politicians who had earlier refused to re-arm our Artillery with modern quick-firing weapons, the result being that that our guns were outranged and outclassed throughout the campaign. Vital supplies amounting to 1.3 million tons of stores, 470,000 horses and 150,000 mules were not shipped until after the declaration of war. Six months earlier, the Commander-in-Chief had applied for permission to mobilise an army corps on Salisbury Plain, and to convert existing waggons to mule draught. It was not until October 8 that the first order to mobilise was sanctioned and the first reinforcements did not leave the country until the third week of the month, two weeks after the declaration of war.

The Boers assumed the offensive from the beginning and were in action on the 12 October. Our forces in South Africa, amounting to 20,000 men, were widely stretched over a 1000 mile front and from the outset it was obvious that we had underestimated the strength of the Boers. They very soon had shut up Ladysmith with the bulk of the troops in South Africa. Kimberley and Mafeking were soon to follow.

The Boers had besieged Ladysmith on 9 November and were raiding south towards Tugela River, threatening the whole of Natal. The 2nd Brigade moved from Pietermaritzburg to Frere. The Queen's first action was the attack on the village of Colenso on the 15 December. This became known as the 'Black Week' of British defeats and was an attempt to force the Tugela River. The Battalion was ordered to advance across flat open country in open order. The Boers, in well-prepared positions, put all the British artillery out of action by accurate fire. The Queen's, supported by the East Surreys, managed to gain the village but were then ordered to withdraw having lost a 100 men. For a month the troops remained in camp, watching the Boers strengthen their positions on the other side of the Tugela River. The river was crossed, eventually, on the 18 January and on the 20 of January two companies of the Queen's were ordered to make a frontal attack on a Boer position to cover a flanking movement by other units on Bastion Hill. Frontal attacks against the Boers were not a good idea. One officer was killed and three others out of five were hit. One, Lieutenant Smith, was shot in the chest but managed to lead his men on until he fell. He crawled into cover and managed to sketch the enemy positions before he dragged himself back to where the company were taking cover. He was commended in General Orders for his coolness and courage.

About this time the Queen's and East Surreys were joined by their 3rd (Militia) Battalions. The East Surreys also had their 4th (Extra Reserve Battalion). The Volunteer Company of the Queen's were to join them later. It was an historical event when the volunteers joined the regulars in action.

The position at Ladysmith was further jeopardised by the defeat at Spion Kop on 24 January. This was another attempt to turn the Boers flank and relieve Ladysmith. The defeat forced the troops to recross the Tugela River. Another attempt to force the Boer defences was made on the 5 February. The Queen's and East Surreys had relieved the Durham Light Infantry and 60th Rifles on Vaal Kranz Hill and remained there for thirty six hours under intense rifle and artillery fire, several men being killed or wounded. With the rest of the 2nd Brigade they made a skilful evacuation of the hill late on the evening of the 7 February.

Ever since Colenso the Boers had been constructing a defensive system four miles north of the Tugela River, which blocked the route to Ladysmith. It was taken in a battle that started on the 17 February and lasted for eleven days, The Queen's objective was a feature known as Monte Cristo. It was captured at the bayonet in an attack in which Lieutenant Smith, seriously wounded less than five weeks earlier, played a gallant part. (He was awarded the DSO at the end of the war).

In the darkness at two o'clock in the morning of the 28 February the Boers withdrew from their positions. The Natal Defence Force entered Ladysmith on the 3 March, 1900 just four months after it was besieged. After two months rest the Queen's were joined by their Volunteer Company.

During May and June the fight continued in the Biggarsberg and Drakensberg Mountains. The Queen's and East Surreys drove the Boers from the Biggarsberg range and fought a brisk and gallant action to capture Allemands Nek.





As the Boers began falling back to Pretoria, the regiments went into reserve. During the following years the units of the 2nd Brigade were dispersed and employed in the boring tasks of guard duties on the lines of communication. The Queen's being responsible for twenty miles of railway line. For the rest of the war and until peace was signed on 31 May, 1902 the Battalions were called upon to find detachments which marched for weary miles, spent nights on outpost duty and saw little further action.

In January, 1903 the 2nd East Surreys embarked at Durban for Bombay to relieve the 1st Battalion at Lucknow. In June, 1904 the 2nd Queen's returned to England and was stationed at Shorncliffe.

#### Private A E Curtis, VC

The East Surrey Regiment claimed its first Victoria Cross in the name of Private, later Sergeant, A E Curtis. The citation states:

*"On 23 February, 1900, Colonel Harris lay all day long in a perfectly open space under close fire of a Boer breastwork. The Boers fired all day at any man who moved and Colonel Harris was wounded eight or nine times. Pte Curtis, after several attempts, succeeded in reaching the Colonel, bound his wounded arm and gave him his flask, all under fire. He then tried to carry him away but was unable, on which he called for assistance and Pte Morton came out at once. Fearing his men would be killed, Colonel Harris told them to leave him but they declined and, after trying to carry the Colonel on their rifles, they made a chair with their hands and so carried him out of the fire".*

Queen Victoria, herself, had honoured the Queen's 2nd Battalion earlier when she had gifts of pipes for distribution to the best men of the Battalion and, on another occasion had sent a scarf, knitted by herself, for the most deserving Non-Commissioned Officer or man, the recipient being Colour Sergeant Ferret of D Company.

#### Captions to the colour plates

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

*Top: Elements of the leather Sam Brown equipment for officers. Top left: Sergeant Major in Drill Order, Home service 1899. China and India General Service Medals. Top right: Lance Corporal in Marching Order, Home service 1899. Bottom left: Quartermaster Sergeant in Foreign Service Dress wearing the serge tunic and slouch hat issued in South Africa, 1900. Bottom right: Private in Foreign Service Dress at the beginning of the South African campaign 1899. Centre: Field Officer in Foreign Service Dress, South Africa 1899. 2nd Lieutenant in Blue Patrol jacket, 1900. The Jubilee medal 1899. Bottom centre: The gold and silk embroidered officers' forage cap badge.*

##### 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

*Top: Officers' forage cap badge. Left: Officers' field service cap, 2nd Battalion. Right: Officers' field service cap, 3rd and 4th Battalions. Top left: Sergeant in Foreign Service Dress, South Africa, 1899. Top right: Corporal in Foreign Service Dress, South Africa, 1899. Bottom left: Private in scarlet serge frock, Home Service, 1899. Bottom right: Colour Sergeant in Drill Order, Home Service, 1898. Egypt and Khedive medals. Centre: Officer in Scarlet Patrol, Home Service, 1899. Egypt and Khedive medals. Captain in Foreign Service Dress, South Africa, 1900. Bottom centre: The Victoria Cross.*

#### The Army Horse

Many years ago the Queen's and Surreys, together with numerous other Army units, bade a reluctant "Farewell to the Horse" as is commemorated in various forms in the Museum at Clandon. But the equine friend was not to be as easily disposed of to history as some people may have thought. An item in the Sunday Telegraph of 21st September shows that troops of the King's Royal Hussars have currently forsaken their armoured vehicles in Bosnia to be re-mounted on horses in their former cavalry role. The difficult terrain, unsuitable for vehicular traffic, is better traversed "on the hoof".

Richard Ford, former Museum Curator, has paid his own tribute to the horse in verse.

##### *The Cavalry horse behind the Queen*

*Plays his part in the pageant scene.  
Or stands on guard in the Whitehall street  
As still as the rider in his seat.*

*The Artillery horse with nerves of steel  
Gallops in front of the limber wheel.  
With thundering hooves he swerves and steers  
As the watching crowd applauds and cheers.*

*They come of a breed that went to war,  
Mid trumpet's blare and cannon's roar,  
And gave their lives in the country's need,  
What a debt we owe to the Army steed.*

Another of Richard's poems, *THOUGHTS OF A POLICE HORSE*, has been cassette tape-recorded and published by the International Library of Poetry.

#### Annual Church Service



*John Cotton showing Lt Col Peter Swanson some photos of his father the late Major Paul Swanson*



*Tommy Atkins, the President, Colonel John Davidson and Maj Gen Michael Forrester*

# LETTERS



## Major Jock Haswell writes:-

You were kind enough to print on page 23 of the Hong Kong Supplement to the May 1997 Newsletter an excerpt from my little history of The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment concerning the Peking Vase and the brief story of the discovery of it among the shattered remains of a much bigger vase that had contained it.

I remember the big blue vase very well, it stood in a corner of the anteroom in the officers' Mess in Allahabad - we never knew there was anything inside it. I wrote that the cylindrical vase inside the big one was '*too beautiful or too valuable perhaps to see the light of day in the Imperial Court of China.*'

In 1984 and '85 I spent a total of seven weeks in Peking with my younger son who was Second Secretary in the British Embassy. I learned then that any ceramic masterpiece created by any manufacturer in China had to be duplicated and one of them sent to the Emperor. They were always packed in a wickerwork cage inside a much bigger vase made specially for transportation. I also learned that a cellar in the Summer Palace in Peking had been full of these large vases, all containing small ones. So, '*too valuable to see the light of day*' was nonsense, but the Peking Vase in the National Army Museum is a piece of regimental history.

## B E Wood writes:-

The piece on page 15 of the May 1997 Newsletter unleashed memories that had lain dormant for 50 years. I was with the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Kharakvasla when we were sent on an exercise to 'show the flag'.

It wasn't too long before our return to UK. We drove to the bottom of the Ghats where we parked under a large sign in English, Hindi and Urdu which was a warning about the danger of crossing the Ghats at night. As we waited until it was dark then began a long climb. The road led along many miles of sheer cliff on one side and sheer drop on the other. There were many hair pin bends, where our headlights just showed a void in front. From time to time we saw the remainder of the convoy a long way below us down the sheer drop.

After showing the flag for many a mile, we came one day to a village where we were called together to be told that the ruler of a state in Non-British India called Janjira was having problems with his people made up of Hindus and Moslems.

The ruler had asked for 600 British troops to keep the peace. Our officer said we can't let him have 600 so we are sending 20, in one 3 tonner to carry troops, and a 15cwt radio vehicle. We only had one radio vehicle so there was no argument there but a volunteer was called for the 3 tonner. Although there was a saying "*never volunteer for anything*". I found my hand going up. So I loaded up with troops and drove my 3 ton Canadian Dodge to Janjira.

There were no bridges to get into the state and no roads once we got there, only red dust tracks. There was a river as the border so the first vehicle across the river was a 15cwt Dodge fitted with a capstan and cable at the front. Troops waded across the river, fixed the cable to a tree and pulled the 15 cwt across helped by its own engine. Once that was safely over it was lashed to trees and my 3 tonner was pulled over. We made our camp in a village, sleeping in a rat infested hut on the floor, but eventually invited to the rulers residence where we spent a pleasant day on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

The officer in charge of our little expedition was a 2nd Lt whose name escapes me but he was recently out of Bristol University. He was an excellent man, and I hope he has had a very pleasant 50 years since then. There are many little anecdotes about that period in non-British India but I don't suppose anybody is interested so I will close.

## Major John Barrow writes:-

Once again my sincere thanks for sending along the latest Newsletter. I am as ever, most impressed with the publication especially the supplement. The article on Hong Kong and the pictures of Lo Wu in particular were of great interest because when with 1 Wilts in Hong Kong in 1950, two of our companies A and B, moved into the newly built huts or rather bungalow type barrack accommodation.

I remember the hill with the badges on, more added of course since that photo was taken, for I used to use it as part of the training for drafts going to 1 KSLI, 1 Leicesters and 1 DWR in Korea. Obviously like many others, I shall be looking forward to reading of your journeys on your well deserved trip of nostalgia.

With Best Wishes

## Richard Ford writes:

Dear Les

My sincere thanks for the warm support I received from members of the Museum and the Association, particularly yourself, during Mary's illness and death. The representation at the funeral and the subsequent kind tributes in the Newsletter have all been most heartening and comforting to me.

During our time at the Museum Mary and I were always made to feel part of the Regimental family - a sentiment we both enjoyed and which I personally still continue to enjoy by reason of my much prized honorary membership of the Association.

## A J Park writes:-

I enclose my cheque for my subscriptions to the Newsletters and also for next year, the months go by so quick I don't realise, I have not paid my subscription.

On page 38 Newsletter May 1997 No. 61. A W Butler from Telford sent in two photographs, one of a boxing team and one of a horse transport section. I do not know the horse transport section but the boxing team I know. It was C Coy, and it was taken in Colchester 1937, not Shorncliffe 1936. I am back row one from the end on the right next to the big fellow who I

believe was L/Cpl Perry who was also in the battalion tug-of-war team, the others I cannot remember except for the officers who were still in the same Coy with me in Shanghai and Malaya. Thanks once again for the Newsletter.

**G P Doherty** one of the 'Fighting Irish' of the 1st Bn Queen's Surreys writes in indignation that the achievements of the 'fighting Irish' was not recorded in the supplement on China and Hong Kong! He enclosed a small, very faded picture and newspaper article from The Hong Kong Tiger Standard of May 15 1963. Sadly we are unable to reproduce the picture because it is so faded but as a tribute to our many Irishmen who have served in the ranks of our Regiments and in particular those who served in Hong Kong, we reproduce an extract from the paper below:-

#### Extract from The Hong Kong Tiger Standard

##### *Irishmen stage rally to score soccer win*

*"The 'fighting' Irish from the First Battalion, Royal Queen's Surreys demonstrated their "never say die" spirit at Sookunpoo yesterday with a grand come-from-behind 3-2 soccer victory over a Headquarters Land Forces Eleven.*

*Trailing 2-0 at half time, the Irishmen rallied strongly in the second half scoring three goals without reply to emerge worthy winners of the challenge match.*

*J Marshall, the Irish inside-left was the hero of the game, scoring his side's first (fourth minute) and third goal (26th minute) with left half P McGrath netting the second goal in the 15th minute.*

The 'Irish Team' were, P Rundle, M Freeman, ? Glazier, R McMullan, P (Scragger) Maye, P McGrath, F McMullan, G Doherty, J Dougan, J Marshall and S Burdock".

*Sadly 'Scragger' Mayes death is reported in this edition.*

##### **Bill Hill writes:-**

I was delighted to receive Newsletter Number 61, and to see you had managed to put my article in about Lance Corporal Jack Johnson. I hope it will reach the many who would have known him.

I was also sorry to read of the passing of Colonel 'Bill' Peet MC. I knew him quite well as my company commander in 'B' Coy 2/6th Queen's. We used to chat at the Salerno reunions, and he always started off by reminding me of a day in Tripoli when 2/6th Queen's won the 100 x 4 metres relay at the brigade championships.

The team was:- Major Bill Peet as he was then, Sgt Parson, Pte W Hill, Pte H Gough, Bill Peet also won the long jump. I must say I get a lot of pleasure from the Newsletters, there always seems something for everybody.

##### **C Wise writes:-**

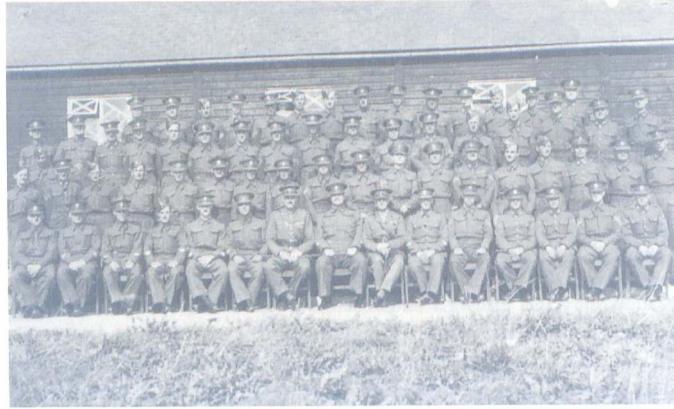
It was extremely kind of both Tony Ward and yourself to think of sending me the Newsletter of the Association. I have not read the whole and intend to do so as you suggested and take it to the hospital. I did however look at the supplement and was delighted to read of the drafts to China. I was on the 'Nevasa' trip and the 'Wu Sung' and seem to remember that we drank the latter out of cherry brandy.

As with many other ex-Territorials I did join the Old Comrades Association but again, as others, let my membership lapse. I

was very fortunate when a POW in Changhi as I missed the railway, remaining instead to operate one of the illicit wireless sets and run the Officers' Area office under Major Portal. Thank you again, I do appreciate the gesture.

##### **Ex CSMI Jack Williams APTC writes from Powys, Wales:-**

Dear Editor, Herewith as promised some detail in regard to the 308 ITC at Devizes, Wilts, to which I was attached in 1940. This ITC was from The Queens Royal Regiment. The enclosed photo was taken in October 1940 and is of the WO's and Sergeants Mess. The OC was Lt Col O K Parker MC. The RSM - W Primer DCM., The SMI to the right of the OC was SMI H (Gypsy) Lee, APTC., The 7th from the right in the back row is myself - S I J Williams APTC. The mess members were mostly from the Queen's and Surreys.



308 ITC Devizes, 1940 (QRR ITC)

##### **Neville Jackson writes from Australia:-**

I was delighted as usual with the last copy of the magazine and particularly with the Hong Kong supplement. In fact, I learnt a few things I didn't know about my own background. I knew my father was in Hong Kong when I was born in the married quarters at Dover in Dec 1927 but I didn't realise they were there for two years before the families joined them at Malta.

I can remember quite a number of things about Tienstin and Peking and I know my parents had some photographs similar to what was printed in the magazine. I remember the horse drawn trolley at Shenaikan and also standing on what today is called Tiananmin Square looking at the Forbidden City. My parents also had a photograph of that parade at Sham Sui Po and the Queens badge on the hillside at Sun Wai Camp. All those old photographs of China and at Allahabad in India were lost during a massive flood here in Brisbane in 1974 when the water rose to such an extent it literally covered the roof of the house. What particularly interested me was the size of the Band and Drums. Not even in the Berlin Parades in 1948 did we have such a large body of musicians and drummers and I thought they were large in those days.

Thinking back to those days in China I remember RSM Tasker (He wasn't an RSM then of course). One day he picked me up and swung me onto the back of his neck - which gave me such a fright I wet myself. I gather he was not amused. Many years later in 1948 when I was posted as a young subaltern to Shorncliffe I met him again and reminded him of this incident. He wasn't even amused then but that was probably because he didn't have much time for young subalterns anyway. My father (Bob Jackson) was always very fond of RSM Tasker and often talked about him. Both he and my mother also mentioned Bill Roadnight quite a lot and I see from the magazine that he is still active around the regimental scene. I cannot remember his wife's name but I seem to visualise her as quite a small petite lady. Many years later Colonel Hull once told me how he remembered me as a "Barrack Rat" running around the place.

I can remember my parents had a very long (panoramic) photograph taken of all the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in Tienstin together with equivalent ranks of the other nationalities stationed there. I suppose that photograph is still around somewhere. There must have been at least 150 people in that photograph.

My wife Eileen and I are still working hard on our farm and planting all sorts of trees. We recently planted forty Mango trees to add to the thirty bearing trees we already possess. We have also branched out into olives which are of course in addition to the many hundreds of cabinet timbers we have already planted. Some of the early trees we planted are now over 25 foot high.

Please give my regards to all who know me from the past.

**F W Perchard writes:**

I am writing to express my appreciation and thanks for our splendid day at Howe Barracks on Monday last, for the presentation of New Colours to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. My father (William Perchard) was highly impressed by all that was going on, not the least with the attention paid to him as one of the oldest members of the former Queen's Royal Regiment present, and of course it made his day when he met Queen Margrethe.

The helpful and friendly attitude of the supervising NCO's was very welcome, the lunch was tasty and the ceremony itself was most impressive and moving. It was obvious that much hard work went into the event and the organisers are deserving of commendation. Now we await the next Newsletter, in the hope that it will contain some photographs of this very special occasion.

*Editor - see page 38.*

**D F S Papworth writes from India:-**

I write to thank you for the May Newsletter with the Hong Kong Supplement and for their early arrival. I would just like to mention how very sad it is to have news of the deaths of Major Dick Kensington and CSM 'Ace' Sheppard of the 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Much of the credit for the competence and distinction earned by this very fine Battalion under Colonel W G Duncombe and Colonel G S Grimston was in no small part due to their splendid leadership and example. We had the privilege of gallant comrades in action and true and lasting friends in a peace far removed from the comradeship of war.

How Les Wilson, with the generous assistance of Major Fowler, produce such a fine and consistent Newsletter of real quality I do not know. It has everything of the past, present and perhaps what obtains for the future. All those who contribute, Major Peter Hill and many more are wonderful. It is not just a 'Regimental' read either but of general interest into the fortunes of war and days of individual pride and accomplishment.

It is good to see Les Wilson safely back from the Orient - he appears in very good form and, hopefully, we may now have an edition in Mandarin, or that which prevails in his part of China. Could he not extend a re-propagation of our Hong Kong Lease within the walls of Canterbury.

**The Chindits**

The Royal British Legion is arranging the second tour to the Chindit area of operations, to take place in November 1998. The visit will include Myitkyina, Mogaung, White City,

Hopin, Mandalay, Maymyo and the Rangoon Cemeteries. A full brochure will be available in October of this year.

A video featuring Brigadier Michael Calvert, and supported by original newsreel and photographs is also available from the Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX. Price £10 plus £1.99 postage.

**Mrs Jean Shanks writes to the Editor:-**

Perhaps I should start this letter by introducing myself, I am the daughter of Tommy Atkins who I know you know very well, and having been born into the Regiment, and for the first ten or so years of my early life I spent with The Queen's Royal Regiment Families travelling from one end of the world to the other, namely, Germany, (Berlin and Iserlohn), Singapore, Malaya (Kuala Lumpur), Stoughton Barracks, Guildford and finally Canterbury, where in 1959 my father finally left the army.

My reason for this letter is that I would like to say through your Newsletter, a very big 'Thank you' to the Regiment for those very happy days I spent with the families of The Regiment in my formative years. Very recently, I was entertaining to Sunday lunch, Vic and Alice Aukett together with my parents, we started lunch at about 1 pm and before we knew it, it was 9.30 pm (2130 to us who know army time!).

The stories covered during that afternoon were wide and varied, and we laughed a lot about some of the tales. Vic Aukett in particular had me in stitches when he recounted as a young soldier how he collected 'Jankers' like a boy collecting 'conkers', he says he was always in trouble as a young soldier, at which my father chimed in to say "*and also later even with three stripes and a crown on your arm*".

We remembered John and Susie Styles, their daughter Pamela, Kath and Dick Wright, Derek and Margaret Adkins, Larry Gaines, Dinky Lampard, Fred Vance Cotsford oh and many more. There was a comradeship amongst the families of The Regiment I think equal to those of the men in the Regiment and something it is impossible to find its equal in civilian life.

My husband was originally in The Airborne Forces, but for the last few years of his army career was in The Royal Hampshire where again I found also a happy comradeship within the families. I enclose a photograph of Alice and Vic Aukett during their visit, if you can find space in your magazine for this letter and photos, perhaps it might reach some of our past friends to whom I send 'Happy Greetings'.



*Tommy Atkins and Vic Aukett accompanied by their wives inspect Cardwells Keep, Guildford. The building behind them was the RSM's Quarters, once occupied by Mr and Mrs Atkins. The road sign is Teviot Close.*

## Pat Patmore writes:-

May I through your letters page thank D/M Eric Lockwood for the coffee morning he and Mrs Desni Lockwood invited me to on my recent visit to Eastbourne. What he forgot to mention at the time was that CSM Bruce Dunkeld and C/Sgt Sid Lea (later RSM) would be there. I was really taken back. After 34 years it was a real delight to meet up again and chat about old times. Eric if you are thinking of "*setting me up again*", make it soon, I enjoyed every moment immensely. Thank you.



Left to Right:- Bruce Dunkeld, Eric Lockwood, Sid Lea and Pat Patmore

After four and a half hours I arrive back, having missed lunch. My long suffering wife Desney (same name, different spelling) is not amused. Last time I took her out I ruined her hat, this was at Canterbury for the Colours presentation, much to the amusement of our Editor. All is well now in North London, I have replaced the hat and been allowed back into the ancestral home to prepare for our Regimental Reunion in November, where I hope to meet Bruce and Sid again.

## Corps of Drums 1st Battalion The Queen's

I thought you would be interested in a small reunion that took place recently in the village of Hartfield in Sussex. It was of the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion The Queen's, 1966. A few members and their wives got together for drinks and a few well repeated tales were told of the various engagements we had in Münster and also East Grinstead and Bahrain.

As their old Drum Major it gave my wife and I so much pleasure to see them all again and still looking young after thirty years! I have enclosed a photograph of the gathering which shows from left to right:- Ray Brown, Fred Barker, Pete Darling, Derek Richard, Stewart Coutts, Tom Brown (Hartnet), 'Smudger' Smith, Alan Jones, Eric Lockwood and 'Chalky' White. Kneeling in front: Pete Crozier and Sean Burdock. We hope to have another reunion next year, so if there are any Drummers or Bandsmen of 1st Queen's 1966 period, who are interested please get in touch with Eric Lockwood on Eastbourne (01323) 642045.



## Letter to the Editor, Hong Kong again

The Hong Kong supplement to the Newsletter has obviously roused great interest and been closely read by members as is shown by a letter to the Editor by Lt Col Mike Lowry.

Commenting on typhoon Wanda he says a reported 100 mph plus wind hit the barracks not far from the epi-centre. From the lee side of the Battalion HQ block the CO and Adjutant witnessed the smashing in of the doors and windows of the Battalion cookhouse and Dining Hall. On checking up after the storm there were "*literally thousands of cups and plates strewn across the dining hall like confetti*". He adds, "*Perhaps a Quarter Master's nightmare. Or was it?*"

Of the damage at sea he states, "*At least three ships of about 1000 tons or so had been lifted up on the mountainous seas and deposited 100 yards in land by the time the typhoon had subsided*". Of the 'scarlet tunic' affair, and the subsequent displeasure of the Ministry of Defence, Colonel Mike, who was personally involved, was not too dismayed as the order had originated from Major General Hewetson, Commander of the British Forces in Hong Kong, who in any case had by that time been promoted!

## Hong Kong Memories



"You still owe me \$HK 2.20 for drinks at Sai Kong in ..... 1962"  
Roger Jennings and John Perryman, Sgts Mess Bar Wcl BAOR, 1974.

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## Caught in the act!



Wally Charman 'Bluey' Hedges and a mate, displaying their 'bag'

## Benevolence

We publish below extracts from some of the letters received by the Secretary from SSAFA workers and recipients of benevolent grants.

**W A Daley Hon. Div. Secretary of SSAFA writes:-** Many thanks indeed for your letter of 21 July and, on behalf of the caseworker and Mr A, I would like to express my very sincere appreciation for the grant of £500 you have made to provide a holiday and clothes for Mr A. The cheque and your Association's Newsletter is being passed over to him and I am sure he will want to remain in contact with his old Regiment. As a matter of interest I was also looking through the journal, which I found quite interesting on a couple of points, namely that you have a St. Valery Association, and as I was at St. Valery myself in 1940 with the Kent Yeomanry I do remember meeting up with the 2nd/6th East Surreys. Through my own Regimental Association we still hold our Annual Ladies' Night St. Valery Dinner, either on 12 June or as close as we can to that particular date. In addition, my late mother-in-law's younger brother, serving with the East Surreys, was killed at Arras in 1916 and his name is on the memorial there of those with no known grave - it's a small world!

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**B K Shattock of SSAFA writes:-** Thank you very much for dealing so promptly with Mrs B application for assistance with her nursing fees. As I pointed out on the form 9 her affairs are being looked after by her grandson and, as she finds it hard to write now, he has written a letter of thanks to SSAFA/FHS on her behalf and asked me to pass it on to the appropriate authorities. Accordingly I have written to the Grants Secretary of the Army Benevolent Fund and, on Mrs B's behalf, please accept her thanks to the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association. The relationship between grandmother and grandson is a very loving one. I hope she lives to receive her telegram from the Queen but I do not expect that financial support will be required for very long. However one never knows. Thank you once again and best wishes.

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**Lt Col Egan, SSAFA writes:-** I am writing to acknowledge your letter enclosing a cheque in the sum of £800. This money will be put towards an electric scooter for Mr C and we hope to raise the remaining £600 from other sources. We thank you for your generosity in this matter and Mr C will be informed from whence the grant came. I am writing separately to the Army Benevolent Fund.

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I am writing to thank you so much for the generous grant of £480 approved by your Benevolence Committee. This is indeed very welcome and will greatly ease the pressure on my income, and help me to clear much of my outstanding debts. Please also convey my grateful appreciation to the committee.

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Thank you very much for the cheque of £100 towards payment of my glasses. I consider it very thoughtful for The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment to make such a grant. I have fond memories of our times with the Regiment especially in Münster, and I keep in touch with quite a few members of the Regiment. Once again thank you for the kind gesture which is much appreciated.

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I write to thank you very much for your kind contribution to my holiday. I have just returned from visiting my daughter in Brittany, France. The weather was smashing. I did plenty of sightseeing of local chateau's and towns. I really enjoyed seeing my family as I had not had the opportunity of seeing them for a long time. I thank you once again for your kind assistance and generosity.

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Many thanks for the cheque you so kindly sent me to help buy a three wheel walking frame for my dear wife. We manage to keep all our bills paid up, but when we were facing this we were up against it. Once again many thanks.

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Many thanks for the cash grant so that I could come to Cornwall to see my daughter and all my great grandchildren. I hadn't had a holiday for a long time. Many thanks.

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I have just returned from a weeks holiday in Eastbourne, paid for by the Association with the help of SSAFA. I had a wonderful time, the weather could have been better, but as my room overlooked the sea and bandstand there was always something to look at. I have not had a holiday for four years so it came as a special treat especially the pocket money. I did not know that there were such people as yourself and the Association about, caring for people. I am in a home so I do appreciate kindness when I come upon it. Mr Leese and Mr Ashton (SSAFA) have been most caring and helpful. I thank you so very much for everything especially my pocket money. That was such a surprise. Many thanks again.

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I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for your kind donation of £400 from The Queens Royal Surrey Regimental Association towards the purchase of an electric scooter that will enable me to partake in the social activities of the village. Due entirely to this form of transportation which has previously been denied me. Thanking you once again on behalf of my wife and myself.

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May I thank you once again for your generosity in paying for the repairs to my vehicle, which I can not be without because of the location of our home. I honestly believe that the compassion being shown by so many such as the Regiment and The Royal British Legion is helping me enormously towards recovery from my recent operations.

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I would like to thank you and your committee very much indeed for your very generous cheque of £500, to help me and my wife have some respite care. I was amazed to get any response at all. We have been like this for 17 years and never asked anybody for anything. I was nominated for help through British Legion and so surprised when they approached me, and even more surprised to get the help. Thank you so very very much.

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Our grateful thanks to The Queens Royal Surrey Regiment Association for donating towards my husbands scooter, he is like a child with a new toy. He was 80 years old on the 14th May 1997. I also would like to thank you for the Newsletter and calendar that the Brigadier gave to us, I sent off for some books I thought my husband might like for his birthday. Thanks once again.



CSM E F Sopp 1/7th Queen's relaxing in his garden

**Mrs Barbara Sopp writes:-** On behalf of my husband, I am writing to thank you for your most generous donation in helping to buy a lightweight wheelchair that will fit in the car. Since Ernie had his stroke I have discovered how unfriendly pavements can be but now with the wheelchair in the car I am now able to drive to different places to visit, enabling us both to enjoy a better quality of life. Thank you again for your generosity.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I am feeling as I write to tell you how much I appreciate the gift of £150 that you sent towards the repair of the wall at the side of my house. My husband who had always done our repairs died suddenly earlier this year and when the rain started coming in I was devastated and did not know what to do. Thanks to your kind grant the wall has been put right and I want to thank you so much that you answered my call for help. Thank you once again.

## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



**J Ambrose writes:-**

As an old Queen's man, I have been trying for some time to trace a member of my old platoon, Signal Platoon while we were serving in Malaya, we had a group photo taken, and he asked me to look after his. Well things being what they were at that age, it went out of my mind that I still had his photo. In the last British Legion that I had, there was the notice put in by George Lefevre, of Welling, Kent, asking anyone who was in the MMG Pln to get in contact, so I thought to myself I'll write, and see. Well George answered my letter, and gave me your address, he also mentioned about joining the Regimental Association.

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CSM E F Sopp 1/7th Queen's relaxing in his garden

**Mrs Barbara Sopp writes:-** On behalf of my husband, I am writing to thank you for your most generous donation in helping to buy a lightweight wheelchair that will fit in the car. Since Ernie had his stroke I have discovered how unfriendly pavements can be but now with the wheelchair in the car I am now able to drive to different places to visit, enabling us both to enjoy a better quality of life. Thank you again for your generosity.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I am feeling as I write to tell you how much I appreciate the gift of £150 that you sent towards the repair of the wall at the side of my house. My husband who had always done our repairs died suddenly earlier this year and when the rain started coming in I was devastated and did not know what to do. Thanks to your kind grant the wall has been put right and I want to thank you so much that you answered my call for help. Thank you once again.

## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



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particularly interested in the activities of 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's and 1st and 1/6th Surreys. If you are willing to recount experiences and your reminiscences of that time please contact Ms M Tohill, 17 Kilby Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE.

#### F P Turrell writes from Western Australia:-

I recently visited the museum when on holiday in the United Kingdom. This letter now, the first real chance I have had to be able to make contact with someone going 'your way'. The enclosed coins came out in 1996 but I could not get hold of any. They are not worth any real value, just the Australian 50 cents, but were issued in honour of 'Weary' Dunlop. He was a great man (even in size) and I, with so many other prisoners of war came in contact with him in various places. My period in a camp with him was a place called Mintek in Thailand whilst building the railway. He inspired so many to keep up the fight.



I wondered if perhaps a few of the chaps who served with or met him may just like one of these coins. I would be grateful if you could get one to the son of an old friend, Lew Lewcock, who died in 1944. I had known Lew for many years, my number 6141952 would have been close to that of Lew. He was a very friendly

man, always chirpy, well liked by all who came in contact with him. I would have known him at Kingston, Colchester and then Shanghai, before Singapore, then up to Malaya when of course the bubble burst! I recall being with a group of us at a reunion some years ago and he was still 'Quack-Quacking', he was once known as Donald Duck, from the Disney Cartoon duck!

I do not know if this Lew served in a camp with Colonel Dunlop, but never mind, perhaps his son would like one of these coins. Before I close this letter, I have a request. In 1939 I was with a small party and was dropped off in Hong Kong, where we were attached to The Royal Scots stationed on the Kowloon side and went to the Island each day to work. Like most such parties, a group photo was taken and we all had one, some sent them home. Of these perhaps some are still surviving. I would ask, could you in the Newsletter publish a request for a copy for me....Many thanks.

My hope for the health of every one, my wish that I can make another trip before my eyes close in long term rest.

*Editors notes: should a reader be able to help F Turrell, please contact him direct, 9 Fifth Avenue, Dudley Park, Mandurah, 6210 Western Australia.*

*Arrangements are underway to distribute these coins to ex-members of 2 Surreys.*

F P Turrell B Company (cook)

○ ○ ○

#### Army and Navy Club

In the last issue of the Newsletter Lt Col Bob McGhie recounted his dilemma with a recalcitrant piece of meat that developed a life of its own when lunching with Maj Gen Francis Piggot in 1965.

Perhaps I may be allowed to recall another embarrassing incident that took place in "The Rag" in 1950. I Queen's had not been in Iserlohn very long, following our stint in Berlin when another subaltern Alec Fearnside-Speed and I were told to report to the Commanding Officer. A quick consultation in the Adjutant's Office did not give rise to any knowledge of recent misdeeds that we could recall so with a clear conscience in we marched. Lt Col Jimmy Sykes-Wright eyed us up and down with that usual twinkle in his eye and asked us which

Club we belonged to. With some relief we each said that we didn't belong to any Club. Whereupon the Colonel replied that most officers in the Regiment belonged to "The Rag" and no doubt we would be joining too. Arrangements would be made.

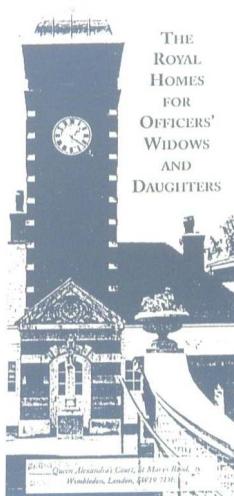
Within a few weeks we were instructed to make our way to London via the Military Train from Hamm to the Hook of Holland and the overnight ferry to Harwich. Having made ourselves known to the Secretary we were conducted round the Club and then left to our own devices. The Army and Navy Club occupied very different premises then. It was a two storey long red brick building stretching from the junction of St James' Square and Pall Mall to very near the site of the present day British Legion Headquarters. It was old, dark and thoroughly inconvenient with highly polished uneven floors. In those days there were a number of retired officer permanent residents who could be found tucked away in dark corners, invariably snoozing unless it was gin time.

To pick up the thread of my story again, we had a very good lunch and with time to kill we decided to go upstairs to the library where we each settled down either side of a roaring fire in high-backed button leather chairs. I had to shift mine because the chair would not sit four square on its castors on the uneven floor. Having achieved stability and with newspapers open, all was right with the world and we were planning to relax for an hour or so before it was time to make our way back to Liverpool Street Station and return to Iserlohn. Without any warning a red bearded face loomed over the back of my chair and in a loud voice boomed "*Sir, you are sitting in my chair*". With suitable apologies, I shot out of the chair to the banquette on the other side of the room. Alec joined me and we agreed I had had a lucky escape. No sooner had we settled down again when with a fixed stare the voice boomed again "*And what's more, damn you, you have moved it*". This was too much and we decided that perhaps we would make our way early to Liverpool Street.

Of course a new Club has since risen on part of the former site but when I am there I often chuckle and think of Alec F-S (now dead unfortunately) and our first introduction to "The Rag". For those who may not know the nickname of The Rag arose in the last century. An officer went to the Club after playing cards elsewhere and called for supper. The meal presented was not to his liking and he complained to the Secretary that "...it was a rag and famish affair".

PAWGD

○ ○ ○



#### The Royal Homes for Officers' Widows and Daughters

Queen Alexandra's Court has 75 self-contained flats for the widows and unmarried daughters of deceased officers of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Vacancies occur periodically. The Royal Homes are Grade II listed buildings and set in delightful grounds. As a rule 60 is the lower and 75 is the upper age limit for entry. Applicants must be able to care for themselves and their flats. There is a resident Manager, an Assistant Manager and a visiting Nursing and Welfare Sister. For further information write to:-

The Manager, Queen Alexandra's Court, St Mary's Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 7DE

## After the Presentation of Colours



Major Toby Taylor chatting to In-Pensioner  
C Cook, East Surreys.  
Bert Collinson determined to get into the picture.



The Chairman introduces Her Majesty to J Holman (seated) In-Pensioner 'Jock' Henderson MM and Major Peter Hill. Our Standard Bearer, Tony Ramsey MM is also in the picture.



Her Majesty talking to our In-Pensioners



Her Majesty sharing a joke with Tom Tucker and  
Colonel P Lauritzen, Danish Life Guards



Her Majesty Queen Margrethe, Colonel P Lauritzen, Colonel 'Paddy' Panton, PWRR Regimental Secretary and a glum looking Chairman!  
Also in the Photo is Mr William Perchard, Jock Henderson and Major Peter Hill.

**Pristinae Virtutis Memor  
Eheu Fugaces Postume Postume**

An article written by the late Brigadier R C Halse CBE in 1987 and which has recently come to light bears the above two Latin quotations as a heading.

Generally translated the first, one of the Queen's mottoes, means "*Mindful of the gallant actions of the past*" and the second, "*years fly by and are lost to me lost to me*". But all is not lost as the Brigadier, in the spirit of the first quotation and needful of the second, thankfully committed many of his memories to paper.

Much of his experience was with men of the Territorial Army at Bermondsey. Always the seat of strong voluntary military element, Bermondsey sent some of its members to the South African War. Following Army reorganisation the former volunteer and militia units later became the Territorial Force and finally the Territorial Army, the Bermondsey unit becoming the 22nd London Regiment. Brigadier Halse joined them in 1926.



Falmer 1926, Signal Platoon

The Brigadier regrets his lack of information on the activities of the two battalions of the Regiment in the First World War due, apparently, to someone having "*acquired*" the beautifully bound War Diary from the Officers' Mess.

In the Second World War when a Queen's officer, Charlie Pannell, was Adjutant, a boost to recruiting was occasioned by the arrival at the Orderly Room of a certain Alec Patterson who ran a local youth club. Receiving an affirmative reply to his query of whether recruits were wanted, he went to his club and returned with all members who were duly enlisted. Patterson was made a Sergeant, later commissioned and was awarded the



Officers 22nd London (The Queen's) 1927



1929 Boxing Team

Military Cross. After the war he became a senior member of the Prison Service.

Tales of pre-war Territorial camps are interesting, particularly the mention of the Brigadier twice nearly meeting his end through strikes of lightning during thunderstorms. In the fields of sport the unit, although not generally outstanding, were good at boxing and, to a lesser extent, bayonet fighting.

Among the names mentioned as members of a winning boxing team are those of Rotherham, Walsh and Wadham. Under some pressure from the Commanding Officer, 'Pick' Pickering, a member, Neckinger Mill, took a commission and quickly made a success of the transport section which was still horsed. Officers' chargers and draught horses were hired, arriving by rail, and therefore had only a very short acquaintance with their part-time military masters.



14 Platoon resting

On one occasion, when undergoing machine gun training at Aldershot, weapons were ready to fire on the ranges when a courting couple surprisingly rose from the bushes-their amorous activities having nearly been brought to a sudden, and possibly, fatal end! Having commanded HQ Wing (later Company) for some years Brigadier Halse was appointed to command D (MG) and later D (S) Company first as a Captain and then as Major. During that time it won the brigade machine gun competition and then the Infantry platoon competition for the Previte cup. Colonel Previte was a one time Honorary Colonel of the battalion, being succeeded later by "Daddy" Greenwood who remained in post until the war. Mention is made of several Warrant Officers and NCOs whose services were obviously greatly appreciated.

One of the officers, named Dick Whittington, was a direct descendant of the similarly named former Lord Mayor of London. Through his good offices and the kindness of his



*Laying up of 10 Queen's Colours*

laid up in the Parish Church in Battersea where the battalion had been formed in the First World War. Sergeants Delow and Faggs were the escort and there was a large turn-out including many Old Comrades. Weather presumably was more clement than it had been a day previously when a planned inspection of the Territorial Army by HM King George V had to be cancelled due to rain.

At King George's Jubilee celebrations in 1935 the battalion lined the streets near Temple station. There were no incidents. (The same could not be said a few months later at the Sovereign's funeral procession when the crowds were so large that they became almost unmanageable).

Members of the battalion took part in other celebration activities at the time of the Jubilee, an occasion made even more memorable for the Brigadier as it coincided with his wedding when he was delighted to find a guard of honour of Warrant Officers and NCOs outside the church.

Recruiting drives in the vicinity of the Old Kent Road and New Cross were successful and one of the premises used in the latter area later became the home of 2nd/6th Queen's. In 1936 the Brigadier was offered and accepted a regular Army commission with the rank of Captain in the Military and Air Force Department of the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) office. He had the distinction of being the last person to be commissioned in the reign of King Edward VIII. He maintained his connections with the Bermondsey unit by being part of the regular Army assistance at battalion camps in 1937, 1938 and 1939.

With the JAG's office and later with the Army Legal Services he travelled widely, seeing many parts of the world and took part in many trials including some of those of war criminals. A visit to Belsen prison camp horrified him.

Visits to Germany, the Middle East, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and other territories followed before his eventual retirement which he then employed profitably by writing manuals on military law for Jamaica and defence laws for Belize and Tonga.

He considered that the greatest honour which was conferred on him was when he was appointed the first Colonel Commandant of the Army Legal Corps. No doubt it was well deserved.

sister members of the battalion were able to spend one Easter training session based on a scout hut in the grounds of Flint House, Goring\*\*.

Other exercises took the form of training with Barr and Stroud range finders at Shooters Hill and doing TEWTs at the Stoughton Depot.

Brigadier Halse considered it a great honour when he was asked by the OCA of 10th Queen's to carry the King's Colour when it was to be

## Flint House



In his memoirs of pre-war Territorial Army Camps Brigadier Halse mentions Flint House, Goring. The original country house, Grade 2 listed building, completed in 1918 and connected with the famous Whittington family, has within its time been variously a war-time hospital, a girls private school and a water board training centre.

In 1985, after up grading, extension and re-furbishing it became the Police Convalescent Home. Standing in 14 acres it overlooks the famous Goring Gap and the scenic Thames Valley in an area of magnificent natural beauty.

Brigadier Halse and his men were lucky to have been here as, indeed, am I who, as a police pensioner, am coincidentally enjoying a week's holiday and rest in the Home at the time of writing.

Richard Ford



## President's Reception

The President's Reception for the 'Freedom Towns' Mayors took place at Clandon Museum on Friday, 23rd May with the Mayors of Kingston-upon-Thames, Reigate and Banstead and the Deputy Mayor of Guildford attending.

Welcoming the guests the President, Brigadier R W Aeworth CBE, emphasised the importance of the links between the County of Surrey and in particular our Freedom towns and boroughs and the Regiment and in particular our own Association continuing. He spoke of the current difficulties confronting the museum over the question of future accommodation and urged the need for information on possible alternative premises. The surrounding glittering and immaculate presence of the museum and its collection gave silent but powerful support to his words.



*During the reception the President presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Ann Doyle, she and Brigadier Mike were celebrating their Wedding Anniversary*

## Golf Society Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting of the Golf Society was held on Thursday 8 May 1997 at Sudbrook Park Richmond.

We were delighted to see so many members, who had been unable to attend in recent years playing in the meeting. This had the effect of swelling our numbers to 26, the best attendance for some considerable time. Lunch is always a convivial affair and, we were pleased that the following members were able to join us:- Adrian Cross, Basil Crutchfield, Jennifer Davidson, Richard Hill, John Sherrard and Desmond Wilson.



Three of the younger members:- Michael Clarke, Basil Crutchfield, John Sherrard.

Once again the meeting was blessed with good weather, apart from a sudden cloud burst during lunch. The fairways were a little bare due to the dry weather but, the greens were fast and true.

Both Senior and Junior divisions were well represented due to the increased entry and competition was keen. The prizes were presented after the days play by the Society Captain, F T A Hole, the winners were as follows:-

### Senior Division

Challenge Cup H P Mason Esq 75 gross

### Junior Division

Dodgson Cup Major R A Green 69 Net

Senior Division Medal W J T Ross Esq 70 Net

Junior Division Medal Capt P J Dorey 72 Net

### Heales Memorial Trophy Stableford

C J Stanton Esq 36pts

### Veterans Halo

Col J W Sewell 39pts

### Harry Adecock Trophy Putting

J L Midwood Esq -3

### PM Greensomes 14 Holes

J W Farrar Esq and J L Midwood Esq 21pts

The AGM of the Society took place after lunch, the President Col J G W Davidson was in the chair, the Captain of the Society F T A Hole Esq and 31 members were in attendance. The Societies thanks were expressed to the Trustees of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association and The Queen's Surreys Territorials for their generous support.

## The Golf Society V Royal Marines GS

On a rather grey, intermittently wet morning at the North Hants Golf Club on Tuesday the 20th May 1997, the Society set about retaining the Cup it had wrested from the Marines the previous year. At lunchtime, after a satisfactory series of matches, the Society had a 3-2 lead, the annual battle of the Generals having gone to the opposition and the Society secured two expected wins from the other pairings and one less expected win involving the Captain.

The Marines shuffled their team for the afternoon matches when our General comfortably took his revenge and, with a magnificent birdie, birdie, par finish from Davidson and Howard ending the hopes of the Marines strongest pair, some astute pairings ensured that we lost only one more point. It was a most enjoyable day and we were very grateful to the Marines for their hospitality and to our own Hon. Secretary for his usual smooth organisation. The Society is on something of a roll in these matches having won four out of the last five played but the Marines still lead in the series 14-11, with four halved.

### FTAH

Queen's Surreys	AM	Royal Marines	
Tony White	0	Pat Kay	1
Peter Roupell		Robin P-K	
Tony Hole	1	David Hunt	0
Tim Ross		Headley Phillips	
Mike Power	1	Tony Cook	0
Ron Green		Allan Gordon	
John Davidson	1	Tony Harris	0
Foster Herd		David Smith	
Colin Howard	0	Trevor Philpott	1
Chris Surtees		Ian Hurdle	
PM			
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Chris Surtees		David Hunt	
Mike Power	1	Tony Harris	0
Tim Ross		Headley Phillips	
Peter Roupell	0	Trevor Philpott	1
Tony Hole		David Smith	
John Davidson	1	Ian Hurdle	0
Colin Howard		Robin P-K	
Foster Herd	1	Tony Cook	0
Ron Green		Allan Gordon	
Match Score	7		3



The Captain and President after a good lunch, Tony Hole, John Davidson

## The London Regiment

The London Regiment was formed on 20th April 1993 as part of the Ministry of Defence's "Options for Change". The Regiment was an amalgamation of 8th Bn The Queen's Fusiliers and companies of The London Scottish and The London Irish Rifles.

Each of the rifle companies has a different regimental identity:

B Company, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (formerly The Queen's Regiment).

C Company, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

A Company, The London Scottish.

D Company, The London Irish Rifles.

Each Company can trace its descent from units of the Rifle Volunteer Corps raised in 1859.

In 1907 the Secretary of State for War introduced the Territorial and Reserve Force Bill and The London Regiment was formed. The first eight Battalions were classified as City of London battalions and the remaining 18 as County of London battalions. At 26 battalions the Regiment was unique, the largest in the army and the only one not to have a common cap badge as each battalion wore its own depending on its existing Regimental identity.

On the outbreak of the First World War, the Regiment was embodied and at the end of 1914 had expanded to 58 battalions, increasing to a maximum strength of 82 battalions by May 1915. By 1916 all the battalions were posted to Regular Line or Rifle Regiments, although they retained their title, The London Regiment, and fought in all theatres of War.

After the First World War there was considerable re-organisation and by 1939 many battalions had been re-roled. All saw action in the European Theatres of the Second World War. The battalions were re-formed in 1947 and suffered some 20 years of amalgamation until the Territorial Army was abolished and the remaining units formed the new Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve.

Within The London Regiment, there are four different Infantry cap badges, and companies are charged with the protection of their heritage and identity, allegiance to The London's is also a powerful motivating and cohesive factor in the structure of the Regiment.

Today, The London Regiment is a General Reserve Territorial Army Battalion ready to take its place alongside the Regular Army wherever the national interest may require it.

As part of the wider employability of the TA, a platoon of 31 soldiers from the Regiment recently took part in a four month operational deployment to the Falkland Islands. Members of the Regiment regularly reinforce Regular Army units in Bosnia, Germany and Northern Ireland and have undertaken attachments with the Regular Army in Belize, Cyprus, Canada and Kenya.

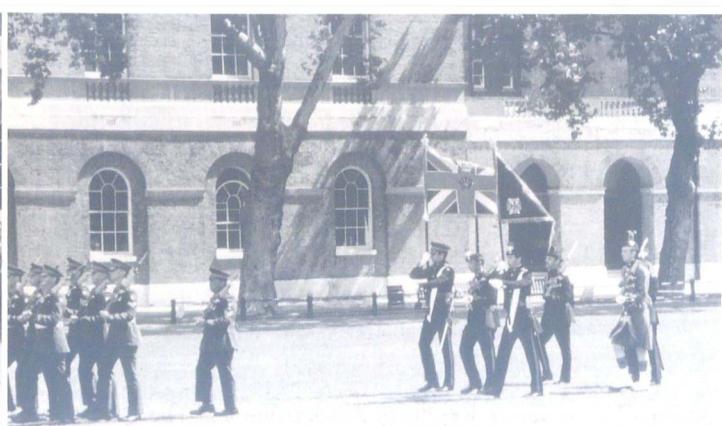
### Presentation of Colours to The London Regiment



*The London Regiment await the arrival of HRH The Prince Andrew, Duke of York. The building behind is The Duke of Yorks Headquarters building*



*The Duke of York presents The Queen's Colour to the Ensign*



*The Colours of The London Regiment prepare to march past*

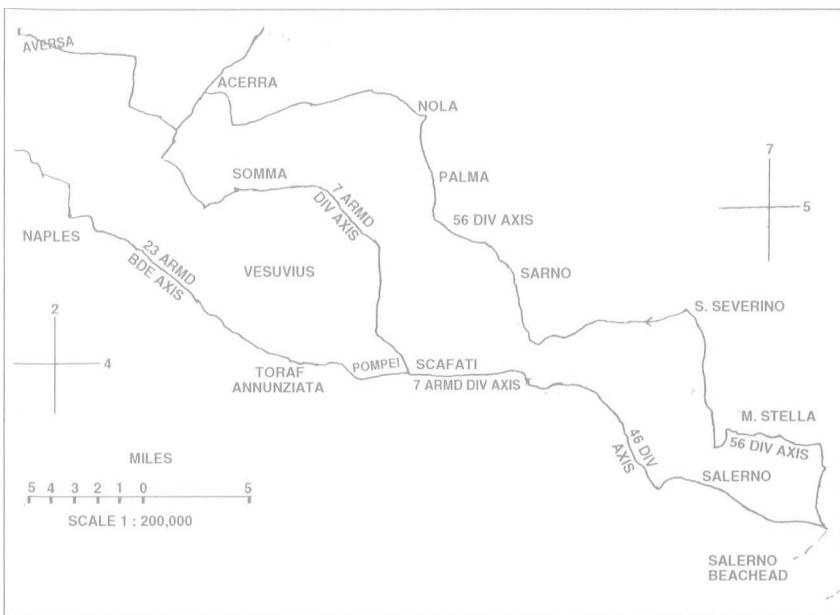
## 56th (London) Division



This year was the 50th anniversary of the 56th (London) Division Officers Dining Club. As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter although numbers are inevitably declining, the spirit is still fine. The occasion set me thinking how little has been written about this splendid fighting formation of the Territorial Army, and that it is high time to stimulate some interest and kindle a little nostalgia perhaps in the 'Black Cats'

169 (Queen's) Brigade joined the Division after its return from France in 1940 and remained with it until disbandment in 1946. I joined the 2/6th Queen's in July 1942 and together with the 2/5th and the 2/7th Battalions we embarked at Liverpool the following month and the whole Division sailed for an unknown destination eventually arriving in Iraq. In March 1943 the Division carried out the longest Approach March to Battle in history from Iraq to join the 8th Army in Tunisia. Packed twenty in the back of a 3-tonner driven by wild Somalis, after some 3,300 miles we arrived at Enfidaville after dark and were in action the following morning. First light on 13th May revealed the amazing spectacle of white flags in the foothills to our front and, no doubt many will remember, a determination to fire off as much ammunition as possible. But gradually, during the day, long columns of enemy troops began moving towards our positions. We were witnessing the unconditional surrender of all the Axis forces in North Africa. Almost exactly two years later we were to see the unconditional surrender of the German armies in Italy.

56th Division was selected to be one of the two British assault divisions to take part in the first Allied landings on the mainland of Europe, and moved back to the Tripoli area to begin intensive training for the operation. Fitness became the key word, marching, swimming, up the jebel at crack of dawn with shade temperatures rising to 120 degrees, dry shod, wet shod, amphibious exercises with the Royal Navy. By mid-August we were in great form, excitement was running high and speculation rife.



immediate coastal defences had been in the hands of the Italian Army. By midday 2/6th Queen's had taken Montecorvino Airfield and by nightfall 9th Royal Fusiliers had entered Battipaglia. It did not take the Germans long to react and they mounted a series of counter attacks on the afternoon of D Day and drove some serious wedges into the bridgehead.

All those who were there will have vivid memories of the next ten days as the Germans made desperate attempts to throw us back into the sea, and casualties mounted as we tenaciously hung on. I think few of us realised how serious the situation had become, but with the arrival of 7th Armoured Division with our sister brigade 131 Queen's Brigade, the tide began to turn and the enemy withdrawal began on D + 8. 19th September was a never to be forgotten day as the battalions of 131 Brigade took over from 169 Brigade in the line. We had survived the toughest and most dramatic days of our lives, but at the cost of so many of our mates. Little wonder that SALERNO has become the principal Second World War Battle Honour of the Regiment.

The break-out began on 23rd September through the massive mountain barrier surrounding the bridgehead. In particular Monte Stella, all 3000 feet of it, dominated 56th Division's axis of advance and we were about to learn the lessons of mountain warfare. At the first encounter a patrol of 2/5th Queen's was told to nip up and occupy the crest. Three days later after a Brigade attack supported by an enormous artillery plan, mules and porters, and heavy casualties, the mountain was in our hands. The way was open to the Naples Plain.

The two Queen's Brigades led the advance of the British Corps to capture the port of Naples and the airfields in the vicinity of the city. Uniquely six battalions of the same Regiment were in action together. These were indeed heady days and when we reached the River Volturno on 6th October we could look back with pride on a remarkable mission well accomplished. (A full account of the Regiment's part in the operation by those who were there is in "*Salerno Remembered*". If you have not yet read it, order a copy from the Museum at Clandon now!)

169 Brigade now enjoyed a weeks leave and after some memorable visits to Naples we were in fine form and once again ready for the off. Little did we imagine how many more mountains there were to climb and how many rivers to cross before we should achieve victory in Italy. By the time the German forces had fallen back behind the Volturno, one of the strongest defensive lines ever had been constructed, mostly by Italian forced labour, through the Apennines based on the Garigliano and Sangro rivers with its pivot at Cassino. The Gustav Line was to be their winter line blocking all routes to Rome.

9th September 1943 — D Day for the Salerno landings some 50 miles south of Naples. An unforgettable experience as we edged slowly and silently towards the Italian coast line in total darkness. Even the chatter and banter had dried up as tension mounted. Each one left with his own thoughts. 0315 hours and the silence was suddenly shattered as every naval ship in the fleet began the bombardment of the bridgehead area. The initial objectives of 56th (London) Division were Montecorvino Airfield to be secured by 169 Queen's Brigade and the communications centre of Battipaglia which 167 Brigade was to capture. 2/5th and 2/7th Queen's were the two assault battalions in our Brigade. Is there a man who will ever forget coming up from the bowels of their ship and climbing over the ship's rail into the assault craft hanging from the davits in the inky black of the night? Then the race for the shore and the charge up the beach. Unbelievably there was little opposition, but the previous evening we had heard that Italy had surrendered and most of the

It was at this stage that 168 Brigade rejoined the Division following its detachment for the Sicily operation, but 201 Guards Brigade was to remain with us for some time also. 56th Division's advance to close up to this line was stubbornly contested, but I think many of us will recall this phase as a period of extensive patrol activity. Not something that hits the headlines, but it certainly frays the nerves! At one time we were occupying a number of farm houses encouraging the locals to continue normal activity by day while we slept and ate. But night after night we would patrol down to the river searching for crossing places or protecting a Sapper officer planning bridge building. One night we escorted a man in civilian clothes who was going to cross the river on some hazardous mission in enemy territory.

It was at Monte Camino that we had our first and never to be forgotten encounter with the main defences of the Gustav Line. 201 Guards Brigade was given the task of driving the enemy from this vast 3000 feet mountain which completely dominated Route 6, the divisional axis. But they were unable to secure the crest and were left in a most precarious position on the mountain side. Their only supply route was a tortuous, steep, rocky mule track made almost unusable by torrential rain. So the Queen's Brigade was called in to help to keep them maintained. What a job! The cold was unbelievable. Everyone was soaked to the skin, mules couldn't keep their footing in the deep mud and the climb took about 4 hours each way. With a jerrican of water or an ammunition box going up, and stretcher bearer for some unfortunate Guardsman on the way down, at the end of the night we were utterly exhausted. So, in these conditions, it was decided to withdraw the Guards from their untenable position. To cover the withdrawal the Queen's were to move up to the foot of the mountain and establish firm bases for intensive patrol activity. To add to the gloom, a staff officer with the Brigade Commander's recce party, stepped on a "schu" mine and, although uninjured himself, both Brigadier Lyne and Lieutenant Colonel John Kealy were severely wounded.

This was patrolling of a different kind. Contact patrols between units, denial patrols to keep the enemy off key routes and features, and information gathering of all kinds. A patrol to the mountain top took so long that they had to lie up all day in some gully perilously close to the enemy, and then descend the following night. All the while, the rain and the bitter cold persisted, but somehow the echelons kept us supplied with the use of just one appalling jeep track for the whole brigade. But after three weeks we knew every stick and stone and many of the German positions had been pinpointed.

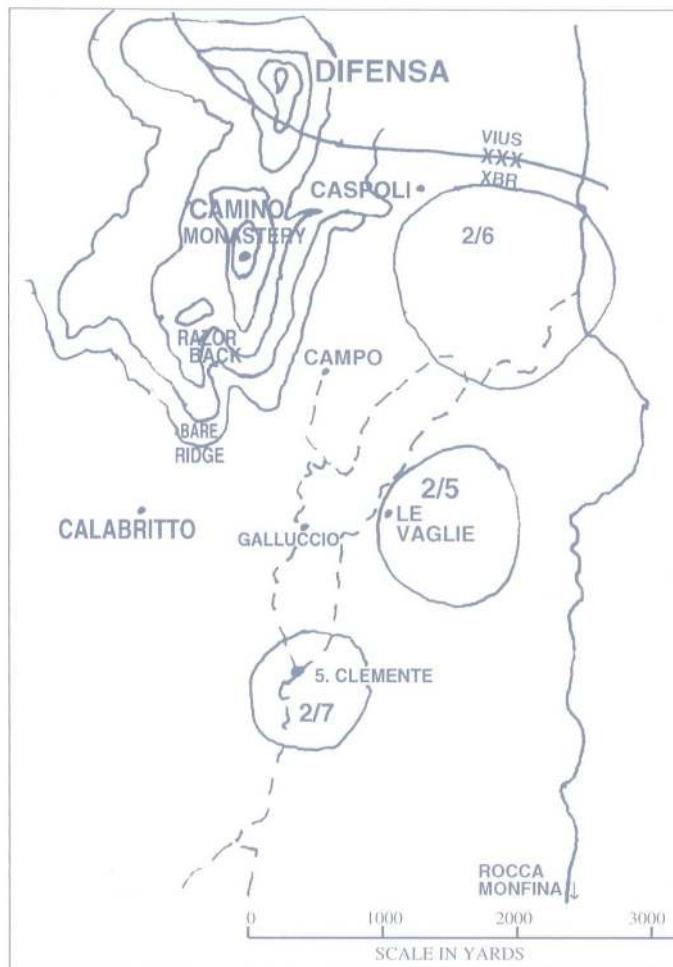
An elaborate plan was drawn up for the assault on Camino involving both 46th and 56th Divisions, and including a complementary attack by the Americans on Monte Difensa to the north. 167 Brigade was to attack Bare Ridge from the south while 169 Brigade attacked Razor Back in phase 1 of the operation. Names which will remain in the mind of those who took part until their dying day. The attack was on the night of 2nd/3rd December preceded by the heaviest concentration of artillery since Alamein. 2/5th Queen's carried out the main assault on Razor Back, while a company of 2/6th made a feint attack to the north of the monastery on the peak of the mountain. The remainder of the Battalion and the whole of the 2/7th were needed to supply the assault troops. I was one of the "humpers and dumpers" so it is not for me to tell of the super-human effort and endurance of those who attacked the sheer rock faces against fanatical opposition. But phase 1 was successful and the next morning 2/5th were in possession of Razor Back. Yet it took three more days before the whole Camino feature was cleared of the enemy. Yet another Battle Honour had been earned for the Regiment, but at terrible cost.

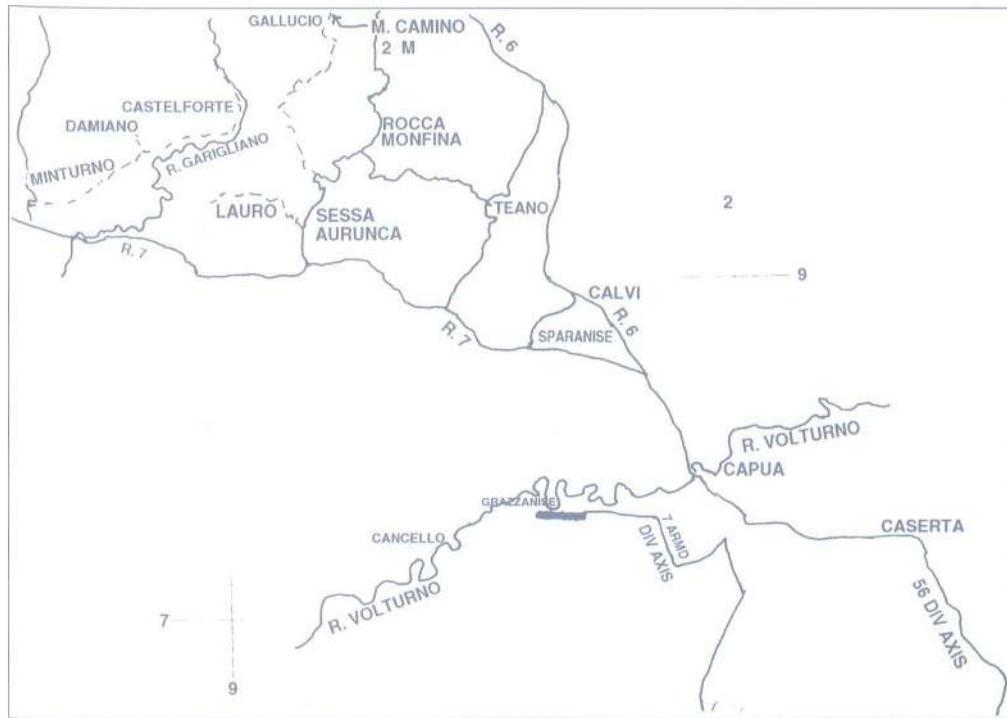
The whole brigade now moved out of the line for a much needed break over Christmas and shortly afterwards began training for the Garigliano crossing. The 2/6th were based on the lovely mountain village of Petrulo, home of the fair Bianca. It was here that I was wounded for the first time - by my enthusiastic company commander on infiltration training. To-day I would have sued him, but instead I was made company 2 I/C and so became L O B!

By now it had become obvious to the high command that we were not going to break through the Gustav Line due to the strength of the enemy defences in formidable mountain country, and given the appalling weather conditions so the decision was taken to turn the Winter Line by an amphibious operation south of Rome. But the timing of such a venture was dictated by the availability of shipping which would have to be released in time for the invasion of North West Europe. Eventually the date for the assault landing was determined as between 20th and 31st January 1944. This in turn led to a date for a new offensive on the main front, designed primarily to draw the German reserves from the north and away from the projected landing area.

The role of the Xth British Corps was to force a crossing of the River Garigliano on the night of 17th/18th January. It was a fast flowing river up to 100 yards wide over which the Germans had complete observation from their positions on the high ground and they were covered by extensive belts of 'S' mines. It seemed strange not to be personally involved in this assault, but it was clear from the extensive preparations that this was going to be a major operation. The Queen's Brigade crossed opposite Castelforte and despite stiff opposition, and considerable casualties in the 2/5th, the attack was a complete success. Many prisoners were taken, and after four days the exhausted rifle companies were relieved, but tragically one of the assault boats of the 2/6th overturned and all the occupants were lost. After a brief respite, the Brigade was over the river again to take part in a Divisional attack on Damiano, the key

## The Battle of Monte Camino





life of those described as "Left out of Battle" in an Infantry battalion in action. There are base wallahs and base wallahs! If you are sitting in a slit trench in a forward company they are the MT and QM's blokes having a cushy time in B Echelon. If you are at B Echelon it doesn't quite look like that and you tend to draw the line somewhat further back, say in the Divisional Maintenance Area. I was certainly changing my views pretty rapidly. 2 i/c is in many ways an unenviable position to be in. L O B at B echelon so that hopefully you don't become a casualty, but you have to be ready to take command at the drop of a hat although it is impossible to keep in touch with an ever changing battle situation. Precisely that happened in 2/6th Queen's when Lieutenant Colonel Renshaw was wounded during the assault crossing of the Garigliano and Major Sheil, the 2 i/c, had to take over in the middle of the battle. The nightly maintenance run to replenish the rifle companies is no sinecure either. The 2/6th Queen's History describing the Garigliano operation says, "*Much praise is due to the men of the specialist platoons and B Echelon who carried out the tremendous task of ferrying, portering and rowing supplies across the river under almost continuous shell fire and mortaring*". Another role is the receipt of reinforcements. By this time all battalions had suffered extensive casualties and we were getting reinforcements from many different regiments. I well remember a draft of Black Watch arriving and they were not best pleased. It was vital that they (and others from 'outside' regiments) were integrated as soon as possible. So we insisted that they put up the Paschal Lamb and they were split up and posted to different platoons. But all this had to be handled with great care and understanding by the adjutant and company 2i/c to ensure they were successfully absorbed into their new battalion. Many were the tasks of those at B Echelon, but the paramount philosophy was always the needs of the rifle companies come first.

The second half of the story from Anzio to Venice and Trieste will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

GBC

#### Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis writes:-

I think readers will be interested in a fascinating letter I have received from Dr Angelo Pesce. Angelo was a school boy at Scafati when the town was captured by 1/6th Queen's in September 1943 and has become a keen military historian of the Salerno operation.

He wrote on 30th April, "April 25 is Liberation Day in Italy, a public holiday celebrating the end of WW2. Earlier this month I had been invited by a friend of mine, the principal of an intermediate school in Sarno, to give a speech for the occasion, and I was glad to oblige, being able to count on your all-important 'Salerno Remembered' to illustrate what went on in Sarno during 29 September to 1 October 1943". Sarno will be well remembered by those in 2/6th Queen's at the time. We were the advance guard battalion for 56 Division and had a very sticky battle clearing the town where there were extensive demolitions skillfully covered by strong positions on the high ground at Episcopio overlooking the divisional axis through the town.

Angelo continues in his letter, "Before we started my friend told me he wanted to show me something that they had just discovered in the courtyard of an old residential building (Palazzo Origo) in Episcopio. He handed me a photograph of a neatly done graffiti which was reasonably well preserved on a covered wall of the palace's ground floor". He goes on to say that his friend thought it was probably the work of a refugee who had moved there to escape the

feature of the enemy's defences on our sector of the Garigliano. This was a particularly tough nut to crack and once achieved, will be remembered as a miserable place to hold in close contact with heavy mortaring. Finally, the Brigade was relieved after three grim weeks in continuous action, and I still remember the utter exhaustion of the men as they staggered back to the R V with the transport which took them back to rest at Petrulo. But the aim of the high command had been achieved; we had certainly drawn off the German reserves from the Rome area and beyond. Now, unbelievably, we were told that we were to be moved round to the Anzio Bridgehead which was itself in danger of being overrun. Comments of the Queensmen were unprintable!!



bombing in Naples, but Angelo felt it more likely that it was done by a war artist with the Allied troops during the Italian Campaign. He continues, "Almost by an idle reflex I thought to check the cartoons reproduced in your book to see if by chance any of them matched the style of the Sarno graffito. To my excitement the one between pages 12 and 13 confirmed that: (1) the faces of the blokes peering from behind the house door in the Sarno graffito were beyond reasonable doubt by the same hand; (2) the Author of the cartoon, Sergeant Blomley, was with the 2/6th and therefore had been in Sarno and thus (3) the signature monogram was to be read SB".

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Taylor who was IO of 2/6th Queen's at the time has no doubt that it is the work of Sergeant Blomley, who was the Intelligence Sergeant and remembers Tac HQ being in Episcopio.

Angelo tells me that a clear flexiglass sheet has been fixed to the wall to preserve the drawing, but the intention is to have it transferred to a protected environment. I am sure all concerned are most grateful to Angelo for his care and interest, and for his eagle eye. A remarkable story! I do hope you are able to reproduce the drawing in the Newsletter, which so well illustrated Peter Taylor's entry in the War Diary for 1st October "0550 Bn moves from Sarno (thank God!)"

### 56th (London) Division 1939 - 46



The Division was given the number '56' in November 1940, reverting to the number it had borne from 1915 to 1936. Before 1915 it had from 1908 been designated '1st London (T.F.)' The badge of this London Division was a black cat set on a red background. It was 'Dick Whittington's cat', as well as being a lucky black cat, and the badge was chosen by its original Commander, Major General Sir Claude Liardet (the first T.A. Officer to command a Division). The 56th formed part of Home Forces until 1942, when it embarked for the Middle East and joined the forces which garrisoned Palestine, Syria and Iraq. The Division joined the Central Mediterranean Force in 1943 and took part in the landings at Salerno and Anzio and the advance through Italy, being well to the fore in the crossing of the Garigliano. As part of the eighth Army, the 56th took part in the Po Valley campaign, forging through the Argenta Gap, winning the bridgehead over the Reno, and sweeping north-east to the liberation of Venice at the end of the 15th Army Group's victorious campaign in Northern Italy.

### 56th (London) Division 1939 - 46 Officers' Dining Club

The 50th reunion of the Club was held on 7th May this year in the Officers Mess of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at the Tower of London. Some years ago it was decided to hold an annual lunch instead of a dinner, and Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam was much looking forward to attending the 50th Anniversary as Chairman, but sadly it was not to be.

Inevitably, numbers are diminishing and this year we discussed the possibility of calling a halt, but the unanimous verdict of those attending was that we should try to keep going and review the situation year by year. It is a happy and enjoyable occasion and we are particularly fortunate to be able to hold it in the Tower.

Appropriately the largest contingent is usually from the Queen's and we hope very much to swell the ranks at next year's lunch which will be on Wednesday 6th May. All officers who served with 56 Division are eligible to attend, and we have decided to extend that to anyone who served with the Division and was subsequently commissioned and served elsewhere. Sons of those eligible would also be very welcome.

So please do help to keep the Club going. You would thoroughly enjoy the day. If you feel you might like to join us next May write now to the Secretary (Queen's of course!) asking him to let you have details of the event nearer the time. He is:- Colonel David Blum, OBE 85 Thameside, Staines, Middx TW18 2HF

GBC

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### By friendly fire

At 1630 hrs on the 13th November, 1942 the Italian ship *SS Scillin* sailed from Tripoli grossly overloaded with 810 prisoners of war, mainly British, some of whom had been captured at the recent battle of El Alamein. Listing to port, darkened, showing no flag and with her hatches covered with heavy timbers she hugged the North African coastline on her homeward bound journey. But peril and disaster were lurking on her way.

At 1929 hrs on the 14th November she was sighted by the British submarine, HMS *Sahib* (Lt J H Bromage RN) who quickly opened fire with twelve rounds from her three-inch gun. Stopped, the *Scillin* radioed an SOS but at 1950 hrs she was fatally hit in the engine room by a torpedo fired by *Sahib* and sunk within two minutes. Thirty-six Italians and only twenty-seven prisoners were picked up. The names of all the British servicemen who were lost were later engraved on the war memorial at El Alamein together with those of comrades who had fallen in earlier battles. Twenty-two Queen's men were lost in the *Scillin*. Understandably during the war, and for many years afterwards, the facts were kept secret but eventually were unearthed mainly due to the investigative activities of Mr Brian Sims an ex Mansfield miner whose father, William Sims, serving in the RASC was one of those lost.

Lieutenant Bromage and his sailors, all horrified by the incident, were absolved from blame, it being one of the ghastly but understandable misfortunes of war. Bromage ended the war a hero, having gained the DSO, DSC and Bar. *Sahib*, built by Cammell Laird shipyard and launched on 19th January 1942 was herself lost on 24th April 1943. In her short career of just over twelve months she had truly embraced the tragedy of war.

BS & RF

*Editors note: The men lost in this disaster were from 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. If any reader wishes to know the names he should write to the Editor. A copy of the list will also be held in the museum at Clandon.*

## Cpl Maurice Howard, 2/5th Queen's also remembers Salerno

I recently answered a call for "All Mutton Lancers" to contact Ron Harper on Teletext "Service Pals" I duly rejoined the Queen's Surreys Old Comrades Association. Having paid my membership fees to the Secretary Major John Rogerson he in turn sent me quite a good pack of information, following which my wife and I visited Dover Castle Museum, Clandon House, Guildford Cathedral and The Queen's Surreys Chapel therein, (having visited this many years ago with my very good friend and army comrade Ray Dutton-he will be mentioned again later). Clandon House, I must visit again, to fully check the Queen's visitors book to see if I know any of those entered. Whilst there I bought three publications- "Salerno Remembered" by Geoffrey Curtis- "The Queens in the Middle East and North Africa" plus "The Surreys in Italy". "Salerno Remembered" brought back some vivid and hair raising moments of those precarious first few days.

On our sea journey, in a LCT of several Bren Carriers with their drivers, we were on the receiving end of the bows of a landing craft to our rear (Stern) it seemed due to heavy seas at the time this craft was trying to get a "piggy back" on our LCT. (Now this is the question was the following landing craft the one mentioned on page 12 by Geoffrey Curtis in "Salerno Remembered" or could it be that more than our near disasters, occurred elsewhere in the convoy. We had a perfect landing and a dry one. Whilst getting ourselves sorted out on the beach the CO, Lt Colonel J Y Whitfield commandeered me and my Sgt (Sgt Cook) to drive him to Tac HQ, an agricultural building. Here we picked up the signals officer and a signals operator complete with radio. Five people aboard plus all our equipment and the carrier crews bedding rolls, made for cramped conditions. Bedding rolls had to be stacked on top, middle of carrier, over the engine compartment. Then off we went to contact the three leading companies (the CO's only contact with his companies due to bad radio and ground communication). Up the road we went towards our forward troops. Taking our first turn to the left at a 'T' junction, we encountered a knocked out vehicle nose down in the ditch paper money blowing about in the breeze and a body laying spreadeagled on the bank, we assumed it to be a paymaster.

Our first call if my memory serves me right was B Coy, the next one along the road was A Coy. After leaving A Coy the CO decided he wanted to recce forward of the companies. Turning right, off the main road, we proceeded along a dirt track with a tall hedge to our right and a recently ploughed and harrowed field to our left. Coming to the end of the hedge, our covering approach, we were suddenly in the open and 'naked' to the enemy tanks 'half right of us'. The CO and myself must have seen these at the same time because, as he said "turn round driver", I was already on the turn in low gear and into the harrowed field. I had made my mind up not to go back along the track in case Jerry fired blind into the hedgerow, instead I made a bee line for a wooden post, one of many supporting four strands of wire on the field boundary with the main road. I hit the post snapping it and the wires landed on the road, after jumping the ditch alongside it. Our metal ration box at the rear of the carrier broke away and scattered the contents over the road, Sgt Cook in double quick time retrieved the box and contents. During our face to face contact with the tank and whilst doing the U turn escape, we were fired on by machine gun and tracers, the CO thought the tracers had penetrated our bedding rolls, but tracers destinations can be misleading our bedding rolls were still intact when we checked them out later.

Following this episode we still had to make contact with Major Lane in C Company. The CO warned him of the imminent danger in front (later to be a fact). On our way back to Tac HQ the same message had to be conveyed to the other companies the CO was now in a hurry to get his message passed to Brigade and the Gunners, anyone trying to stop us was waved aside. On our 'hell for leather' way back over rough road and shell holes, the signals officer had the fright of his life the rounds in his revolver had started to explode due to the heat generated by the engine onto the engine compartment side plates, where he had spent the whole time in head down position. The revolver was jettisoned over the side of the carrier, just prior to our arrival at Tac HQ. The CO patted me on the shoulder and said "Well done driver take it a bit steadier next time". He was a non smoker, non drinker like Monty, but he had saved his cigarette ration to hand out on occasions like this, his hand out as promised to us on leaving the carrier was a big let down for him, and us, (Sgt Cook and myself), his cigarettes had been stolen. He was a fine soldier and a gentleman.

Just as a postscript to this, and whilst awaiting the return of the CO with his non-existent cigarettes up the road where we had just come down, and no doubt stirred up a hornets nest the Guards platoon of carriers were driving, soon to be met with gun fire and casualties in the leading carriers, the wounded to be brought to our Tac HQ and our MO for treatment. No doubt this is recorded in The Guards History of Salerno.

(To be continued)

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## An Uncanny Silence

A good number of people will have visited Sorrento since World War II, I was convalescent there in 1944 recovering from wounds received at Anzio. The Hotel Cyrene was commandeered by the British Red Cross Society and the comfort and welfare of the wounded was of a high standard. There were no restrictions. Patients could wander wherever they wanted to and there were organised trips to Capri and Naples. The ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum were quite close and I visited there and commissioned, in marquetry, a replica of part of the frieze of a Roman Villa and sent this home to my mother.

Towards the end of my convalescence, on a March day at approximately 1600 hours, the sky suddenly became very dark and there was a strong smell of sulphur. There was a strange silence, not a bird sang; no one seemed to talk and all the Italians were 'Crossing' themselves. All eyes were turned towards Mount Vesuvius. There was a loud rumble, smoke shot high into the sky, and volcanic ash started to fall all around. From where I stood I could see the rim of the volcano suddenly enveloped in red hot lava as it bubbled over the edge. There was a call for all service personnel to report to an area near the foot of the mountain and to assist the Italian authorities in rescuing people, cattle and pets from houses in the direct line of the lava flow. It was hot work, working so close to the flow with the sulphur fumes affecting breathing. One's thoughts turned to what had happened to Pompeii and the hope that many lives would be saved by our efforts. It was awe inspiring as one watched the progress of the lava spreading over the mountain side, especially when the lava reached the sea at Castellammare and something like a huge geyser reached into the sky.

A few days later what remained of the 2/7th Queens reformed at Nocere and I rejoined the battalion. We were moved across the Appenines and zigzagged down from Potenza to Gravina. On arrival my company were billeted in the local school and all ranks were surprised to see all the local inhabitants converging on the church. I was reminded of the Sandeman Port advertisement of a figure like El Zorro with top hat and cloak with the lower part of the face covered, which appeared to be the dress of many of the Italians.

We assumed they were celebrating some feast day but when we asked they informed us that it was because black snow had fallen and this was an evil portent. I realised that the winds had blown the sulphuric ash from Vesuvius across the Appenines and that it had fallen on Gravina. Whilst at Sorrento I discovered a haberdasher's shop carved into the hillside and was able to purchase buttons for children's clothes and some beautiful lace for the ladies at home. I was also interested in the frost precautions for orange groves, which were straw screens erected between the rows and braziers made from 40 gallon perforated oil drums. It is not everyone who has had the experience of watching a volcano erupt and it is one I do not wish to have again. The uncanny silence before the eruption remains a vivid memory.

Dom

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### I meet Monty

In July 1937 the 2nd Battalion moved from Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, by boat to Southampton and then marched to Tidworth in preparation for the Tattoo. I proceeded direct to Winbourne-St-Giles and set up the Officers' Mess in marquees pending the arrival of the battalion. Following the Tattoo the battalion moved by M.T. to this locality. The area was unused to troops and the inhabitants were unsophisticated enough to turn out and cheer them whenever they passed through. Training was invariably by night and hot meals and sleep became a luxury.

It was at Winbourne-St-Giles that the battalion were introduced to Brigadier B. Montgomery commanding 9th Infantry Brigade. Several incidents concerning this fine commander come to mind. The officers coming off training were entering the mess tents in ones and twos, suddenly Monty appeared and they all stood up when he walked in. His first words were, "*Gentlemen, have you seen that your men have been fed and are comfortable and fit before you eat?*" The mess tent emptied as several downcast faces ruefully eyed the bacon and eggs that had just been served. On another occasion, when our first church service was conducted in a huge marquee, which Monty attended, at its conclusion Monty rose from his seat and said, "*All officers remain behind. The rest disperse.*" This had never happened in the battalion before as it was the usual practice for the officers to file out followed by each company in turn. There was a deathly hush and a whispered conversation took place between the Adjutant and RSM. We were then ushered from the tent and told to quietly return individually to the tent lines. Monty's wife had been ill whilst he was visiting the battalion and a telegram delivered to the officers' mess was given to me to deliver to the Brigadier. It was requesting him to return home. He looked very sad but just said, "*Thank you corporal.*"

When I was returned to duty from the officers' mess I had to take my turn as guard commander at Albany barracks. Monty arrived at the main gate, I turned out the guard and it was inspected, then he wanted to be shown to the Adjutant's office so the 'Stick orderly' for the day was deputed to conduct him. Not many minutes later there was quite a commotion. Bugles sounding, officers and senior NCO's running towards the barrack blocks. It transpired that Monty wanted to inspect the battalion in half an hour. D Company had to parade in field service marching order (FSMO) Another company turned out in PT kit and the inspection took place. I wrote home to my mother and said that at last we had a Brigadier with the right ideas who was interested in the welfare of the men and who would surely be promoted to a higher rank. (The world knows he was). I next met Monty at Dover Castle. Lt Col Paul Adams called me into his office and I was introduced to Monty. "*We have met before,*" he said. "*You have gained quick promotion.*" Monty had put forward a new idea for advanced guards which he called The Forward Body. Our battalion was selected to prototype this formation and I was appointed its commander. The formation appeared to work well and was composed of reconnaissance unit (scout cars), an infantry company, a squadron of tanks, - an anti-tank platoon and a detachment of Royal Engineers for dealing with mines, booby traps etc. The exercise took place along the Folkestone Road and Monty summed up the result as being satisfactory. I never heard of it being used operationally and later thoughts were turned towards battle drill and the tactics required for desert warfare.

Dom

*Editors note: "An Uncanny Silence" and "I meet Monty" articles were written by the late Major A W V Domoney whose death is reported on page 52. Dom was a regular contributor to the Newsletter and we were corresponding only a few days before he died.*

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### Beuvillers Remembers

Fifty three years after the Queen's and the Royal Tank Regiment liberated Beuvillers, a village south of Lisieux, Normandy, the Commune held a ceremony to commemorate the four British soldiers who were killed there during the battle for Lisieux.

Sergeant George Cumbley )

Private Albert Burton ) both of the 1st/7th Queen's

Sergeant Sheltcott of the RTR

Private Thomson of The Royal Scots

By invitation a group of nine veterans from the 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th made their way in groups to attend a reception in the Sports Centre at 1800hrs on Friday, 22nd August. They were to be given accommodation with the villagers for Friday and Saturday night. On the Saturday at 0900hrs we attended at the local church where four beautiful floral tributes provided by the Commune of Beuvillers were blessed and a moving tribute made to the sacrifices of the four soldiers and their families in order to bring liberty to the local people.



*From left to right: Walter Murfit (in Wheelchair), Tom Culmer, Bill Morris, Major Watson, Denis Summers and the families of the dead soldiers*



Then in procession we drove through Lisieux to the cimetiere Anglais at St DESIR where the four soldiers are buried. All four floral tributes were laid on the graves by the RTR Denis Summers and I laid wreaths from the Regiment on the Queens graves. From the ceremony we drove to the Beuvillers cenotaph. The Marseillaise was played and the standards of the Anciens Combattants were lowered, the British veterans standing shoulder to shoulder with the French veterans.. There was a two minute silence. The Last Post was played on a bugle and a Lament was played by a piper from the RTR. A most moving ceremony. The procession went next to the Memorial Stone to the four soldiers in the specially named Rue de la Liberation, the site where they were temporarily buried immediately after their deaths.

My wife doing all the driving was delighted by the Gendarmes holding back the traffic giving us a clear run into and out of the city of Lisieux. Finally we drove back to the Polyvalente where I received on behalf of the Regiment a handsome plaque recording the liberation of Beuvillers for the museum at Clandon Park, Lisieux medals for myself and the two dead Queens soldiers. In presenting our hosts with the Queens Regimental Plaque I was able to thank them in French for the honour they had given to the Regiment and the generous hospitality they had given to the veterans.

Later we were assembled in the Hall of the Polyvalente where I was asked to give my personal account of the battle of LISIEUX.

*"On the 25th of August 1944 an advance was made through the built up area of the city of Lisieux by the RTR and D Coy of 1st/5th Queens led by Major Z Henderson. I remember the spires of the Cathedral looming over me. As Intelligence Officer I was on foot 50 yards behind the leading tank when it brewed up, hit by a Panzerfaust. One man shaking badly and slightly burnt emerged from the escape hatch. The other members of the crew perished. At the same time a mortar bomb was dropped on the leading Infantry severely wounding Major Henderson. Ordered by Major Jock Nangle to find an alternative route for the tanks I discovered a grassy slope behind the Cathedral. The slope led to a gigantic black barn which sheltered a French farmer, his wife and two children. They offered me wine. I tried to soothe them by saying "soyez tranquille" and "nous disperrons demain". Subsequently I led the tanks on to the new advance. D Coy wounded and captured the German officer in charge of the Defending Battle Group and the advance continued without any further casualties". Mr Neil Thomson formerly of the RTR interpreted brilliantly my account and then continued interpreting for the civilian eyewitnesses of events during the battle in Beuvillers as follows. "An elderly lady described two British soldiers coming out of a tank with their clothes on fire. A man described seeing his father riding on a British tank guiding it to an alternative crossing of the river, the bridge having been heavily mined. All spoke of general rejoicing at the arrival of the British troops who brought them liberty."*

We were particularly impressed by the fact that the French people especially in Normandy want to "take on board" the Liberation by British troops as part of their history. Every speech during the two days of the ceremonies emphasised the importance to them of their freedom. They all spoke of the need of the younger generation to appreciate the benefit of the liberty it brought. Repeatedly they spoke of the dangers of Fascism rising again.

DJW

*Editor's note - Major Derrick Watson was awarded The Croix de Guerre for this action.*

## Regimental Deaths

**Bailey** - On 6th June 1997, Private Fred Bailey

**Barter** - On 15th July 1997, Sergeant Jack H G Barter, DCM MM, aged 75 years. He enlisted into the Queen's on the outbreak of war and later served with Airbourne Forces where he was awarded the Military Medal in 1942. Returning to the Queen's he served with the 2/7th Bn in Italy and was serving with them when he was awarded the DCM. His citation for the immediate award is reproduced below:

*"On 16 Apr 45 near Menato Sjt. Barter commanded a Pl of 'D' Coy 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment advancing along an open road on the Western shores of Lake Commachio. At about 0700 hrs Sjt. Barters's Pl came under extremely heavy fire from two collections of houses and casualties were caused including key personnel. With complete disregard for the enemy MG fire Sjt. Barter moved amongst his Pl and re-organised them. Despite enormous difficulties including an Anti-personnel minefield and absence of any covered approaches, Sjt. Barter prepared a brilliant plan for the assaulting of the positions. He personally led the final charge shouting wild cries which inspired his men to greater efforts and helped enormously to weaken the enemy's determination. By the time the first collection of houses was reached Sjt. Barter was a long way ahead of the remainder of his Platoon and without hesitation kicked open the door of the main building and single handed cleared the house. He alone*

*accounted for at least 6 Germans and took a further 10 prisoners. Immediately Sjt. Barter continued to lead his men to the second objective and such was his determination and complete contempt for enemy fire that his inspired Platoon assaulted this last position with an unbelievable gusto. This NCO has commanded a Pl during the fighting on the River Senio and throughout the recent battles. At all times he has shown a similar extremely high standard of courage and leadership; on the above occasion, however, his conduct was outstanding and deserving of immediate recognition. (L.G. 18.10.45)".*

**Benham** - On 12th September 1997, George (Benny) Benham, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Buchanan** - On 5th September 1997, Colonel Thomas Alfred Buchanan DSO OBE MC ERD TD DL, aged 89 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

**Bull** - On 24th February 1997, Private Harry J. Bull. He served in 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment and was a POW in Changhi 15-2-45.

**Burgess** - On 21st July 1997 Private James Ernest Burgess, aged 76 years 1/6th and 2/7th Bn's The Queen's Royal Regiment.

He was captured at Abbeville in 1940 and spent the war as a POW working in the coal mines in Poland. He was a loyal

member of the Queen's (Southwark OCA) and a regular attender at the Union Jack Club.

*Burrage* - On 25th May 1997, Private William (Bill) Burrage, 1/5th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Chumley* - On 29th April 1997, Private Joseph John Chumley, aged 87 years, 1st and 2nd Bns The East Surrey Regiment. He was batman to Colonel Petrie.

*Cummins* - On 7th October 1997, Major Arnold Victor Authers Cummins TD, aged 84 years, The East Surrey Royal Hampshire, Royal Tank Regiments and Royal Army Pay Corps attached 4 Queen's Surreys. (obituary to follow in May Newsletter).

*Domoney* - On 2nd August 1997, Major Albert William Victor Domoney, aged 82 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Doick* - On 28th March 1997, Sergeant Bill Doick, APTC attached to the 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Duffey* - On 1st August 1997, Gerald Duffey MM, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

He was awarded The Military Medal for stretcher bearer duties, April 1943.

*Ennis* - On 4th May 1997, Major John (Jack) Walter Ennis TD, aged 75 years. Irish Guards, 36th Indian Sikh and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiments.

*Flint* - On 27th July 1997, Private George Flint, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hard* - On 4th June 1997, Private R Hard, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Leach* - On 19th September 1997, Sergeant Arthur Henry (Slim) Leach, The East Surrey, Queen's Royal Surrey and The Queen's Regiments.

*May* - On 24th July 1997, Flt Lieutenant Roderic Douglas May, The East Surrey Regiment and The Royal Air Force.

He served with the Supplementary Reserve attached to The East Surrey Regiment from 1930 - 1938 when he transferred to the RAF. Whilst serving with 45 Squadron operating from Fuka, in the Western Desert he was shot down whilst bombing an airstrip in Crete. He spent 4 years as a POW (2 at Stalag Luft 3). During the Mau-Mau emergency in Kenya he served as a temporary police officer in the Rift Valley. He owned a coffee farm in Kenya for ten years. He retired to Barbados where he died.

*Maye* - On 4th August 1997, Colour Sergeant Patrick (Peter) Maye, The Queen's Royal Regiment, Surrey Regiment and 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment.

*Mayes* - On 17th May 1997, Private Jack Mayes, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Monger* - On 3rd September 1997, Private Gilbert Monger, 1/5th and 2/5th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Neshitt* - In July 1997, Captain Pat Nesbitt, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Oswald* - On 2nd July 1997, Captain Walter John Oswald, 1/5th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Paine* - On 17th July 1997, Company Sergeant Major Albert Paine, 2/6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Rothwell* - On 4th September 1997, Band Sergeant Major Thomas Graham Rothwell, aged 59 years, The Queen's Royal, Queen's Surreys and 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment.

*Shepherd* - On 3rd March 1997, B Shepherd, The East Surrey Regiment and The Royal Engineers.

*Smith* - On 26th July 1997, Colonel Henry Brockton Lockhart Smith MC, aged 88 years. The East Surrey Regiment.

*Speller* - On 14th May 1997, Private Peter Speller, 1/6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Spriggs* - On 27th February 1997, Private Sam Spriggs, 1/6th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Stokes* - On 29th July 1997, Private Colin Cedric Stokes, aged 68 years, 1st Bn The East Surrey and Border Regiments.

For many years an active member of The Royal British Legion in the Rugby area and was the local Standard Bearer for twenty five years.

*Taylor* - On 22nd August 1997, Major Ronald Ernest Taylor, aged 84 years, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Vincent* - On 17th September 1997, Private Leonard George Vincent, aged 78 years, 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Whenmouth* - On 14th October 1996, Captain Peter Whenmouth, aged 72 years, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Wise* - On 7th July 1997, Private C Wise, The East Surrey Regiment.

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## Regimental Families

*Isaacs* - On 24th May 1997, Mrs 'Meena' Isaacs, beloved wife of CSM T Isaacs.

*Livermore* - Recently Mrs Dorothy Livermore, Widow to the late RSM Fred Livermore, 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*Smith* - On 14th July 1997, Mrs Dorothy Helen Smith, beloved wife of Colonel H B L Smith MC.

*Warren* - On 20th August 1997 Mrs Shirley Warren, beloved wife of CSM W Warren.

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## Obituaries

### Colonel T A Buchanan DSO OBE MC ERD TD DL



Before the 1939-45 war Tom Buchanan was a schoolmaster, having been educated at St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar school he then went on to London University, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Science. He also obtained a degree in Psychology.

He joined the Supplementary Reserve of Officers in 1931 and on mobilization in 1939 joined 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Colchester. From that time he was always known as 'Buck'. Buck went to France as a platoon commander in A Company (Captain Finch White). It was not long before he was promoted captain and given command of B Company. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and continued in command of B Company and was promoted. After wading ashore near Algiers Major Buchanan was soon in action. The first time being on the approach march into Tunisia, where the Battalion, which was part of 11 Brigade in 78 Division, came under fire from a place later called 'Mortar Hill'.

B Company was ordered to attack the hill and clear the way for the Battalion. The attack was successful and the advance continued until reaching the town of Tebourba. Here the Battalion consolidated and held a high point (Point 186) which dominated the town. After a strong attack by armour and Infantry the enemy seized the high ground. A gallant counter attack by B and C Companies was driven back and many casualties suffered including both company commanders, Captain R A N Andrews and Major T A Buchanan. For his

leadership in the counter-attack Buck was awarded the Military Cross.

Buck rejoined the Battalion at Sidi N'Sir but was soon posted to 5th Bn The Northamptonshire Regiment, also in 11 Brigade, as Second-in-Command and later in April 1943 appointed as Commanding Officer. He subsequently led the Battalion in Sicily where he was very severely wounded. This was in the summer of 1943 and he spent a great deal of time in hospital recovering from his wounds. He was pronounced fit again early in the New Year of 1944 and appointed to command 1st Bn The Royal Fusiliers. At this time the Royal Fusiliers was the British Battalion in 17 Indian Infantry Brigade of 8 Indian Division. The Battalion, in February 1944, was holding a defensive position north of the River Moro. Buck was again wounded, twice, the last being at Cassino. After the Gothic Line Battles and when 1 Royal Fusiliers was in the Lombardy Plain, the award to Buck of the Distinguished Service Order for his leadership of the Battalion was gazetted.

In 1945 Buck returned to the United Kingdom and was appointed to command the re-born 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. On 30th November 1945 new Colours were presented to the Battalion at West Chiltington prior to embarkation for Palestine. In November 1946 Buck returned to the United Kingdom for Release. He rejoined Surrey County Council as a Senior Educational Officer and was much occupied with the planning of a new Technical College at Ewell and on its opening was appointed its Principal.

In 1947 he joined the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) and commanded it from 1950 to 1954. Later he commanded a small SAS unit which was absorbed into 21 SAS (TA). He was Honorary Colonel of the 6th (T) Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) from 1967 to 1968. Always interested in the young he was delighted to be appointed County Commandant of the Army Cadet Force in Surrey. On retirement from Ewell Technical College he was awarded the OBE for his services to education. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey in April 1964.

There are numerous anecdotes about him which illustrate his care and affection for his soldiers. When in UK and training his company for North Africa, he decided they'd done enough training and needed a break, so he sent off his Coy 2i/c to buy 120 cinema tickets in the 'one and nines'. On another occasion he commandeered an unlocked railway carriage in a siding for use as sleeping quarters for his soldiers. When the Technical College was being built at Ewell, Buck could get very impatient with the authorities so part of the College was built before planning permission was given. In retirement Buck continued to take an interest in the welfare of his soldiers and maintained links with the old comrades associations. He recently completed a history of the 5th Northants. He possessed a most charming personality and one would never have thought how much he suffered from the wounds he sustained during the war years.

He married Mrs Kay Kendall in 1973. They enjoyed homemaking and travelled widely. While in India they met the old comrades of 8 Indian Division. Sadly Kay died of cancer and Buck subsequently met Sybil Bridge, a widow, who became a very dear friend and they were a marvellous combination of love and friendship, which was very evident to their host of friends. Buck leaves many friends in the army and civilian life who will remember him as a very gallant soldier with a distinguished military career, but above all a true and steadfast friend. To his sister Pat and to Sybil we all send our sincere condolences.

LW

(The Editor wishes to thank many friends of 'Buck' in the compilation of this obituary).

### Captain P H Whenmouth

Peter was an officer of the 1st Battalion, joining it just after the war's end at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok during the Autumn of 1945. John Terry was in command at the time and as Peter had in civil life been an employee of GPO Telephones it was natural that he became Signals Officer to the Battalion. He remained with the 1st Battalion under 'Maggie' Mott when it removed to Sungei Patani in Kedah State, Malaya but by the time that the Battalion moved to a more satisfactory station at Selerang Barracks on Singapore Island Peter had been repatriated to the U.K. and he finished his service as a member of the permanent staff at Shorncliffe. When the old 1847 Colours of the 1st Battalion were brought home on HMS *Glory* Peter was commanding the welcoming party at Devonport on the 14th of October 1947. He died whilst undergoing surgery in London for a heart condition and was cremated at Tunbridge Wells on the 23rd of October 1996.

AJP

### Colonel H B L Smith MC

Colonel Henry Brockton Lockhart Smith who died at the age of 87, was one of the longest serving officers of The East Surrey Regiment. Educated at Marlborough and RMC Sandhurst, he was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in January 1929. Harry as he was always known, has a sportsman's eye for field sports and team games, particularly cricket and hockey.

He joined the 1st Battalion in India and served there until 1938, when he was posted to the Regimental Depot at Kingston. After two years at the Depot he was appointed Adjutant of the 7th Battalion (23rd London Regiment) until it was transformed into the 42nd Royal Tank Regiment in 1938. On the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, Harry was appointed to command the 11th Brigade Anti Tank Company. Harry followed his father in the Regiment, Colonel H L Smith DSO, who had commanded the 1st Battalion from 1907 to 1911. Colonel Henry Smith, who retired in 1913, will be remembered for the introduction of the Huntingdonshire Salt Custom in the Officers Mess, when a newly joined officer is invited to take salt with the officers of the Regiment. In 1935 Harry married Helen Douglas, and they had three sons, the eldest of whom, Martin, did his National Service in The East Surrey Regiment before being commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and commanding his battalion before retiring recently. Peter initially served with the same regiment before pursuing a career in business and Anthony the youngest joined The Royal Marines.

During the fighting in Belgium and France in 1940, Harry was still commanding the Brigade Anti Tank Company and was able to bring his unit back to England from Dunkirk. Albeit slightly larger in numbers than had been posted to France, as one of Harry's notable exploits was assisting the French bride of one of his Company to safety in England from the beaches at Dunkirk, by having her dressed in uniform. He was appointed Second in Command of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and took part in Operation TORCH, the North African landings in November 1942 and subsequent Tunisian campaign. The Battalion was soon in action and Harry was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the recapture of a prominent feature on the Battalion front during Operation LONGSTOP. A few days before the end of the campaign on the 6th May 1943 the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Wilberforce was killed in action and Harry assumed command of the Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith led the 1st Battalion in the Sicily Campaign and the arduous advance up the mainland of Italy until after the capture of Cassino when he was appointed to the Staff at Army Headquarters Italy. He returned to Regimental Duty in September 1945 to command the 1/6th Battalion in

Greece until its disbandment in August 1946. His next appointment was with the Sudan Defence Force, returning for another two years in command of the 1st Battalion at Tripoli and Tel el Kebir. He was then promoted Colonel in 1956 and served as the Assistant Quartermaster at Headquarters Northumbrian District before being posted to his final appointment at Supreme Allied Headquarters, Europe; where he served under General Spiedel who had been Marshal Rommel's Chief of Staff. Harry retired on the 5th May 1961 after a long and distinguished career as a fighting soldier to the family estate at Ellingham in Suffolk.

He served for a number of years on the Loddon District Council and was able to enjoy his love of field sports, fishing and shooting into his late seventies. Helen pre-deceased Harry by twelve days and they were buried together after a joint service at St Mary's Church Ellingham on August 1st 1997.

#### Major J W Ennis TD

John Ennis was one of those thoroughly experienced officers who re-built the post-war TA and taught hundreds of young soldiers with little or no previous military experience both basic and specialist skills. After war-time service in North Africa and Italy with the Irish Guards and then with the Sikhs, in which he held an Emergency Commission, John was commissioned into the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) in 1950. He served continuously with that Battalion and its successors the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) and the 6th (Territorial) Bn. The Queen's Regiment until the latter went into "suspended animation" in 1969. His appointments in those units included MTO and OC HQ Company. However as a Banker in civilian life his accountancy skills were in considerable demand as Mess Treasurer, as Detachment Account Holder and for many years as a more or less permanent member of the Regimental Audit Board.

He brought to all of these appointments considerable experience, professionalism, total loyalty, and uncomplaining cheerfulness. Although for much of the time between ending his TA service and retiring from the Bank he lived in Broadstairs, he continued to serve the Queen's Surreys as Clerk/Treasurer to the Trustees of the Territorial Charity. John's contribution to the Charity was enhanced by his Employer's willingness to store much of the surplus Territorial Silver in its vaults and maintain the Charity's bank accounts on highly advantageous terms. As one of very few British Officers to have served in Italy with the Sikhs and survive the war plus thirty years of peace, John was very proud that they invited him to India to take part in the celebrations marking their Centenary. He was even prouder to be ceremonially dined by the officers and then to take the Salute at the march past of his former Battalion. He was a staunch and practising Christian, an excellent soldier in every way and our sympathy goes out to Maureen his widow, their children and grandchildren.

WEMCC

#### Major A W V Domoney

Major A W V Domoney, generally known as 'Dom', spent the first 30 years of his life with The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was born at Little Bookham, Surrey on 17th April 1915, when his father, a CSM in the Regiment, had already become a Prisoner of War. After the war when his father came home the family went out to join the 2nd Battalion at Rawalpindi. 'Dom' then spent 8 years in India as a schoolboy at Army schools. On return to England he completed his schooling in Basingstoke, and at 18 enlisted in the Regiment. He immediately made his mark, being Champion Recruit at the Depot, after which he too joined the 2nd Battalion then at Aldershot as part of 1st Guards Brigade. In later life he recalled he had been in Lieutenant A J A Watson's platoon. James Watson was then Army Shot Put champion and 'Dom' was in the Battalion Athletics team with

him as a high jumper. He also recalled marching from Tidworth to Aldershot in 22 hours 20 minutes to win a bet that a Queens platoon would beat a Guards platoon over the distance.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war 'Dom' was Senior Drill and Weapons Instructor at the depot. In December 1939 he was selected for officer training at 166 O C T U and was commissioned back into The Queens in April 1940. He joined 50th Queen's at Caterham and was involved in the Dunkirk evacuation as a ship's Adjutant. Later in 1940 he returned to 166 OCTU as an instructor before going in late 1941 to 15th Queen's as a Company Commander. This battalion was stationed at Dover in the front line of UK defence with various special operational responsibilities. After moves with the Battalion to Devonshire and then Yorkshire, in 1943 'Dom' briefly joined 13th Queen's at Ramsbottom, Lancashire before being drafted on to 2/7th Queen's in Italy. He was a Company Commander for the crossing of the Garigliano and then at Anzio, when he was wounded. After rejoining the battalion and its reforming in Egypt, he became 2nd in Command at the start of the Gothic Line battles in September 1944. He took command of the battalion for the battle to take the Ceriano Ridge, when Lt Col MacWilliam was ordered to be LOB. In late 1944 he was selected to attend the Staff College course at Haifa, after which he was appointed Camp Commandant of GHQ in Egypt. This was his last Army task, and he retired in 1946.

In civil life he became a surveyor and safety officer for two major construction firms in the Midlands, finally retiring in 1979. Locally he was much involved with St Mary Magdalen Church, Lillington, being Sidesman, Church Warden, and a member of the PCC for many years. He also took a great interest in folk music and dancing, becoming president of the local groups. He was a keen gardener. He maintained always a keen interest in Regimental matters, and contributed much to the Museum through articles and reminiscences, and he helped locally whenever needed on the welfare side. 'Dom' was married and had a son and daughter, his son serving also in the Army and becoming a Major in REME.



Captain D H Rossiter, (KIA San Savino Ridge, 14 Sep 44) Major A W V Domoney, Lieutenant G H Prosser (KIA Ceriano Ridge 20 Sep 44) Major M E M MacWilliam, Lieutenant L W J Evans (LKIA Casa Fabbri Ridge 14 Sep 44) Captain L F Carney.

JWS

#### Captain W J Oswald

Captain Oswald was educated at Cranleigh School and then went into the Civil service where he became Deputy Chief Estates Officer, Ministry of Town and Country Planning (G.B.) and qualified as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Volunteering for The Queen's Royal Regiment he rose to the rank of Captain and saw service with 1st/5th Battalion including defence duties on the South Coast of England in 1940 when invasion was expected. Further service saw him in the Middle East where he was wounded at El Alamein and taken prisoner. After incarceration in Germany and Norway he was eventually repatriated under an Exchange of Prisoners arrangement. Possessed on the unusual luxury of a hat while a prisoner, but having no cap badge, he fashioned one of

Queen's pattern out of silver paper and proudly wore it - even when meeting Prince Carl in Sweden while en route for home. In civilian life he was a good hockey player and, together with his wife, a keen sailor in motor boats. A devout and charitable Christian, he was a great supporter of the Court Cheshire House in Hampshire, being Chairman of the Emsworth Support Group for three years before retiring from the post in 1990 he frequently drove the minibus.

GAO

### Band Sergeant Major T G Rothwell



Graham Rothwell enlisted in 1956 and after initial training joined the Band of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment later that year in Tampin, Malaya. He went to Knellar Hall in 1951 rejoining the Band in Iserlohn.

From the day he joined the Band he took a major part in all its activities, a keen hockey player he was in the

Band hockey team for many years. After the Battalion returned from Malaya he accompanied the Band to Iserlohn and over a number of years served in Aden, Hong Kong, Münster, Bahrain (where he ran the dance band and completed a full tour with the battalion playing at many prestigious events on the island). On return to the UK, the battalion now 1 Queen's, he served in Berlin where they were an outstanding success under the baton of Bandmaster Tom Crichton. On return to the UK he accompanied the Band on four tours in Ulster.

Whilst serving in Hong Kong he was a member of the Hong Kong Concert Orchestra. He was also very proud to be one of only two British Servicemen to be made an Honorary Sergeant in No 4 Company of the Iserlohn Schützen Verleir, the shooting Regiment which also organised the annual Schutzenfest in which the Band played for several years.

The Regimental Band was a very close knit community and Graham played a leading part throughout his service. He was a very loyal member of the Regiment and the Sergeants Mess. Above all he was a dedicated musician and a loyal Band Sergeant Major to Bandmaster Tom Crichton and Bandmaster Andy Melvin. He left the Army in 1978 on pension. A number of his old comrades attended his last parade and his old friend 'Drummy', Colin Smith gave an excellent, and moving address. Our deepest sympathy goes to Peggy, Sandra and Nigel.

LMW

### Colour Sergeant P Maye

*Take flight with the gull Pat away from jagged rock and  
thorny bush,  
Let nature's timeless womb carry you over sloping Mayo  
fields,  
Feel the caress of breeze acknowledging your gentleness,  
Alight in thornless valleys and hold waiting hands that  
felt your parting kiss,  
Walk free Pat where shadow is not cast.*

The above poem was composed by the brother of the late Pat (Scragger) Maye a former Colour Sergeant in 1st Queen's and long time member of this Association who died on 2nd August 1997. It was submitted by a friend on behalf of the family and his friends.

### Sergeant A H ('Slim') Leach

I got to know Slim particularly well during the time I was MTO and Slim was one of the MT corporals and subsequently MT Sergeant, during the period covering the 1st Battalion's tour of Bury St Edmunds, Aden and Hong Kong. Slim Leach was a wonderful example of everything our Regiment stands for. He worked long hours to ensure that the MT Platoon met the details demanded, for which he expected no recognition, except the satisfaction of a job well done to the best of his considerable ability. It was a marvellous sight to see Slim of an early dank Aden morning, cursing and chuckling at the same time trying to start our clapped out landrover fleet, whilst towing them round the MT park. Somehow each day the details were met more often than not by the skin of our teeth and Slim's refusal to be beaten.

Slim had a wonderful personality, always cheerful, steadfast and loyal. His somewhat generous figure belied his athletic prowess of earlier years before contracting glandular fever whilst serving with 1 Surreys in Greece. The last time I recall being with Slim was at the Guildford Cathedral Remembrance Service about four years ago. Typically cheerful despite now being in a wheel chair, provided by our Association, for which he was immensely grateful. His disability made no difference to his cheerfulness and the sense of enjoyment of life he gave to others. His friendship, loyalty and humour will be greatly missed.

JWF

### Wally Heath - artist and friend of The Regiment



It was a sad day for our Association when Wally died. He had just completed the cover design and maps for the new book, 'The Queen's in the Middle East and North Africa' by Major Bob Johnson and had started on the Chinese dragons and the art work for the Hong Kong display in the Museum.

He started to help the Museum in 1981. He lived opposite me in Heathfield and in spite of being handicapped by almost complete deafness managed to travel to London to work as a professional commercial artist with a well known firm whom he had joined from the Kingston Art College many years ago. The Museum had been open for two years at Clandon and Colonel Bob Hill and friends decided it was time to mount a display for the 40th Anniversary of Salerno in 1983. Looking back now one realises we had no finesse and no money to spend! A 1-inch map of the area was obtained from Ordnance. We did the research. I crossed the road and asked Wally for help. He introduced me to cow gum and how to colour the map. He then placed the swastikas and our company and platoon positions on the map.

After his wife died he moved to Farnborough and became a regular visitor to Clandon in his deer stalker hat and bow tie and really became part of our work party. He helped with all the art work for the books we have produced, and his beautifully executed work can be found in most rooms in the Museum. He entered the names of those killed on active service and those that had died in the Queen's Regiment Books of Remembrance. He was a happy soul and never let his deafness hinder his work and enjoyment of life. He was tickled pink when Colonel Toby Sewell asked him if they hadn't met on the beaches! I miss my friend Wally and the Museum staff and work party feel the same. His work for the Regiment will live on long after we have faded away.

DH

## Laying up of 1 Queen's Colours at Guildford Cathedral



*The Commanding Officer, 1 PWRR Lt Col M P Rayner and congregation await the arrival of The Colours*



*The Colour Party halted in front of the CO*



*Lt Col Rayner about to hand over The Colours to the Dean, The Very Reverend Alex Wedderspoon, Dean of Guildford Cathedral*



*The Colours displayed on the altar flanked by two Drummers*



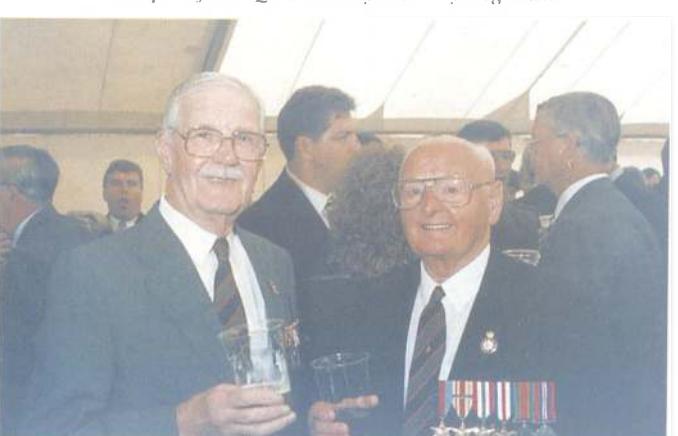
*A view of the Colours on the altar with the Reverend Tom Hiney MC in the pulpit*



*A view of the congregation with the Colour Party in front of the Chapel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment*



*Lt Cols Mike Lowry, Geoffrey Mason, Mrs Penny Francis and Lt Col David Dickins at the reception*



*Our Old Soldiers enjoy a quiet pint - recalling bygone days*



Collect  
of  
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray Thee, Thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect all members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment; be with them in the day of battle, and in time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them always with courage and loyalty, grant that by serving Thee faithfully in all things they may be strengthened in the spirit of service to their Sovereign, their Country and their Regiment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Collect of The Queen's Royal Regiment**

O Lamb of God, in whom we behold the Saviour of the world in whom we triumph even in adversities, keep, we pray Thee, thy servants of The Queen's Royal Regiment ever mindful in all duty by sea and by land of Thy valour of old unto death, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. Amen

**Editor's note:** The Regimental Collects of our Regiments are reproduced on this page. They have been printed in colour, on card and are available from the Secretary for a small donation to Association funds. The Secretary normally sends a card to relatives after being notified of an old comrades death. Several letters received from widows recently, indicate that not all members knew there was a Regimental Collect, and all the letters were most appreciative that they had received the Collect in time for it to be included in the funeral service.

**Collect of The East Surrey Regiment**

O God who dost prove and try Thy people as gold is tried in the fire, grant, we beseech Thee, of Thy mercy, that Thy servants The East Surrey Regiment, who have been tried by water and by fire and proved in many a day of battle, may never be confounded for as much as we trust in Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Regimental History as seen by G Robinson*



The Barracks, Kingston-upon-Thames 1997



Photo: Eagle DP

The Interior of the Regimental Chapel, Guildford



One hour after the conclusion of the Laying Up Ceremony the Colours were hanging in the Chapel

Photo by Ben May