

MAY 2002



NUMBER 71

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER

# TERCENTENARY

*of the  
Raising of Villiers Marines  
later*

*The 31st Regiment of Foot and The East Surrey Regiment*





## Regimental and Association Events

2002

1st June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE. (1794).
1st June	5 OMA Annual Dinner, Drill Hall, Farnham. Details from I Chatfield, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN. Tel 01483 429425.
9th June	Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service, Guildford Cathedral 11 am for 11.15 am. The service this year will commemorate Her Majesty, The Queen's Golden Jubilee and the Tercentenary of the raising of Villiers' Marines.
7th July	PWRR Grand Reunion - Aldershot.
1st August	MINDEN DAY (1759).
1st August	2 PWRR move to Ternhill, Shropshire.
3rd August	Tercentenary: Raising of Meredith's Regiment (Royal Hampshire Regiment) - Winchester.
7th September	2/6th and 2/7th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment OCA Combined Annual Reunion at The Union Jack Club. Details from Major M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR.
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943).
15th September	Museum Open Day - Clandon - Meet your Mates.
4th October	Queen's Royal Surrey Museum Trustees Meeting - Clandon.
7th October	Queen's Surreys Officers' Club Ladies Luncheon - Clandon.
9th October	Golf Society Autumn Meeting.
12th October	East Surrey OCA Reunion, Clapham Junction.
23rd October	A service to commemorate the Battle of El Alamein, Westminster Abbey 12 Noon. See details on page 18.
1st November	Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club. (Details enclosed).
7th November	Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey, London, 11am.
10th November	Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Hailes Church, Camberwell - Southwark, Bermondsey and the Cenotaph - London.
22nd November	PWRR Officers' Club Regimental Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club, London.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

2003

7th February	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Council Meeting.
10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846).
3rd March (TBC)	Queen's Royal Surrey Museum Meeting - Clandon.
8th March (TBC)	Queen's Royal Surrey Territorial Trustees Meeting - Clandon.
22nd March	Queen's Royal Surreys Charity - Officers' Club and Association Meetings.
23rd April	YPRES DAY (1915).
9th May	Golf Society Spring meeting - Sudbrooke Park.
14th May	Golf v Royal Marines Fleet.
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811).
1st June (TBC)	Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.
1st August	MINDEN DAY.
9th September	SALERNO DAY (1943).
7th November	Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.
9th November	Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Hailes Church, Camberwell - Southwark, Bermondsey and the Cenotaph - London.



## Editorial

This is my last Newsletter as Editor and I shall 'retire' for the third time after the annual church service. It is therefore incumbent upon me to thank a number of individuals. Since 1983 when I became Editor, I have received considerable support and assistance which has contributed enormously to the success of the Newsletter.

Firstly my thanks go to the late Richard Ford, who died as this edition was going to press. He helped with all editions and Supplements; to my old sparring partner 'Rupert' who has given his advice and pearls of wisdom so freely to young officers over the years; Penny James and Roy Harding from the museum, who have produced photo albums so promptly; George Robinson who produced the various cartoons of regimental history; to 'Corporal' George Harris, his family Elaine, John and James, our printers at Sandwich. Their advice and expertise has made the task of Editor much easier.

To Brigadier Jonathon Riley, who recently completed the Colours Supplement which accompanies this Newsletter and has assisted in several historical projects over the years; Chris Collins who produces the cartoons to accompany the 'Rupert' articles and many other pieces of artwork.

To the late Peter Hill (and Daphne) who were always very supportive. Peter in his gentle way and Daphne not quite so gentle, I learned much from Peter, not only the history of the Surreys but as a former Secretary and Editor, he always gave wise and practical counsel.

A special thank you from us all to John and Valerie Fowler: since I became Editor they have supplied the paper on which the Newsletter is printed and have very generously said that they will continue to do so.

To the Presidents and various Trustees with whom I have worked since 1983, thank you all for your support to me as Secretary and Editor, and since 1995 to John Rogerson at RHQ, who will continue to run the benevolence for the Association.

To the many members who have contributed long articles, short ones, or newspaper cuttings, which may be of interest to other readers. Above all, the members who have written or telephoned the sad news of a comrade's death, and of course the letters of congratulation and the few 'brick-bats' because I had not included enough history and news from 'their' side of the Regiment!

Over the years two artists have contributed their water-colours and paintings which have appeared on the front covers, centre pages, Christmas cards and calendars, I refer of course to Charles Stadden and Bryan Fosten, both outstanding military artists and both so knowledgeable concerning dress, equipment and military history, thank you both for being so helpful personally not only during my time as Secretary/Editor.

My appreciation goes to Tommy Atkins who has been my mentor since the Berlin Airlift and to the many other helpers too numerous to mention my grateful thanks.

Finally, a welcome to your new Editor, Tony Russell. I am confident you will continue to give him support in the years to come. Remember Tony, the first ten years are the worst - after that it is all downhill! The only other advice I perhaps, can pass on to you is to try and be as tactful and diplomatic as me and remember "it's all done by kindness"!

Take care, God Bless

Les Wilson

## President's Notes

Since the last newsletter I am delighted to report that our new Association Secretary, Tony Russell, is now well settled in and we have also agreed and signed the lease for the museum with the National Trust. The museum refurbishment is almost completed and I am certain that you will be pleased with the result. I would like to congratulate Adrian Birtles, the Chairman of the Museum Trustees, and his team for the excellent work they have done and re-opening the museum on time for the re-opening of Clandon Park - so many projects fail to meet their target date. The refurbished museum will be formally opened on 17th May and we are delighted that the Chairman of the National Trust, Mr Charles Nunnerley, has agreed to do this. We hope to work in close partnership with the National Trust in the coming years and that we will have a long term future in Clandon House which we believe is in both our interest and that of the National Trust.

We celebrated the tercentenary of the Regiment in Aden in 1961. This marked the tercentenary of the raising of the Tangier Regiment of Foot, which became the Queen's Royal Regiment and which, with the East Surrey Regiment, formed The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment when we amalgamated in 1959; the Regimental Colour was trooped and HRH the Princess Alexandra took the salute. This year we mark the tercentenary of the raising of the Villiers' Marines from whom The East Surrey Regiment was descended. We do this at our annual service at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 9th June when we celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We expect a large turnout for the service and the Lord Lieutenant has kindly agreed to take the salute when the old comrades march past after the service.

You will know that Major Peter Hill died recently aged 90 - a good innings - He was an outstanding regimental officer and devoted himself to the Regiment and particularly the museum for many years. To his widow, Daphne, we offer our deepest sympathy.

This is Les Wilson's last Newsletter and he is retiring yet again although I expect him to remain much in evidence. He will continue to serve us as a trustee on the Regimental Charity and as a member of the Regimental Council. I have no doubt that we will all wish to call on his extensive memory of regimental matters from time to time. I would like, on behalf of all members of the Association, to thank Les for his outstanding contribution to the Regiment over many years.

With best wishes

Bob Acworth

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## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment



The Regiment is in fine form and just about fully recruited. This is unique in today's army and is all thanks to the effort of many members of the Regiment's recruiting teams and input of Regimental money.

The 1st Battalion is still based in Tidworth and returns for another tour of Kosovo in May 2002 in the Armoured Warrior role. The period covering the end of last year up to now has been hectic and busy. They had a training team in South Arabia which was very successful. This did not receive much publicity as the emotive subject of British troops training the South Arabian Forces might have caused a media nightmare.

'C' Company hosted a French Company from the 35 Infanterie Regiment and then went to Alsace to train with them. Their



fresh rations of raw horse meat and armadillo giblets were questioned? Recces for the next tour have taken place. The Battalion will return to Pristina. The summer is the traditional fighting season and the Kosovo Albanian insurgents will be looking for the usual scrap.

Training has taken place in Otterburn and Dartmoor and Sennybridge to the usual mixture of good and really awful weather. The Battalion is in fine form.

The 2nd Battalion is based in Aldershot and will Arms Plot move to Ternhill (Shropshire) in August 2002. This means that they give up their role as Mechanised Infantry (Saxon) and move to a new role of difficult terrain and fast deployment. The Battalion has a new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J P Clover MBE as Lieutenant Colonel S F Deakin OBE has been promoted and moved to the Staff. Arms Plot move time is a hectic period with a thousand and one things to do, from administration along with recces and continual briefing of families and all ranks. They will just have time to settle in the new Barracks spending Christmas and then off to Kenya on Exercise in January for eight weeks. It is then into intensive Northern Ireland training and deployment to Northern Ireland in June 2003. The Battalion will be sad to leave Aldershot.

Since the last input into the journal the Battalion has supported other units training for Northern Ireland. run inter platoon competitions, completed various Skill at Arms competitions and run various Tiger Trophy sports competitions. The Battalion's ski teams (Alpine and Nordic) did well in the Divisional Competitions narrowly missing out on a place in the Army Championships. In addition Captain J Featherstone is planning a major expedition to Costa Rica in July. The 2nd Battalion will also be hosting the Grand Reunion.

The 3rd Battalion is going from strength to strength, with Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Crowley ensuring that life is worth while in the TA. The continued annual cycle of training has moved from fighting in woods or forests (FIWAF) to urban operations. Each different scenario requires separate specialists skills. The Battalion entered a successful team in the Cambrian Patrol competition in Wales and also exercised with the French in France. The Battalion's Shooting Teams seem to win every competition in sight! There are also twenty-three members of the Battalion serving in Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) with the Regular Army in Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus and Germany. This is excellent and produces a professional backbone to the Battalions. Sport has also been covered with teams entering sailing, golf and adventure training and a fifty mile charity run.

'B' (Queen's Regiment) Company The London Regiment are now training at Platoon Offensive level which has involved weekend training sessions at SPTA and local areas. The Company took part in the ceremony of the new Lord Mayor of London and joined the march past. They came second in the SF (concentration) which was a UK concentration. This was an excellent achievement. They also have FTRS soldiers serving in Bosnia and UK. The Company is in fine form under the command of Major Alex Bond.

'C' (The Duke of Connaughts Own) PWRR Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers goes from strength to strength. The Colonel of the Regiment visited the platoon in the Isle of Wight in February and saw training and gave a lecture on the Isle of Wight Rifles. This was to a packed drill hall of Company personnel, Association members and Cadets. They are now working up for Annual Camp in the Ukraine in September 2002.

In summary the Regiment is in fine form and well motivated.

AM

**Your new Association Secretary and Editor**  
**Major Tony Russell MBE**



On commissioning from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in July 1971, Tony Russell joined 1 Queen's in Berlin where he served as a platoon commander for a year before moving to Bulford with the battalion in 1972. Following two years in England with 1 Queen's, he was posted to the Depot the Queen's Division as a recruit platoon commander. He rejoined 1 Queen's in January 1977 and over the next six years served in BAOR, Canada, England, Belize and Northern

Ireland. This tour of regimental duty culminated with almost three years as adjutant 1 Queen's, following which he attended the Army Staff Course at Shrivenham and Camberley.

Having spent 1985 and 1986 as SO2 G3 Trg, HQ SW District in Bulford, he rejoined 1 Queen's as OC A (Tangier) Company in early 1987 when the battalion moved to Tidworth. In Spring 1989 he took up the appointment of Training, Intelligence and Security Officer with 7/10 UDR in Belfast. In 1991 he began nearly six years in MOD London working on Reserve Forces' policy, initially for the Army and then in a new tri-service Central Staff Directorate.

In January 1997 he went as a member of the British Military Advisory and Training Team, South Africa, and was awarded the MBE for his work there. He returned to MOD London in August 1999, working in the Directorate for Central and Eastern Europe as the desk officer dealing with defence policy for Ukraine and the South Caucasus. In April 2002 at the age of 50, Tony Russell retired from the Army in order to take up the appointment of Association Secretary.

Tony has been married to Lorraine for over twenty-five years and they have been blessed with three daughters.

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**What they said**

Some official views of warfare and Empire.

A British battalion commander inspecting troops at Singapore - *"Don't you think they are worthy of some better enemy than the Japanese?"*.

A Brigadier-General before the Somme, 1916 - *"You will be able to go over the top with a walking stick, you will not need rifles. When you get to Thiepval you will find the Germans all dead, not even a rat will have survived"*.

General Douglas Haig, 1915 - *"The machine gun is a much overrated weapon, two per battalion is more than sufficient"*.

Adolf Hitler, 1943 - *"The duty of the men at Stalingrad is to be dead"*.

Alphonse Etienne, a former French minister, on the subject of French infantry uniforms in 1914 - *"Eliminate the red trousers? Never! Le pantalon rouge c'est la France"*.

Lord Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty, 1828 - *"Their Lordships felt it their bounden duty to discourage to the utmost of their ability the use of steam vessels, as they considered that the introduction of steam was calculated to strike a fatal blow to the naval supremacy of the Empire"*.

RF

Sources: The Guinness Books of Military and Naval Blunders.

**The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity**

**Description of the Charity**

The Charity is an amalgamation of several former Charities, now regulated by a single Sealed Scheme of the Charity Commissioners, for benevolent and memorial purposes relating to the relief of need, hardship or distress of persons (and their dependants) who have served in, and for promoting the efficiency and maintaining the traditions of, the County Infantry Regiments of Surrey and their successors in title.

**The Trustees**

A body of eight Trustees, three ex-officio and five nominated, govern the charity. New trustees are nominated and appointed by mutual consent of existing trustees.

**Policy in Pursuant of Charity's Aims -**

**The policy of the Trustees continues to be :-**

- by all lawful means (including underwriting the costs of Newsletters and Reunions) to make and maintain contact with all members of the Regimental Association, with informally affiliated Old Comrades Associations of former founding Regiments and Battalions and with all others who have served or are serving, in order to identify those in need.
- to maintain contact with SSAFA Forces Help Society and other bodies able to investigate the needs of such persons.
- to make grants or donations to or for the benefit of, and to provide holidays, electric wheelchairs and other equipment comforts and aids for such persons.
- to make grants to charitable organisations, hospitals, homes or institutions which include in their objectives the assistance of persons and their dependants who have served in the Regiments or Former Regiments.
- to make grants and donations towards the running of the Regimental Museums and the maintenance of memorials and chapels commemorating the deeds of the Regiment and its successors and those who served in them.
- to make grants and donations for the provision of recreational and other facilities (not covered by public funds) for the Regular and Territorial Battalions of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

**Benevolence**

During 2001 a total of two hundred and twelve cases were investigated and one hundred and seventy five individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for home furnishings, debts, particularly gas, electricity, rent arrears, and travel. The association helped provide twenty-one further wheelchairs or mobility scooters, nineteen sets of orthopaedic furniture and contributed to nine convalescent holidays.

The Charity administered thirty ABF Annuities and the ABF generously contributed £50 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for seven Nursing Home Fees of £624 ABF and £154 Association per case, per year to be paid for our soldiers or their widows to be looked after. We have one resident in Gifford House, with one other member there for a short stay during the year.

The Charity paid out £44,656 as individual grants-in-aid. Of the forty cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted twenty after we had contacted them. Ten cases were not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants and annuities in support were £19,248. Association Branch Secretaries have the SSAFA and Forces Help Half-Yearly Handbook, for them to deal direct with the local caseworkers..

The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund, which is always helpful with prompt action and advice. SSAFA, Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and to their caseworkers we are particularly grateful for all their assistance. During this last year we have also assisted St Dunstaners and members who are being cared for by the Ex-Services Mental-Welfare-Society, War Pensions Agency, Combat Stress, The Officers' Association, The Hospice Care Centres and the Returned Services League of Australia.

**Benevolence Guidance**

The Benevolence Sub Committee operated in accordance with the Charity Sealed Scheme paragraph 27 and meets not less than monthly to approve requests from Service and Civilian organisations looking after the needs of serving soldiers and those who have served in our Regiments and their immediate dependants. The Trustees review periodically the maximum individual grant that the Benevolence Sub Committee, currently £500 in one year, can authorise without referring to the Trustees.

**Association Review**

The Trustees now meet twice yearly during which they review the recommendations made in the **Doyle Report**. A Financial Sub - Committee has been formed to monitor all finances, review budgets and to make recommendations to the Trustees. A new Association Secretary has been appointed to take over all Association matters apart from Benevolence by 2nd April 2002. This is in accordance with the restructuring of staff at RHQ PWRR. The new Secretary will be salaried and employed by the Association.

**Museum**

The Museum has been closed during 2001 whilst the planned refurbishment was implemented in time for re-opening in 2002. The Trustees appointed a quantity surveyor to oversee and monitor the £250,000 refitting programme. The National Trust has approved the new lease, which includes the sharing of an existing room.

The Trustees remain mindful of the limited tenure and will continue to seek a long-term solution for the museum collection. The Trustees believe that the museum is a major asset for Clandon Park and hope to market the museum with Clandon Park House in partnership with the trust.

The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment Association

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7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major J M A Tamplin MBE TD, 10 Hugh Street SWI	Tel: 0207 8340120
2/6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M A Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR	Tel: 0132 2527017
2/7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Colonel D E Blum OBE, 85 Thameside, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2HF	Tel: 01784 450483
East Surrey Reunion:	F A W Ramsey Esq MM, 20 Lavender Road, Carshalton, Surrey SMS 3EF	Tel: 0208 4012070
WOs and Sgts Assoc:	P Henman Esq, 35 Downside Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5HR	Tel: 0208 6420585
2/6th East Surrey St Valery Assoc:	Maj A J Redfern MC TD, Courtlands, 12 Kent House, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5AV	Tel: 0208 9402191
Queen’s Surreys ( Kent) Branch:	R F Harper Esq, 7 De Havilland Close, Hawkinge, Kent CT18 7FE	Tel: 01303 891970
Queen’s Surreys (Suffolk) Branch:	D J Gardner Esq, 106 Oakes Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6QS	Tel: 01284 753160
1st Surrey Rifles	T W Young Esq BEM, 38 Stanstead Manor, St James Road, Sutton, Surrey	Tel: 0208 643 6189
Queen’s Surreys (South West) Branch	H Stewart Esq, 1 Evenlode Av, Waddon, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5NR	Tel: 01242 239121

Letters of appreciation - We append below some of the letters your Secretary has received

I would like to express my gratitude to you for helping me and my family in our hour of need. We have been struggling since I had an accident in 1996, and things seemed to go from bad to worse. I had just about given up, when a friend told me about SSAFA. They helped me and being ex Queen’s, said nothing is too much for a fellow ex-serviceman. SSAFA sent out a case worker who I believe got in touch with your Association. To my surprise we had a reply within a week. So Sir, it is with the greatest respect I say, thank you all very much.

I have just received the grant from Mr Andrews of SSAFA, and my wife and I are so grateful for it makes so much difference to us. I understand that the grant stops next month and we will miss it, and thank you for your efforts in the past. I was thinking a few days ago, that when I first polished my East Surrey cap badge in 1928, that now over seventy three years later I would have cause to be so grateful. The cap badge now has pride of place in my thirteen year old Great Grandson’s bedroom (he at the moment wants to join the SAS).

On behalf of my husband Mr A, I would like to thank you very much for all your help with the application and receipt of a cheque for £500 from The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment Association, towards the cost of a shower installation.

I am writing to you today to say a very big thank you for the money for my wife’s powerpack for her wheelchair. I just wanted you to know how much we appreciate it as I suffer from breathing difficulties and have had an awful job getting my wife out and about. This will make our everyday lives a lot easier.

Because my husband can’t write himself, I am writing this letter on his behalf. We would both like to thank you for your kind contribution you gave towards a powered wheelchair for him. It’s going to make a difference to both of us due to his illness. Also thank you for the Newsletter and Supplement, they are both very interesting. Thank you once again for your help and support.

Just to say how much I appreciate the kindness shown to me from my husband’s regiment (The Queen’s), that my husband was very proud to be a part of. As this card indicates, spring will soon be here with daffodils and narcissi etc. It is something to look forward to. Thanking you 2002 times.

**P Tootal, RBL County Field Officer, Kent, writes:-** Thank you very much for your letter, together with your generous grant of £212 to Mr B towards heating and hot water repairs. Mr B will, of course, be advised of your kindness. I am most grateful for your assistance with this application.

**Captain J Streatfield-James, SSAFA Surrey writes:-** I have just received your cheque for £500 towards Mrs C’s household expenses. She is most grateful for the help of the Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment Charity and will be writing to you direct, in due course. In the interim, would you please pass her thanks - and mine - to your President and Trustees. Once again, may I say how impressed I am with your Association’s swift and kind response to a call for help from the family of an ex-Queensman. I will, with much pleasure, keep you in touch with Private C’s widow for as long as you wish.

**P Tootal, RBL County Field Officer, Kent, writes:-** Thank you very much for your letter, together with your generous grant of £300 to Mr D towards a new Dual Control Sunrise Medical Volunteer P100 wheelchair. Mr D will, of course, be advised of your kindness. Thank you also for the Association Newsletter which the caseworker will give to Mr D. I note that you have forwarded the application to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund requesting that they also consider a grant of £300 and I am most grateful for your assistance with this case.

**B Williams SSAFA/FHS writes regarding Nursing Home fees:-** Further to your letter of the 10th December 2001 with cheque for £780 towards shortfall of the nursing home fees for Mr E. I have written to the ABF to thank them for the grant but felt I should write to thank you also. Unfortunately the shortfall of fees seem to crop up more and more, although Mr E is not able to appreciate the grants in his mental state, they do enable him to continue to have the care he is used to. Thank you once more.

**Lt Col S Overton, RBL writes:-** Thank you so much for your kind and generous cheque for £100 towards the costs of Mr F attending the outing on 5th October 2001. We are most grateful. Mr F has been advised of the source of the grant and has requested that we convey his genuinely sincere thanks and appreciation to your Welfare Committee for their generosity. We have also forwarded your Association Newsletter to him. Once again, so very many thanks for your kind support of this most deserving gentleman. It is very much appreciated albeit certainly not in any way taken for granted.

**D F Oldershaw, SSAFA Wiltshire, writes:-** Many thanks for your support of Mrs G and also for the copy of the Newsletter. Most interesting. I was with the 2nd of Foot wearing the Lamb and Flag!

**Mrs Pat Reid, Divisional Secretary, SSAFA writes:-** Thank you very much for the generous grant to pay for Mrs H’s washing machine. She is delighted and I am sure that she will be writing to you herself.

I have today received a letter from Mrs Pat Reid, Divisional Secretary for SSAFA (Wiltshire Branch, Marlborough & Amesbury Division), informing me of your kind grant of £390 towards my new washing machine. My husband served as a bandsman in the old East Surrey Regimental Band, based in Kingston-upon-Thames. This is very welcome and, once again, my heartfelt thanks.

**J G Griffiths, Divisional Secretary SSAFA/FHS writes from Blaenau, Ffestiniog, Gwynedd:-** Thank you for fowarding the cheque for £600. Mrs I is very grateful for the annuity. I will pass this to the SSAFA Treasurer who will issue me with a cheque every month to deliver by hand to Mrs I. This way I can ‘keep an eye’ on her health and welfare. Thank you for your assistance.

**Extract of a letter to County Field Officer, Dorset:-** I write on behalf of my mother, Mrs J, to thank you for your letter dated 30th January 2002.

Whilst Mum has recovered well from her heart bypass operation last year she has recently suffered a series of chest infections which required hospitalisation for a long period. I am pleased to report that she is recovering and we hope that she will return home within a few weeks. In any event we were all very pleased with the help that Mum received from the Royal British Legion and, particularly, the care that she enjoyed during her stay as a respite patient at the Dunkirk Memorial Hospital. It assisted immeasurably with her recovery after her operation. Please convey our gratitude to the Royal Signals Association, the Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association, and the Queen’s Own Buffs Regimental Association for their kindness and generosity. We also thank you all sincerely for your assistance and the generosity. My mother has asked that you convey her respects to Mr K Hadfield RBL and thank him for all he did on her behalf.



## Museum Notes

It is good to report that when Clandon Park House opened for the 2002 season on 24th March, your Museum opened with it; thus achieving our own objective and our commitment to the National Trust to be open to the public again by Easter 2002.

Needless to say perhaps, a great deal of work has been done in the period since the November Newsletter to achieve this, and there were times when even your optimistic Museum Chairman was biting his nails as the deadline approached relentlessly and there still seemed to be so much to do. Of course, there still is more to do; much of this is just the final refinements to the new displays (and please do tell us about the "deliberate mistakes" that you spot when you visit the Museum, we shall be grateful and put them right).



But there are two particular things worth mentioning; the Regimental Association Trustees generously funded an additional showcase to house our splendid collection of medals, which was installed only just before re-opening. Laying out the medals will be a major task likely to take several months, so apologies for this temporary incompleteness, but visitors will be able to watch this taking shape during the Summer. Secondly, the Museum Trustees decided to commission a display to commemorate the late Major Peter Hill, one of the Museum's Founding Fathers and a personification of all that the Regiment stands for; this display should be installed during the season.



The re-opening on 24th March was without ceremony - back to "business as usual" and a slight sigh of relief as well as considerable elation, but we are delighted that the Chairman of the National Trust, Charles Nunneley, will be coming in May to perform the formal re-opening. Our strengthening partnership with the National Trust to make all aspects of Clandon Park a success is most important for the Museum's future.

Of course, the less spectacular but very important business of the Museum as a centre for research and information has

continued throughout the refurbishment, not to mention the mail order business of the Museum Shop, and these have been managed by our staff in addition to all the other pressures on their time, and we must be grateful to Penny and Roy for their dedication and calm throughout this period. The Museum Trustees have met as usual to keep the formal business on track, and our volunteers have continued their regular Wednesday sessions to further research and safeguard our archives. The Museum does need more volunteers, particularly to act as stewards when the Museum is open (but also for other things); age limits 17 to 97, hours to suit you (regular or occasional), no experience required; this is good fun in pleasant surroundings and we cannot operate the Museum without our volunteers, so if you think you (or anyone you know) might be interested, please contact me, or Penny or Roy at the Museum.



A great deal has been done in the last year to ensure that the Regiment continues to have a first-class Museum which it can be proud of. I hope that as many members as possible of the Association will visit during the season. I think you will enjoy your visit, and you are assured of a warm welcome. Opening times are as before, Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Bank Holidays until 3rd November, 12noon - 5pm, free entry to the Museum. The Museum Open Day this year will be on Sunday, 15th September.

AB

## Kicked into fame

The Regimental Museum at Clandon has earned itself a place in the BBC's published History Magazine.

An article entitled "The March of History" briefly reviews various Regimental Museums in the country and in quoting the selections of exhibits acquired over the years, comments on ".....the football kicked across No Man's Land on the first day of the Somme by The East Surrey Regiment, on display now at Clandon Park, Guildford....."

## J Chandler sent the following e-mail to the museum

Now well past my sale buy date and fast approaching gone with the wind, it was nice to come across this site belonging to my old regiment. It brought back memories of old long gone comrades and a feeling of pride, that we belonged to the best and most certainly did our best, good luck and God bless keep the old flag flying high.

Regards, John Chandler, just an old Infantry soldier.

*Editor's note, Details of the Association and Newsletters have been despatched to Mr Chandler. In the meantime on behalf of all members of the Association all good wishes to Mr Chandler and forget the 'sell by date'!*

## A Treasure Trail

Seemingly having been intent on improving his fortunes, Captain George Dobson Young found himself being Court Martialled on 5th June 1843 at Umballa in India.

It was alleged that having received information that treasure was concealed or buried within the fort of Khytul, he had failed to report the facts to the appropriate military or civil authorities but, with assistance of other officers and servants, had searched for it, found it, and unlawfully extracted part of it. As part of his search he had dug through the wall in the Tykhana where the treasure was concealed. So that his efforts should not be discovered he had posted two native sentries there as an impromptu security measure.

Acquitted of any criminal or "dishonest or unworthy motives", he was nevertheless convicted of failing to report the find and having made unauthorised search for it, actions which the court considered to be "an error in judgement to which they attached no criminality".

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India expressed displeasure with the results of the case, being of the opinion that an element of criminality was involved.

He condemned any practices of unauthorised searches in the future.

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## Civilian Hero

Many members of our Regiments have won awards for gallantry while serving, but one of them gained his after return to civilian life.

Percy Barnard Weller served in The East Surrey Regiment in the First World War but during the second was employed at the Schermuly explosives factory at Newdigate, Surrey.

On the 16th May 1941 an explosion accompanied by fire occurred in one of the buildings. A workman by the name of Clark was badly burned and Weller, accompanied by another man, entered the burning building and, at great danger to themselves, rescued him. Unfortunately he died later. Weller ran a great risk, not only from the fire but from further explosion which did in fact occur shortly afterwards and demolished the building.

Weller was awarded the Edward Medal which was later converted to the George Cross. He was decorated at Buckingham Palace in November 1941. A photograph of him with his wife and son at the Palace shows him in Home Guard uniform and wearing the badge of The Queen's.

RF

□ □ □

## Green Ridge an evergreen memory

On the 20th December 1941 the battered and depleted remnants of the 1st Leicester's and 2nd East Surrey Regiments banded together to form the British Battalion in a desperate effort to stem the Japanese invasion of Malaya.

After bitter fighting the 900 strong Battalion made a gallant and determined stand at Green Ridge, Kampar, against the 3,500 strong 41st Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Army, holding them at bay for four days from 30th December 1941 to 2nd January 1942 and giving them what was later described as "a bloody nose".

With the collapse of the Malayan campaign the Battalion, with other British and Empire troops passed into captivity and years of cruelty, suffering and deprivation.



Green Ridge, Kampar, Feb 2000. Visit by Rotary club of Ipoh, Perak. International Peace conference. (R) K L Chye wearing the cap with tag British Battalion and the Royal Leicester badge. (centre) His Excellency Paramjit S Sahai, High Commissioner of India. The Jat/Punjab Regiment fought with the British Battalion at Kampar. 30/12/41 - 2/1/42

The battle is well entrenched in respective Regimental memories and histories but in Malaya itself there is no more devoted preserver of recollections of the events than Kampar-born war historian Chye Kooi Loong. As a 12 year old boy at the time of the battle, and forced to flee to the hills with his family, he retains strong and emotional memories of it. Among his treasured souvenir possessions are buttons and badges given him by embattled soldiers.



60th Anniversary British Battalion, Green Ridge, Kampar 20/12/2001. Ex Services Association of Malaysia, Kampar Branch. K L Chye (L to R) 7th with cap (centre). Taken after the short memorial ceremony conducted by historian K L Chye.

Over the years he has done much to preserve memories of the battles around Kampar, keeping in touch with the Regiments involved and promoting interests in Malaya itself. He conducts tours round the battlefield sites and has also written a book on "The British Battalion, Malaya 1941-42".

It is as well that he is in location to preserve the Green Ridge site as two other nearby sites, Thompson's Ridge and Kennedy Ridge, have fallen victims to developers. Ironically Green Ridge escaped a similar fate because the developers ran out of money. Thanks to the efforts of Chye and other interested parties, and with Government blessing, the Ridge has now been preserved as a heritage war site.

Regretfully a proposed 60th anniversary trip had to be cancelled due to air transport difficulties after the September 11th 2001 tragedy in America.



## The Rangers - and the Freedom Fighters

After 1881 the 31st Regiment of Foot, and the 70th Regiment of Foot amalgamated to form the East Surreys. In the past they had been connected and disconnected in several ways, but never fought side by side in battle. However, by a strange set of circumstances the 31st and the 70th did combine and fight together in 1772. Not only were they in the same campaign, but various sub-units were amalgamated and fought as one regiment, which was called the Rangers, a somewhat modern name.

The Rangers were selected as volunteers who were brave, resourceful, and were used as what we would now call a 'Special Forces unit', or a 'commando unit'. Why only men from the 31st and 70th were selected is not recorded.

In the years between 1764 and 1772, the 70th had been 'swanning around' on the smaller islands of the West Indies doing little, other than garrison duties and dying in large numbers from various tropical diseases. After all they were formed in 1758, so they had only been in existence for fourteen years, so the chances of meeting were remote.

On the other hand, the old 31st, part of whom were to form the Rangers, had been in Florida for some time sorting out the Spaniards. Its commanding officer was Lt Col Ralph Walsh, who had nearly been court-martialled for locking the gates of the fortress of Pensacola, and loading his cannons on the arrival of troops under Lt Col Maxwell, who he thought might be taking over from him.

Lt Col Walsh was, however, discharged from arrest and (maybe to get him out of the way) was selected to command the invasion of the island of St. Vincent, which had broken out in rebellion again, in 1772.

Not much is recorded about the St. Vincent Caribs, who were in rebellion, but as our history states in Vol 1 p246: \* *'a detachment from a neighbouring garrison was furnished by the 70th, this being the first but not the last occasion on which the 70th met its parent corps in the field for the operation. This special unit of Rangers was commanded by Lt N Darrah'*.

The enemy is best described thus - the original indigenous people called themselves Kalingo, from the word Kalina: 'The Valiant Ones'. They have been more widely and derogatorily known as Caribs. In addition there were the West African slaves who had been working on the plantations for the English, French or Spanish who were in occupation at various times. The British tried unsuccessfully to acquire the island between 1659-1664. Except for the short military occupations between 1664-6, 1762-3, 1794-5, and 1769-1802 the island was occupied by the French.

The plantation slaves worked reluctantly enough for the occupying European power. The English called the African slaves 'black' Caribs and the indigenous original tribes 'yellow' Caribs. The 'yellow' Caribs were never really subdued, and often 'black' Caribs would escape from the plantations and join them. They would inter-marry, and these 'Maroons' (African Alliance), would form the real resistance to the European invaders. The English knew them as \*\*'red' Caribs, or more usually just 'brigands'. In fact they became 'guerrilla' fighters, and are nowadays known in the islands as the 'heroes' and the first freedom fighters.

Lt Darrah landed with his Rangers, at Grand Sable, presumably on one of the lovely beaches just south of the modern capital Kingstown. I was not visiting for very long, and no one even

with a good map, could show me Grand Sable. (How good it is to see that these beaches are much as they were when the Rangers landed. No yachts, speed boats, or jet skiers etc, or any sign of unpleasant modern tourism.)

The landing may have been on what is now known as 'Villa' beach. It certainly is a 'big sand' and near to what is the best harbour, and to where Fort Charlotte was built many years later (1806). At any rate the landing on 23rd June 1772 was a disaster. It is unlikely that it had been properly reconnoitred beforehand.

The landing was strongly opposed, and came under heavy fire, Lt Darrah (of the 70th) was drowned, along with eighteen soldiers all from the regiment. A successful landing was made eventually, and the Caribs beaten off, so that a solid beachhead was secured. It remained thus for many months until Lt Col Walsh (CO of the 31st) decided to visit his detachment of Rangers. He seems to have been rather impetuous (maybe still smarting from his recent possible court-martial).

With only a small detachment he dashed off at once into the woods. Of course it was a disaster, the colonel and three of his men were killed, and according to our history - *'their bodies were mutilated in a shocking manner'*.

There must have been several other landings, apart from the Rangers, and only being a small island (eighteen miles long) it eventually capitulated. Nine of the leading chiefs surrendered in February 1773, so ending the first 'Carib' wars.

In 1779 the French took over the island again, with hardly a shot being fired. The conquest took place because, according to reports at the time, all the English soldiers were working either in the Governor's garden or plantations, and to compound matters no-one could find the key to the armoury, where all the cannons and ammunition were stored! Not surprisingly the island surrendered in almost a matter of seconds, without a struggle.

St Vincent became British again at the conclusion of the 'Brigand's' war, or second Carib war in 1797. Most of the Black/Red Caribs were then shipped off to Belize. What happened to the more unruly of them (the Freedom Fighters) is described below.

In those days there was no Kingstown, but St. Vincent is still a largely undeveloped island, with much old world charm. Luckily, as stated earlier, the town has escaped modern tourism, and although somewhat backward, retains its British character. Banana plantations are giving way to pineapples, but its future can only have been uncertain. It is attractive to visitors because of its unexploited natural attractions. Its one claim to fame seems to be that breadfruit was brought there by Captain Bligh of 'Mutiny on the Bounty' fame. The privately owned island of Mustique is only a few miles to the south.

After the 1772 landing at Grand Sable on St. Vincent, no more was heard of the 31st/70th Rangers. They pass into history, but while I was in that part of the world I thought I would find out how, in 1794 the 31st spent a few days in St. Lucia, adding that little island to the empire. The French were busy elsewhere at the time, so Martinique and Guadeloupe were easy targets. Why not also take little St. Lucia whilst we were about in the area? In March 1794 Col Coote of the 70th, took a force there and captured it in about three days with hardly a casualty.

A year or so later the island was once again firmly in French hands, as France had become much more powerful after the revolution. In May 1796 the 31st were once again at sea, as part of a force to win back the island. The Regiment came

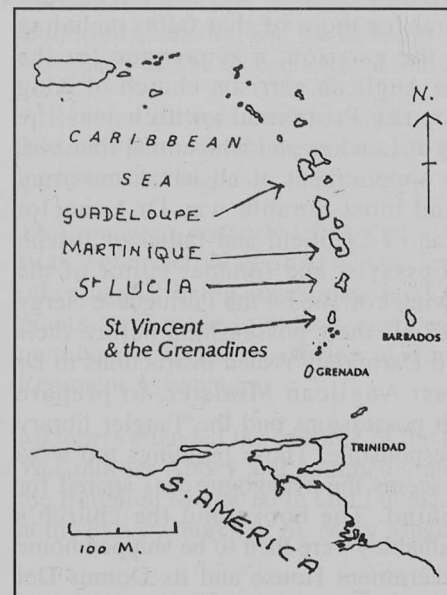
under the command of Brigadier-General Moore, who as General Sir John Moore was to be killed a few years later at Corunna. Several strong positions such as La Vigie, and Morne Chabot were taken with great gallantry. On 17th March the Regiment undertook a daring night attack on the strongest position, Morne Fortuné. The guide who knew the circuitous path, was mortally wounded, so the Regiment became separated from the others. Lt. Col Hay ordered a rush on the hill, and its still firing batteries, but unfortunately the advance was stopped by murderous grapeshot. With heavy casualties the 31st were ordered to withdraw, but other regiments were eventually more successful, and on 25th May the island of St. Lucia was once again safely in British hands.

I took a taxi up the zig-zag road to Morne Fortuné. The old fort and barracks are now a college of education, and the old cannons which held up the 31st have been moved to more picturesque sites. They are now certainly not placed tactically. It is now not possible to know where the troops actually landed, save to say that the whole area is steep, rocky and covered with dense tropical vegetation. The area is spoilt anyway. Because of its very deep harbour, tankers come in from Alaska and Saudi Arabia to fill a multitude of large tanks, before transporting the oil to other refineries in the Americas.



*Cannon which may have been used against the XXXIst*

St. Lucia is the largest of the Windward Islands, but fortunately still fairly undeveloped, and a joy to visit. The capital of St. Lucia is Castries, and I was only there a few hours but it gave me the opportunity to search out Morne Fortuné, and Morne Chabot, where some indication of the events of 1796 might still be found.



In the first and second Carib wars, the plantation slaves did not always take part. The more adventurous ones escaped when they could, and hid in the central forests. They then joined the inhabitants of these small islands, becoming guerrilla fighters to take on any European invaders, as mentioned earlier.

At the end of the 18th century they were generally known just as 'brigands'.

On French islands, the slaves were given their freedom in 1794, but as this did not apply to the British possessions, rebellions began to break out afresh. When all was settled, the most unruly of the brigands were sent off to more peaceful and sheltered islands (or Belize), to get them out of the way. Those who were thought to still be a danger, were shipped off to England, not as slaves, but as ex-slaves who might still be a danger.



*'Brigand' or 'Freedom Fighter'?*

In 1796 one ship, the *London*, sailing back to Bristol, had about eighty ex slaves shackled in her hold, when she was wrecked in a storm near Ilfracombe. In 1997 some bones became exposed, and it is believed that some may be from the captured ex-brigands. The late Bernie Grant, a Labour MP, became interested and campaigned for the bones of these first West Indian Freedom Fighters to be given a dignified burial, as befits heroes.



*Cannon on Morne Fortuné*

Now in St. Lucia a memorial is to be raised to these Freedom Fighters, on Morne Fortuné alongside an existing British memorial (Enniskillen). These liberators of the islands mostly came from West Africa however, but that is another story.

RCT

\* of The East Surrey History

\*\* Called Red in 'Historical Record of the 31st of Foot'.



## Portsmouth and the Tangier Connection

The story of the British occupation of Tangier begins with the Restoration of King Charles II to the throne of England in 1660, when he entered London to tremendous popular acclaim on 29th May. It was also his 30th birthday, and commemorated for many years as a public holiday known as "Oak Apple Day". There were of course very many serious problems facing the King and his Council after the Civil War, the execution of his father King Charles I on 30th January 1649, and eleven years of Parliamentary and Cromwellian army rule. A very personal concern for the King was marriage and succession to the throne; in the meanwhile he was crowned alone on 23rd April 1661 while discreet enquiries were being made in the Courts of Europe about potential brides. Then on 8th May a Marriage Treaty with Portugal was announced, and formally signed by the Earl of Sandwich, the King's personal envoy and proxy in Lisbon. Princess Catherine of Braganza had become Queen of England in title; bringing with her a valuable dowry of £500,000 free trade in Brazil and the East Indies, the island of Bombay, and the City and port of Tangier at the entrance to the Mediterranean.

At the end of January 1662 a British garrison landed from a naval squadron and the City was formally handed over by Don Luis de Almeida the last Portuguese Governor. In April Lord Sandwich returned to Lisbon, embarked the Portuguese bridal party and arrived at an excited and expectant Portsmouth on 13th May. There the bride was ceremoniously greeted and conducted in state to Government House where she rested after the voyage and awaited King Charles II. On 21st May they were married, firstly by the Roman Catholic rite in her suite of rooms; and then by Gilbert Sheldon, Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapels Royal, using the Anglican service in the Domus Dei chapel of Government House before a large congregation. The Domus Dei (which still stands in the care of English Heritage) had been a Pre-Reformation pilgrims' hospice, and was being used in place of Portsmouth's parish church badly damaged by cannon fire in the Civil War.

Tangier had been in Portuguese possession since 1471, and its colonists resented the arrival of the British soldiery with their rough and alien ways; so they left for home taking all their belongings including the floors, doors and windows of their houses. Thus, instead of acquiring a flourishing seaport, the new Governor and his garrison found themselves in a largely derelict town without artisans, shops or tradespeople; more seriously they were from the outset fiercely opposed by the local Moorish warlords. To try and overcome these unforeseen difficulties, the powerful Tangier Committee under the Chairmanship of the Duke of York was formed in London to support the fledgling Colony, and from 1665 Samuel Pepys was its Treasurer. For eighteen years, except for some short and fragile truces, there was fighting in the countryside around the City with a steady toll of casualties. An inner and outer line of fifteen forts was built to guard the approaches and the grazing for horses, sheep and cattle, but the protected area never amounted to more than 300 acres outside the City walls. The harbour was enlarged by the construction of a wide and impressive mole with stores and workshops, stretching 475 yards out to sea before construction was suspended. It served as a valuable base for the Royal Navy at the Straits and for the suppression of piracy which was rife along the North African coast. Initially, Tangier was under the military rule of successive Governors, but in 1668 it was granted Borough status with a Mayor and Corporation, and a Recorder, to improve local government and trade, plus a Court Merchant to settle maritime and trade disputes. The free port did attract some commercial traffic, but the anticipated lucrative trade with Morocco never materialised because of the persistent hostilities, lack of capital resources, and ready cash for local purchases in Spanish "Pieces of eight."

By May 1680 Tangier was in danger of falling to the Moorish besiegers. The weakened British garrison were forced to sign a humiliating four months truce, which left them holding only three of the outlying forts. In answer to urgent despatches from Colonel Sir Palmes Fairborne the very experienced acting Governor, large reinforcements of troops and warlike stores were sent from England, and the King of Spain sent over two hundred experienced cavalry who were invaluable in the imminent fighting, as were a battalion of seamen landed from the Fleet. In September hostilities recommenced, but after two months of fighting with heavy losses on both sides, the Moors had been cleared from their lines and camps, and were in turn forced to call a truce.

There then followed a three year period of negotiations and diplomacy, including the sending of the Alcaid Mohammed Ben Hadu as the first Moroccan Ambassador to London. During his seven month stay in England he impressed everybody with his bearing and grave good manners at Court and wherever he went, which included the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. He also astonished Londoners by throwing and catching his lance in the air as he exercised his horse at the gallop in Hyde Park!

But when the Emperor Moulay Ismael refused to ratify the Treaty negotiated in London, King Charles reluctantly decided there was no viable future in Tangier, and resolved to abandon the place in spite of the special pleading by his Queen and the Portuguese Ambassador. Lord Dartmouth, who held the appointments of Master General of the Ordnance and Military Governor of the fortified naval base and arsenal of Portsmouth, was despatched in August 1683 with a naval force of twenty-one ships to carry out his sealed orders. He was to evacuate the British and foreign populations and their goods to their homes, he was to level the fortifications; destroy the Mole and ruin the harbour to prevent Tangier from becoming a base for piracy or a rival foreign power, to recover everything of value; and finally to withdraw the garrison. This was a difficult operation requiring tact and skill if the Moors were to be prevented from interfering, and early on Lord Dartmouth discreetly let the Moors know that his task force did not present a hostile threat to them, but was there to evacuate the place without "loss of face" by either side. By March 1684 all the tasks had been completed and the last soldiers safely embarked before sailing to England, thus ending an overseas venture which had started with high hopes.

In the 17th century all of Europe, including England, was ravaged by bitter religious disputes. But in spite of opposition by the House of Commons, King Charles II with his easy going nature and personal experience of exile abroad, was able to countenance religious toleration in all his overseas possessions including Tangier. There was the Portuguese Roman Catholic cathedral for those of that faith, including many Irish soldiers in the garrison; a synagogue for the Sephardic Jews, and the Anglican garrison church of King Charles the Martyr for the Protestants which was the prerogative of the Bishop of London, and who at that time was also responsible for the appointment of all naval and army Chaplains. The first and most notable was Dr Lancelot Addison, later to be Dean of Lichfield and father of Joseph Addison the celebrated essayist and founder editor of the "Spectator". During the winter of 1683/4 the Portuguese clergy were shipped home with all their possessions before their cathedral was razed. Lord Dartmouth issued instructions to Dr Thomas Hughes the last Anglican Minister, to prepare inventories of the church possessions and the Tangier library for which he was also responsible. Those buildings too were demolished, although it seems the synagogue was spared for the Jews remaining behind. The books and the church's fittings, vestments and valuables were then to be shipped home to old Portsmouth's Government House and its Domus Dei

chapel, which was still in use as the town's temporary parish church.

In November 1687 King James II visited Portsmouth which he knew well, as he had attended his elder brother's wedding in 1662 and taken a keen interest in the naval dockyard during his twelve years as the Lord High Admiral of England. During his visit the King presented to the Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth, the magnificent English silver Communion ware from Tangier for use in their parish church. The deed of gift is recorded on the reverse side of King Charles' marriage certificate and lists six items with their Troy weight, which is also engraved underneath each item. A small paten has disappeared in the intervening years, but the remainder now in possession of the Cathedral (to which status the parish church of Old Portsmouth was elevated in 1927) now comprises:- a chalice for the wine, two large patens for the bread and two large wine flagons. They all date from between 1639 and 1677.

The City of Portsmouth's motto is "Heaven's Light our Guide", and for three hundred years the lantern at the top of the Cathedral tower has greeted sailors returning from sea. Until the repeal of the Test Act in 1828, all officers of the Royal Navy were required to receive Holy Communion in public before taking up their first command. At Portsmouth they did so in the parish church and received the Certificate, required by law, to say they had done so. It seems fitting that they should have used the historic Tangier plate with its royal and overseas connections.

PC

## 6th (Bermondsey) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

The Association has 135 members on the current mailing list. The Association is a member of the Federation of OCA's of the London Territorial and Auxiliary Units and is affiliated to the City and Inner London Branch (Queen's) of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Association.

The committee met twelve times, on the first Tuesday of each month at the RMR Centre at Old Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. Newsletters were published in February and August. A Grand National Draw and a November Handicap Draw were held in April and November.

Contact with other Associations is encouraged and Representatives attended the Reunions of 5th Bn. OMA, 2/6th Bn., 1/7th and 2/7th Bns. The Queen's and The East Surrey Regiment Association. The Association was also represented at the Mayor of Southwark's Annual Civic Service at St. George's Cathedral. Members attended the Annual Church Service at Guildford Cathedral and the Reunion at the Union Jack Club in November of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association.

A Reunion Buffet Lunch was held at the Union Jack Club on 28th April at which there was an attendance of forty-five members and friends.

Two members requested financial assistance during the year. Both were referred to SSAFA. One has received assistance, the other is still being investigated. At Christmas, a number of grants were made to elderly members and widows of former members with the assistance of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association.

Members attended the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and commemorated Remembrance Day at the Battalion Memorial in Old Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, and at the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey.

In 2002, it is hoped to support the various special functions during the year, ie Annual Service at Guildford Cathedral and the PWRR Grand Reunion at Aldershot. It is intended to continue our support of other Associations, as in 2001. A visit to the Regimental Museum at Clondan is planned together with the 1/7th Association, and it is hoped to join with the City and Inner London Branch, PWRR, on their visit to Arras and Vimy Ridge in June.

MRN

## Reunion at Farncombe

The photograph from left to right shows Ken Higgins, Marlene Wright, Geoff Wright, Eva Kellaway, Reg Kellaway, Betty Twitchin, Cliff Twitchin and Maureen Higgins. Geoff Higgins writes to say that all the men served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Greece during 1946 and 1947.



For the past four years they have met at six monthly intervals for lunch and the odd noggin or ten! On 5th February this year the ladies were allowed to join them at the Manor Inn, Farncombe.

During their service Ken Higgins was in the orderly room, Geoff Wright and Reg Kellaway were in the Signal Platoon, whilst Cliff Twitchin was Headquarter Company Clerk. All became NCO's during their service. Ken writes that if there are any other old Surreys who served in Headquarter Company at the same time they would love you to join them. If you are interested please write or telephone him at 24, Newton Wood Road, Ashted, Surrey KT21 1NP. Tel: 01372 275345.

## Combined Reunion

### 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

For many years the 2/7th Annual Reunion has been held in the Ebury Arms, a pub in the Pimlico Road. We have recently learned that it has closed, just as we were about to send out the notice for this year's planned lunch on 23rd March.

The upshot is that the 2/6th have kindly agreed to us joining them in a combined reunion in the Union Jack Club on 7th September.

I have notified all our known members but I wonder whether a short note could be included in the next Newsletter to the effect that the 2/6th and 2/7th will be holding a combined reunion in the Club on 7th September. Anyone requiring more information should contact: Maurice Nason for the 2/6th or Colonel David Blum for the 2/7th

DEB

## 2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

Although functioning as a separate Association, the affairs of the Association are administered by the 6th (Bermondsey) Bn. Association. There are seventy-two names on the current mailing list. Of these, sixty-one are former members of the Battalion, and eleven are relatives or friends. During the year, seven members died. Newsletters were published in January and July and members were encouraged to participate in the Grand National and November Handicap Draws run by 6th (Bermondsey) Bn Association.

A Reunion was held at the Union Jack Club on 22nd September. fifty-nine people booked for the Reunion. Despite their advanced years some members travelled from far flung locations such as Kingston-upon-Hull, Leicester, Nuneaton, Cromer and Bournemouth.

One member requested financial assistance, which was referred to SSAFA for investigation. However, the request was later withdrawn, shortly before the member died.

It is proposed to hold a Reunion at the Union Jack Club on 7th September 2002 in conjunction with 2/7th Bn. Association.

MRN

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## The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Lunch

This year, the three hundredth since The Regiment's foundation as Villiers' Marines, the reunion lunch for officers of The East Surrey regiment was held in the officers' mess of The London Regiment in Saint John's Hill, Battersea, by kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel James Cunliffe of The Royal Greenjackets, the Regiment's Commanding Officer. Unfortunately duty prevented Colonel James from being with us.

Inevitably numbers are dropping. Nevertheless, forty three Surreys attended and welcomed as guests Major Tony Russell, the Secretary of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, and Captain Alan Kimmins, the Administrative Officer of The London Regiment.



The generosity of many of our absent friends enabled the pre-lunch drinks to be "On the House" and this combined with the superb service provided by June Daniels and her enthusiastic staff went a very long way to ensuring the remarkable ambience. The last of us went on our way at about seven in the evening!

We are very grateful to Colonel James and his team for making us so welcome and looking after us so well.

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## 5 OMA Reunion Lunch

The 5th Bn QRR OMA held a reunion lunch at Guildford Cathedral Refectory on 20th October 2001 at which nearly one hundred people sat down. Due to the age of our members, driving and coming out in the evening has become a problem and it was feared that the close friendship and comradeship which means so much to all of us had seemed to falter, so a midday luncheon was organised for members and wives.



It has been such a success that it has been agreed to continue it annually. It was pleasing to see that members had travelled from afar to attend.



Long may it continue. Thanks to everybody.

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## North Africa Veterans' Reunion



The first ever local (Guildford area) gathering of veterans of 1940-1943 North African campaign was held at The Leather Bottle at Smithbrook near Bromley on 22nd November 2001.

Major David Elliot organised the event and was pleased with the turnout of former members of the 8th Army, Royal Navy & Desert Air Force. One had been a member of the LRDG- the forerunner of the SAS which was very active behind enemy lines.

Other regiments represented at the gathering included the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, County of London Yeomanry Royal Artillery HAA, Royal Engineers, South Notts Hussars, RASC and 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment represented by Bill Petch, Ernie Arnold, Sid Bowbrick and Margaret, Ron May, Doug Mitchell and Margaret and Stuart Browning who had kindly transported some ex RAF members.

There were many exchange of memories and memorabilia. In course of conversation it turned out that the artillery battery Major Elliot was in command of had supported The Queen's Brigade after the break out at El Alamein when they were incorporated with the 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats). Former RAF members present included a Squadron Leader holder of the DFC. A delightful buffet was provided by the landlord of The Leather Bottle which was enjoyed by all.

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## The FFI

Please find a cheque for next year's subscription to the Newsletter, plus a little more for Regimental funds. May I congratulate the team on the continuing high standard of production and contents, I must say I for one will be very sorry to see the end of the publication but I guess all good things must come to an end. I would like in particular, to commend the team on the most excellent accompaniment to the usual Newsletter, Traditions, Treasures and Personalities of the Regiment. This publication earns a permanent place on my book shelves, it sums up all the good of The Regiment and what being a member amounts to.

While reading the Newsletter I was most pleased to see an article from one of my old Platoon Sergeants, Wally Geeves, glad to see he is still going strong. Whenever he figures in my thoughts there is one incident that stands out from the rest.

As any Queen's man who served in Malaya with the 1st Battalion during the 1950's will know, there was a regular pattern of events that took place when returning to camp after days on jungle patrol. Once weapons were cleared and you returned to your bed space, all the clothes worn and taken on patrol, except the jungle hat and boots, would be given to the Company dhobie wallah for laundering. Then, still wearing the hat and boots but now with a towel around the waist to replace clothes, picking up the ground sheet, used on patrol to make a basha, would proceed to the communal showers. Here the ground sheet would be spread on the ground and still wearing hat and boots you would proceed with the shower, thereby cleaning the body, the hat, the boots and the ground sheet all in one operation.

Usually the showers were a jerry rigged effort with cold water but in this particular station, Tankah in Johore State, we were quite lucky, the camp was Company size, the accommodation for the men was the corrugated steel Godophin huts, the officers' accommodation was the old rubber plantation manager's rather large house. The communal showers were also located in a large Godophin type hut with a solid floor but more to the point, the water being supplied by a fairly small bore pipe that travelled quite some distance over ground through the rubber plantation which, while the shower was unused, the water was heated by the sun so that the first few persons taking a shower actually had warm or even hot water.

The shower was followed by weapon cleaning and inspection and then in immediate succession a FFI (Free From Infection) inspection, affectionately known as after the weapons inspection came the short arms inspection. These two were usually carried out by the platoon officer or, if he was unable to, the platoon sergeant.

On this particular occasion, as the officer was unable to carry out these roles it was allotted to one, Wally Geeves, - 2 Platoon, A Company platoon sergeant. The FFI was carried out with each soldier standing by his bed dressed only in a towel wrapped around the waist and a pair of flip flop sandals. On being approached by the inspector the soldier under inspection would hold out his arms at full length to the inspector, who would first inspect the backs and then the front of the hands, paying special attention to between the fingers. On completion of this the arms would be held high to allow the under arm area to be checked, the arms lowered then to remove the towel where the important little bits would be examined and finally the feet, again in particular between the toes. The inspection was to make sure there were no unreported and untreated areas of tinea, foot rot, jungle sores or any other nasties that were quite common after prolonged jungle bashing, especially if it had included working in swamp.

The inspection went without incident until Sgt Geeves came to one Private XX, where, when the towel was dropped hawkeye Geeves noticed that a certain part of the anatomy did not conform to regulations, i.e. it was not perpendicular, like a badly aligned rifle, it pulled to one side. A situation that had been previously observed by other keen eyed members of the platoon when taking part in the communal showers but thought it was rather a too personal issue to take any further. However Sgt Geeves correctly was concerned that this abnormality was something that should be questioned. On doing so Private XX quickly explained that it had been like that since he had been involved in an accident and it had got tangled up in a wheel, an answer that brought tears to the eyes of many of us soldiers listening but satisfied with the answer, Sgt Geeves went on to complete that FFI without any further complications.

Many years later, now a civilian I attended what was probably the final Queen's reunion to be held at Stoughton Barracks where I met up with this same Private XX, still a serving soldier. We spent a few minutes chatting over old times before he left to wander off and the incident at that FFI came flooding back, I remember thinking as he left with his children in tow, that despite the slight aiming to one side he must have been able to compensate for error because seeing his children following as he went on his way he had obviously managed to score a bulls eye several times.

BE

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## Royal Connections

The activities of HMS *Queen Charlotte* of "Glorious First of June" fame are well known to our members, but few may know that two other ships bore the name of "*Charlotte*", both with Royal connections.

The first of them (originally known as the *Royal Caroline*) was a Royal Yacht in the reign of King George III. She was renamed in 1761 in honour of Princess Charlotte of the German Principality of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the intended bride of the King, who was brought over to this country in her, accompanied by other Royal Yachts. The ship successfully weathered a severe gale on the way but the elements took their revenge later when the King, sailing in the vessel to review the fleet at the Nore in 1797 was forced back to Greenwich by adverse winds.

The *Royal Charlotte* was replaced by the *Royal Sovereign* in 1804 and finally succumbed to the breakers in 1820. A second *Royal Charlotte*, built in 1824, only lasted until 1832 when she became victim of a move towards austerity.

RF

Source: "Royal Yachts of the world" by Tim Madge



## Captain R F S Stanley-Creek DSO The Queen's Royal Regiment

My wife and I recently stayed with our elder daughter and her husband, Gordon Chaplin, at their farm in upstate New York. The farm is about forty miles north of Saratoga, near the small village of Granville and very close to the Vermont border.

You can imagine my surprise to find in Gordon's study a small piece of British Army history, Gordon's father was English and many of his relations served with the KRRC from the Boer War to World War II. Their portraits and pictures with mounted medals hang on the study walls.



But fascinating to me was the painted miniature (artist unknown) above Gordon's desk of Captain R F S Stanley-Creek DSO, of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. This particularly interested me as I had served my National Service with the 1st Battalion in Iserlohn in 1950 and subsequently with the 6th TA Battalion in Bermondsey. Stanley-Creek was Gordon's grandmother's brother. His medals were mounted alongside his miniature and also a "Mentioned in Despatches" signed by the then Secretary of State for War - Winston S. Churchill!



What also intrigues me is that all this bit of British Army History is not twenty minutes away from Manchester, Vermont - the area where Ethan Allen was born and from which he subsequently led the Green Mountain Boys against the British in the American War of Independence. The Green Mountain

Boys were patriots, freedom fighters, guerrillas or terrorists, depending on which side you were on. Nothing changes!! They were, however, a most effective force. They were joined by Benedict Arnold and together they captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British. Ethan Allen moved on to Montreal where he was captured by the British. He was exchanged in 1778 and took up politics. It amuses me to imagine how they would react to having Gordon's relations displayed on their territory. I am sure all would be forgiven and they would welcome Gordon Chaplin, my daughter and Winston Churchill - all of whom are Anglo-Americans! In any case, the 60th Rifles had a considerable American connection.



Captain Stanley-Creek embarked with the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, landing at Le Havre on 13th August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The battalion strength was 27 officers, 6 warrant officers, 44 sergeants, 42 corporals, 16 drummers, and 863 privates. They moved up and arrived at Leschelles on the 16th August, finally moving up to Mons by the 23rd August. The retreat from Mons, which was to take them south of Paris, began almost immediately.

The subsequent advance to the battle of the Aisne was followed by the first Battle of Ypres. It was during this battle that Stanley-Creek was awarded his DSO: his company had been cut off by a large party of Germans, and he had to lead his men through the German lines to get back to the battalion. As senior officers had been killed or wounded, he commanded the battalion for a short while until he in turn was killed on 29th October 1914. His body was never found, but his name is remembered on panel 11 on the Menin Gate Memorial.

At one stage in the battle, the 1st Battalion and the 60th Rifles shared the same trenches, so it may well have been that Stanley-Creek had his cousins for company. Gordon's grandfather commanded a battalion of the 60th and he, too, was killed at Hooze, near Ypres, on 30th July 1915.

By the 1st November 1914, of the original 998 men who left Le Havre, only 32 were left: the rest killed or wounded. What a terrifying time it must have been, and one can only admire their tenacity and courage in such awful circumstances. Should anyone have further information about Stanley-Creek, I would be grateful to receive it\*. Incidentally, he was a very capable water colour painter and Gordon has several of his pictures.

Finally, a very big thank you to Lt Col Wilson who has been a huge help and provided most of my information. I am very grateful to him.

\*Captain M L Teale BSc MRCVS., Arundell House, Flushing, Nr Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 5TP.

MLT

## Palestine Then: and Now ?

The memories of those who served in Palestine 1939/40 with 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, will have been stirred by recent events in that area, and particularly by reports of actions by the Israeli Army in Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Qalqilya.

Following four hundred years of Turkish domination which was ended by Allenby's Campaigns in 1917/18, The League of Nations, mindful of the Balfour Declaration, granted Britain a Mandate which provided for controlled immigration and the acquisition of land by Jews. The implementation of this policy led to the Second Arab Rebellion in 1936/39.

2/Queens left Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight on 31st December, 1939 and sailed from Southampton in HT *Nevasa*, arriving at Haifa on 10th January to be greeted by the Divisional Commander (and former Brigade Commander) Major-General B.L. Montgomery. The Battalion relieved 1 Royal Scots at Tulkarm (with a detached company at Qalqilya) under command 16 Infantry Brigade which included 1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Jenin and 2 Leicesters at Nablus. This part of Samaria was well favoured by the Arab rebels.

Throughout the next eight months, these three Battalions were almost continuously engaged in operations within their own areas; and occasionally, on a larger scale, directed by Brigade. The majority of operations took the form of cordon check and search of one village at a time though, as a result of special information, a raid might be staged or a sweep of a larger area organised. All operations were carried out in conjunction with the Palestine Police, and in the check stage, with the co-operation of the Mukhtars of the villages involved. Despite the fact that it was Arabs who were causing the trouble, it remained important to distinguish between the rebel and the inhabitant, whose way of life, especially in the remote and inaccessible hill villages, had not changed since Biblical times. Following the outbreak of war, the Arab League called off the Rebellion.

After World War Two, as pressure increased for a much greater volume of Jewish immigration, HM Government referred the issue of Palestine to the United Nations. Partition, with Jewish and Arab States, was recommended and when Britain surrendered the Mandate in 1948, the State of Israel was proclaimed. Now, over fifty years on, the problem appears even more intractable than ever, posing a threat to world peace.

MF

## Traditions, Treasures and Personalities of The Regiment - Errata

Despite very careful checking some errors occurred. As the Supplement is meant to be a reference book it is important that where mistakes have been made, they should be rectified. In addition, when the museum web-site is updated it is planned to include these details on the net.

**Page 42** records Lt Col E C T Wilson VC as serving with the Northern Nigerian Regiment, this is incorrect, this entry should be Northern Rhodesian Regiment.

**Page 63** records the casualties as one officer and thirteen men killed, four officers and fifteen men wounded. Lt Col Mike Lowry has kindly written with the following details:- Total casualties in the two operations for Pimple and Jail Hill over those seven days were:-

4 Officers and 57 Other ranks killed  
6 Officers and 106 Other ranks wounded

That gives a grand total of 173 casualties. But during our total of twenty-six days in Kohima, we had eight more other ranks killed and 12 more other ranks wounded, making the grand total of 193 casualties for Kohima.

'Our man in India' Dom Papworth wrote with some information on Taukkyan War Cemetery, Rangoon and Lieutenant A G Horwood VC, DCM.

## page 54 Taukkyan War Cemetery, Rangoon

The Rangoon Memorial, shown in the photo was erected in Taukkyan Cemetery some twenty-one miles north of Rangoon on the Prame road, and records the names of 27,000 soldiers who have no known grave.

There is also Rangoon War Cemetery about five miles and just off the Prame road from Rangoon - this is smaller (1391) burials) includes many 13th King's of Wingates first Chindits, as well as 1st Queen's casualties re-interred from Arakan and those of later operations in Burma, in addition to those reinterred in Taukkyan itself.

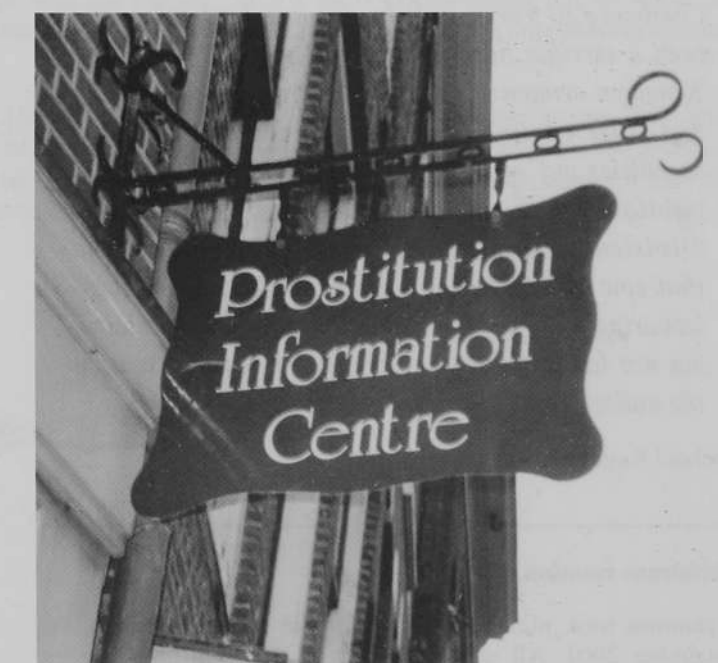
The Rangoon Cemetery is interesting in that it is smaller and includes thirty-six British servicemen who died during the years 1914-1920 which gives an insight into pre-1914 service. This cemetery seems more "informal" for want of a better description and more that of a country church.

VCS: Lieutenant A G Horwood is not interred in the War Cemetery, Imphal. His name is recorded on Face 4 of the Rangoon Memorial, Taukkyan - this can of course be verified by the War Graves Commission. I was interested as he was The Queen's Royal Regiment attached to The Northamptonshire Regiment, my Father's regiment.

Editor's note: I am most grateful to Lt Col Mike Lowry and Dom Papworth for forwarding this information.

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## From the archives - The mind boggles!



Officers only?

All further enquiries to the New Editor please

## Despatches by eye-witness

Mark Ricaldone 2/5th Queen's came across this article written in October 1944 and thought it might be of interest to our readers. He recalls that it was so true and "they called us the D-Day Dodgers"!!

*"The hard struggle in Italy: It's difficult to convince people at home of the bitterness, let alone the importance of this campaign in Italy, and it's even more difficult to explain to the troops out here why you seem to take so little interest in their doings. If ever troops needed and deserved encouragement, it's these men of General Alexander's allied army group. I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that the average length of overseas service among the British component - and the same applies to several of the American divisions - is about two years: two years of bloody struggle.*

*In Africa, Sicily and the everlasting mountains of Italy. I've talked with men who've been out for four, and even five years. It's unreasonable to expect such men to be over-impressed by the news from the western front. As a matter of fact, they do follow events there with the keenest interest and are full of admiration for what has been done. They realise as well as you do that the west is the decisive theatre, but they're also under the impression that they themselves are doing an important job. The forces engaged out here are less numerous than those in the west, but there are a good many of them, and they haven't done so badly. After all, the distance from Rome to Bologna is greater than that from Cherbourg to Paris, and the going is far harder. It's been a terribly hard and painful push. One United Kingdom armoured regiment I visited the other day had suffered since Cassino twenty-eight officer casualties out of thirty-two. Everyone glories, and rightly so, in the achievement of the First Airborne Division at Arnhem, but don't forget that while that epic was in progress, other British soldiers were labouring and fighting and dying with less publicity, but not less gallantly on the ancient Rubicon and on the bullock track to Palazzuolo.*

Michael Reynolds, October 13, 1944

## Christmas reunion.

A reunion took place in room 1 at the Museum on the 9th December 2001. All were members of the 50th intake at the Depot and all then moved to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Iserlohn and served from 1957 to 1958.

A Perkins, Ken Munday, Phil Cable, Alan Maynard, Bill Lee, Maurice Homer, Tony Wheeler, J W Lidyard, Joe Verrico and BC Cheeseman.

## Battle of El Alamein

A service is to be held in Westminster Abbey at 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd October 2002 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the battle of El Alamein.

**Admission is by Ticket only** Any veteran with wife/partner wishing to attend and not making an application in any other way can do so by sending names and addresses to:- Mr D J Mitchell "Dunromin" 3 Littlefield Way, Fairlands, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3JE. Telephone number 01483 232043 which will be forwarded to the General Secretary of Eighth Army Veterans Association, (the organisers) for forwarding to the MOD who will be sending out invitations. Applications must be received by **Monday 17th June 2002 which must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope** to advise sender of any further information.

□ □ □

## Extract from the Daily Telegraph, 15th January 2002

### Queens dethrones its Queen

by Philip Delves Broughton in New York

A painting of King Charles II's wife is to be removed from the civic hall of Queens, the New York borough named after her, because of her links to slavery.

The decision to remove the painting of Catherine of Braganza, a Portuguese, follows years of pressure from historians and politicians who say any reference to her is an insult to the city's African-Americans.

Though Catherine of Braganza's family profited from the slave trade, her links to it seem tenuous. In her will, she even set aside money for the "redemption of slaves".

But Helen Marshall, the first black woman to become Queens's borough president, has ordered the portrait's removal to reflect her borough's "diversity".

Though she never visited America, Queen Catherine was on the throne when English soldiers seized what was then New Amsterdam in 1674.

The city was renamed New York, and the wooded area across the East River from Manhattan was declared the property of the Queen. Stanley Cogan, borough historian and president of the Queens Historical Society, said: "There has been a lot of conflict about the appropriateness of her portrait hanging in the Civil Hall. A lot of people began to object to it, and believed that it was not right for the borough to be named after her. I am with those that say the portrait should be removed if the evidence shows her links with slavery, though I think renaming the borough would be a bit much".

□ □ □

## Dual Purpose

During the war a Royal Navy destroyer was escorting a submarine through the North Sea. The submarine captain signalled, "In the event of action I intend to remain on the surface". The destroyer captain replied, "And so do I".

RF

# THE RESTORATION OF THE THIRD COLOUR OF THE QUEEN'S (SECOND) ROYAL REGIMENT OF FOOT

The 1st Battalions of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and its immediate forbear, The Queen's Regiment, have had the unique distinction of still retaining a Third or "Colonel's" Colour. This is an honour inherited from The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot.

At one stage, there were a large number of Colours within a Battalion, which were used as rallying points for each grouping on the battlefield. This number eventually fell to a total of three; one for pikemen and two for the two wings of musketeers. In about 1700, the bayonet was brought into service, pikemen were removed from battalions' establishments and there was no longer the requirement for a Third Colour. The Regiment originally ignored the order for its removal, but it was eventually laid up in 1750.

The restoration of the Third Colour (which had been found at Kilmainham in Ireland) to the Regiment took place on the 31st January 1825 at Chatham. Lady Torrens, the wife of Major-General Sir Henry Torrens, KCB, Colonel of the Regiment and Adjutant-General, made the presentation to the Regiment.

The Regiment was drawn up in line with bayonets fixed; the men dressed in greatcoats against the cold weather. On the arrival of the Presentation Party on the ground the Regiment formed square. In the middle of the square Lady Torrens presented the Colour, which she had worked herself, the old Colour being so much in rags that it could not be carried. As Lady Torrens gave the Colour into the hands of Ensign George Raitt she said, "May the Lamb plead for mercy in the hour of victory." The band played the National Anthem and the Regiment presented Arms. Major-General Torrens then addressed the Regiment in a rather long speech. He ended his speech with these words: "Upon this occasion, soldiers, I would say nothing of myself, but the present moment is so intimately associated with her who has worked this Colour, and my military pride, as your Colonel, in seeing your ancient banner again committed to your charge, that I should really be devoid of feeling which ought to actuate a man and an officer so fortunately situated, if the same did not elicit some expression of sentiments which weight upon my breast. I should fail, however, in any attempt to say all that my feelings would dictate. But I must assure you that I look upon it as one of the most distinguished events in my life that I have consigned to me, as your Colonel, the gratifying duty of carrying into effect His Majesty's gracious commands, that this honour should be restored to your Regiment", (The speech was quite long-winded!).

The Regiment, with Major-General Torrens at its head, then marched past the Colour, saluting; the Grenadier Company moved forward and formed in front of the Colour and when the whole Regiment had passed they marched with the Colour to the left wing, the Band playing the 'Grenadiers' March'. Ensign Raitt, holding the Colour, then stood a few paces in advance of the King's and Regimental Colours, when the whole Regiment presented arms. Lady Torrens then left the ground.

The newspaper from which this extract has been taken adds; "It is not, perhaps, too much to say that the Queen's Royals are at this moment a military spectacle in discipline, conduct and efficiency that they can hardly be excelled. During the last twelve months a corporal punishment has not been inflicted in the Regiment, nor could a stronger testimony be borne to the affection and interest their Colonel has ever evinced for his Corps than the proud appearance it made on this interesting occasion." In the evening after the parade the men were entertained with an excellent dinner at the expense of their Colonel and during dinner they were visited by Lady Torrens and a large party of her friends. The newspaper concludes with the remark "It is a most extraordinary circumstance that Ensign Raitt, who received the Colour on this occasion, is a descendant of the Officer who was an Ensign at the time the flag was laid aside".

The Regiment was inspected at Colaba, India on the 24th June 1825 by Major-General S Wilson, Commanding the Presidency Division. The General reported very favourably on the appearance of the Regiment and also of their drill. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Williams was reported upon as a very zealous, painstaking and capable officer. The Inspecting Officer also reported that the Regiment had three Colours, the Third having been lately discovered in one of the Royal hospitals in Dublin and, by command of the King, restored to the Regiment.

## Caption to Colour Plate

**Top centre:** Officer's shako plate with gold and crimson lace band. **Top left:** Battalion Company Private as he would have appeared at the parade. **Top right:** Battalion Company Private. **Bottom left:** Grenadier Company Corporal. **Centre bottom:** Battalion Company Officer. **Bottom right:** Light Company Sergeant







## The Birkenhead Disaster 26th February, 1852

*But to stand and be still to the Birken 'ead drill. Is a damn tough bullet to chew*

From Rudyard Kipling's poem, Soldier an' Sailor Too

On 25h February, 1852 H.M. Troopship *Birkenhead* steamed out of Simon's Bay near Capetown set on course for disaster. The intended destination was Port Elizabeth.

The ship was iron built, and modern, by the famous John Laird shipbuilding family in 1845. She was just over 200 feet long and of 1400 tons. On board were 643 personnel and several officers' horses. Among these was a draft for the **Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot** consisting of a Corporal and fifty-one men under the command of Ensign Boylan.

The evening was calm and clear. The soldiers and families were in their hammocks below and Captain Salmond had retired for the night. Soon after midnight the *Birkenhead*, which had taken the Regiment to the Cape in the previous year, struck a hidden reef off the aptly named Point Danger, some fifty miles out from Simon's Bay. A few feet to port or starboard and she would have missed it. The impact ripped her open from the forepeak to just forward of the engine room and the sea poured in.

The Captain, who had been awakened by the shock of the impact appeared on deck half dressed and took immediate necessary measures. The twenty-five women and twenty-nine children, families of some of the soldiers, were brought up from below. Major Seaton of the 74th, the senior regimental officer on board, was requested by Captain Salmond *"to be kind enough to preserve order and silence among the men"* and to listen for further orders from the Captain.

The only hope, the Captain decided, was to take the *Birkenhead* astern off the reef and trust there was enough buoyancy in the ship to keep her afloat until rescue came. This proved to be a fatal decision. As the paddles turned astern the ship struck again; this time a great gash was torn below the engine room. The sea gushed into the engine room flooding the furnaces in a great cloud of steam and drowning most of the stokers.

Suddenly, the deck tilted, her stern rose into the air and her tall smokestack crashed down. This killed the men working to free another of the boats and the bow broke away. All the men not engaged were ordered to muster into ranks regiment by regiment. The Captain then gave the order to abandon ship.

Only two cutters and a gig were launched into the water. The women and children were embarked in one of the cutters. Major Seaton raised his hand above his head and pleaded with the men to stand fast where they were. *"The cutter with the women and children will be swamped, I implore you not to do this thing and I ask you to stand fast"*. Other officers took up the cry urging the men to remain where they were for the sake of the women and children. And that is what they did. As the deck tilted and the water rose they stood fast; the *Birkenhead* broke her back within minutes. Those in the bowels of the ship, manning the pumps, died instantly. The men on deck must have known what would happen yet still they did not budge. All the women and children survived.

Private (later Colour Sergeant) Boyden said of Major Seaton that during the time that Major Seaton's orders were being carried out one could have heard a pin drop. Major Seaton walked about the deck giving his orders with as much coolness and presence of mind as if he were on parade, entirely forgetful of self (Boyden floated ashore on a bale of hay, thereby earning himself the lifelong nickname of 'Jack Straw').

One of the few officers to survive, Captain Wright of the 91st, wrote afterwards: *"The order and regularity that prevailed on board, from the time the ship struck until she totally disappeared, far exceeded anything that I thought could be effected by the best discipline; and it is the more to be wondered at, seeing that most of the soldiers were but a short time in the Service. Everyone did as he was directed, and there was not a murmur or a cry amongst them until the ship made her final plunge. I could not name any individual officer who did more than another. All received their orders and had them carried out as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom; there was only this difference, that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion"*.

**It was this account that was read out to every regiment in the service of King Frederic William of Prussia**

(It is said that the cry *"women and children first"* was the standard set by the men of the *Birkenhead* who died seeing it fulfilled).

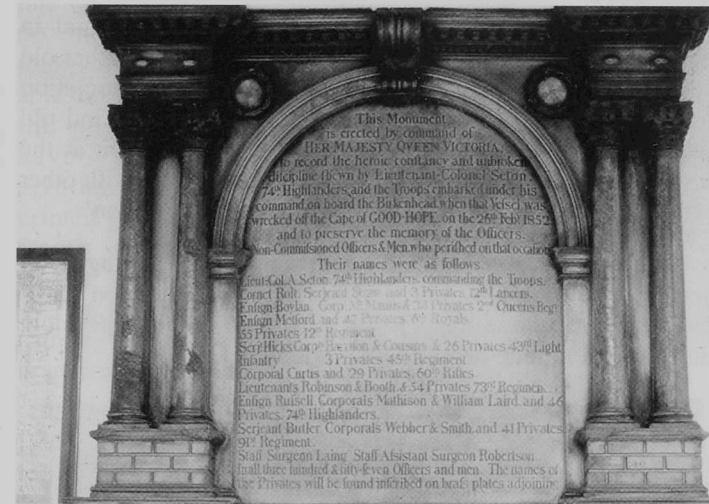


### Caption to The Birkenhead Disaster Colour Plate

**Top left:** Ensign Boylan. **Top right:** Corporal McManus. **Bottom Left:** Private. **Bottom Right:** Private reading a prayer book. **Centre panel:** The names of the dead and survivors of the Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot on board HM Troopship *Birkenhead*.

### Birkenhead Commemoration Service

A Service of Remembrance for the 150th Anniversary of the Wreck of the *Birkenhead* was held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Sunday 24th February 2002. Despite inclement weather, in the form of bitter winds and later heavy rain, a very good muster was effected, with several associated Regiments and organisations being represented. Among our Association members present were: Col and Mrs J W Sewell, Lt Col and Mrs P Collyer, Lt Col L M Wilson, Majors P Gray and M Maloney, J W Rae Esq., Mr and Mrs D Baird, H B Stewart and Maj and Mrs J C Rogerson. Our Standard was on parade carried by Mick Etherington. Together with: Members from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines all ten former Birkenhead Regiments and the RAMC, the South African Military Attache laid wreaths at the Memorial.



*The Birkenhead Memorial, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London*

Proceedings commenced with a parade of the Chelsea Pensioners, followed by the laying of wreaths on the Birkenhead Memorial, Colonel J W Sewell laying that of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

A piper played "The Flowers of the Forest" and a bugler sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille". Moving indoors, the Commemoration Service was held in the beautiful hospital Chapel.



A special *Birkenhead* insert was included in the normal Sunday Order of Service which was led by the Chaplain to the Royal Hospital, The Reverend Dick Whittington MBE. Special Birkenhead Prayers were said by the Reverend Paul Abram, the Chaplain to the Tower of London, who also preached the address, using the loss of the *Birkenhead* and the spirit of self sacrifice as his theme. The hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" was sung. At the end of the Service guests proceeded to the State Apartments for refreshments.

*Then amidst oath, and prayer, and rush, and wreck,  
Faint screams, faint questions waiting no reply,  
Our Colonel gave the word, and on the deck  
Formed us in line to die.*

Sir Francis Doyle's verses

It was a memorable occasion paying fitting tribute to all men of the *Birkenhead*, particularly those who lost their lives, and whose gallantry originated the famous command and principle **"Women and Children first"**.

The Service of Remembrance was organised by RHQ The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and the staff at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. We are all most grateful to them for their planning and final execution on the day.

RF & LW

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### The Lambs, Sandfield Terrace

When the New Wing Sandfield Terrace (as it was called) was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, General Sir Robert Haining on 24th October 1954, the main entrance was flanked at first floor height by two Lambs. Forty-seven years later, when Sandfield Terrace had been sold to the developers it was thought that the Lambs would be lost. However, they were recovered by various means and transported to Farnham to await a decision as to their future.



The developers, Fairclough Homes, were approached and asked if they would consider incorporating them into the new building walls. This was agreed and Guildford Borough Council approved an application for them to be bricked into the new buildings. At this time (May 2002) both Lambs have now been fitted into the wall and it is hoped that a photo will be included in the November issue. The Territorial Trustees have agreed to have a bronze plaque fitted to the wall recording that The Queen's Royal Regiment Territorials occupied Sandfield Terrace for 108 years.

LW





#### N B Riches TD writes:-

Thank you for sending the November Newsletter, and I enclose my cheque to defray costs etc. In the accompanying Journal of Regimental Traditions etc, I was very interested to read of the County Cadet Forces, which I joined in 1928 at Farnham. I thought it might be of interest to send you a synopsis of my service at that time. Many thanks for all your good work including Les Wilson!:- I joined the Farnham Cadet Force as a Subaltern in 1928 with a "Lord Lieutenant's" Commission at Farnham, Surrey. The HQ was a dilapidated building in Mill Lane, once a flour mill. Major Robins was the OC, with just another Subaltern with myself to make up the officers. The force comprised - Corps of Drums with a bugle and fife Band, plus a rifle company - really more like a platoon! The annual camp was spent at Fort Cumberland as guests of the Royal Marines at Eastney Barracks, Southsea.

We boosted our funds by giving concerts in our "Drill Hall" with our own so-called "talent" amongst which I can recall the PT Instructor with his "flaming" dumbbells and the RSM's rendition of the "Laughing Policeman". I spent several years proudly wearing the The Queen's Royal West Surreys' cap badge before joining the 5th Queen's Territorials circa 1932, which is another story!

#### L W Gibbs writes:-

Just as I was thinking I had outlived my wartime contemporaries in The Queen's, two have letters published in the last Newsletter (No. 70), there is news of a third, remembrance of a fourth, and a picture from the cricket match against the Royal Navy's 15th Cruiser Squadron in Trieste, at which I was present.

I am nearly 87. Those who frequented the Orderly Room of 2/5th Queen's at its various locations in North Africa and Italy may remember the photo of a girl in shorts up a ladder against an apple tree, which I always kept on my workplace. She is still with me and we celebrated sixty years of marriage last September. We both send greetings to all who served in 1/5th and 2/5th Queen's. I shall certainly keep my Newsletter subscription going.

#### G V T Church writes:-

Many thanks for the latest excellent Newsletter and its really brilliant Supplement, a brilliant history of the regiment. Please find enclosed cheque in acknowledgement of this excellent "library" which must certainly be kept.

In the obituary column I recall "Sapper" Swayne, in particular when he was trying to teach us rugby during recreation, when the 2nd/7th Queen's were stationed at Lyminge in the spring of 1940. A most popular officer.

#### Jack Marsh writes:-

Thank you for the current edition of the Newsletter.

Earlier this year, while scanning the TV Teletext "Service Pals" pages, I spotted an item on 9 Platoon C Company, 1st Battalion Queen's, regarding a search for members of the platoon who had served in Malaya in the fifties. I suddenly realised, reading the names being sought, that mine was among them! I was a section commander in the platoon during National Service 1954-6 and recognised some of the names from my section and especially Laurie Costa who was the one to contact.

A long telephone conversation followed - we last met in Malaya in 1956 - and he soon put me in touch with another old mucker, Ron Harper, who signed me up for the Association straight away. Thanks to all this and their efforts to find old comrades, I was able to attend the November reunion at the Union Jack Club in London where I not only met up with other members of the platoon but nearly half of my old section!

I would just like to thank all those responsible for getting us all together again for what was a bit of a moving reunion that I never thought would happen after all this time. I hope more can be found in time for the next get-together.

#### J H Day writes:-

After reading Major "Sandy" Sanders' letter in November's Newsletter, I was reminded of both occasions when The Glorious First of June was celebrated during my service with the Queen's Brigade. In 1944 the Brigade was in Cairo. As a newcomer to the Queen's I was amazed when the officers brought us "gunfire" in bed that morning. I thought "This unit must be alright with two Christmas Days a year!" Despite the War the Navy sent a cricket team over to play the traditional cricket match. I watched the match from start to finish, and can remember that the Brigade team were the victors.

During the day Major Sanders recalled there was a Memorial Service in the morning. In the afternoon I was on the fatigue party at the carnival doing odd jobs here and there. I did manage to see the opening overs of the cricket match. We took first knock and our opening batsmen, one of whom was OC D Company, Major Thompson, were scoring merrily when we were called away. When I managed to return the match had taken a dramatic turn for the worse. The Navy had brought on their secret weapon in the shape of a demon spin bowler. Who he was I have never found out, but nevertheless he played havoc with our batting. The openers were both out, as were two other batsmen. He proceeded to take a wicket in nearly every over, and he was not getting them caught, stumped or run out; he was clean bowling them. I think that they eventually took him off so that our team could score a few runs to make a game of it. No one needed a university degree to work out who would win that match!

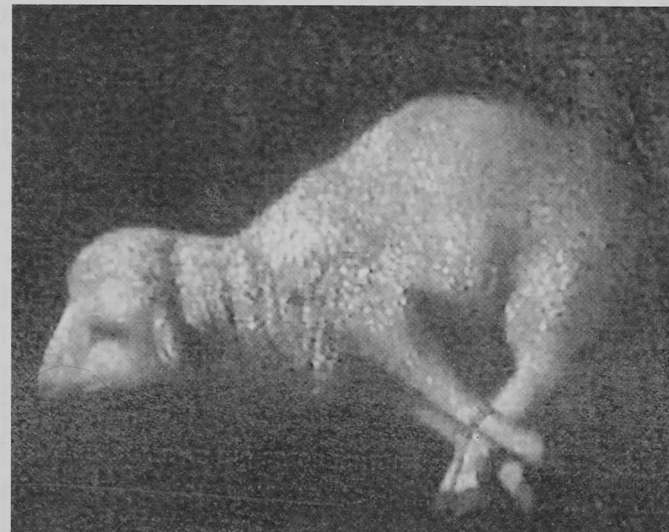
Back at the carnival I found myself exchanging a few words with Field Marshal Lord Alexander. One of the side shows was "Beat the Goalkeeper", a sort of penalty shoot-out competition. To save time in retrieving the balls, side nets had been arranged on the outside of each goalpost as well as the conventional net. My job was to secure the pegs on these nets if they worked loose, and retrieve the balls. Since I knew the goalkeeper rather well, I spent more time chatting with him than securing the pegs or worrying about balls. Suddenly I was disturbed by an angry voice shouting, "Hey you! Get out of the way." When I looked round there was the Field Marshal waiting to try his luck at this game. He had several of his aides

with him. I quickly secured a peg and beat a hasty retreat. Such were the few words that I had with him!

Yes! It was a memorable occasion.

#### Colonel John Davidson writes:-

We were touring in Northern Portugal last October and, quite by chance came across the restored Duke of Bragança's Palace in the lovely old town of Guimiraes. In Caterina's bedroom there was a portrait of her and also a smallish painting of a "Paschal Lamb". Photography wasn't allowed and the paintings were at the far end of the room where one couldn't go. When no one was looking I took some video. I was able to buy a postcard of the portrait, which I have scanned and printed. The Lamb is printed from a captured frame off the video, which, since the room was pretty dark and the painting some 8m away, is surprisingly good.



The lamb is fascinating. It was entitled "paschal lamb" in the brochure even though it has no flag and is in a very strange position. Have you ever seen another like it?

#### G Egerton, nephew of the late Jim Dell writes:-

Thank you on behalf of the family and friends of Jim for the really significant contribution the Association made to the funeral. The wreath was beautiful and the Standard Bearer and Bugler added the military presence, which was an important part of Jim's life.

Unfortunately the postal service let us down and your letter with Jim's service record and the Regimental Collect had not arrived before Mr Atkins had left for the funeral. However he forwarded these to me and they will be passed on to the family. Again many thanks for your prompt action and the Association's part in a very memorable funeral.

#### Don Challis writes

Like most of us whose memories go back to the war, looking through old photographs remain one of the few activities left that require little effort but still give pleasure. It was on such an

exercise that I came across this picture of 1 Queen's MT section drawn up for inspection at Bangkok in 1945. Drafted into the section for reasons quite unconnected with vehicles, I must have been the only person in the regiment in a transport section who couldn't drive! This fact however failed to prevent me being unleashed on an unsuspecting Siamese public in a jeep. Long forgotten names like Curly Boud, John Ingram, Ron Hinton, Darkie Samples and John Davies were all there in the line up. Where are they now I wonder?



Bangkok 1945. 1 Queen's MT Platoon

I see this is the last issue of the Newsletter under your guidance. Many thanks for some great magazines and a happy retirement.

#### The late Richard Ford wrote:-

As a former Curator of the Regimental Museum at Clandon (1988-94) I visited it within a few days of its reopening and can only describe it in one word - MARVELLOUS. The rooms are tastefully and conveniently laid out while the exhibits are displayed in a professional and interesting manner. I feel that highest tribute must be paid to all who have been involved in its reorganisation including design, development, administration and last but not least finance.

In paying justifiable tribute to the present, one must also remember the past and the original founders of the museum and all who worked for it over the years, particularly such people as the late Major Peter Hill and his wife Daphne.

In its current form the museum truly confirms that, "Large streams from little fountains flow, Tall oaks from little acorns grow".

#### Mrs G peake writes:-

It was so very kind of you to arrange for the Regimental Standard to attend George's funeral on 18th February, and for the lovely wreath. As I did the address myself, you will be pleased to know I concluded with the words of "Do not stand at my grave", a copy of which you kindly sent me. My Sons Arthur and Harold join me in sending our sincere appreciation.

#### Mrs E Goode and Family write:-

Thank you very much for your kind letter of support at this sad time. We very much appreciated the Regimental Standard Bearer being present at Reg's funeral, also the beautiful floral tribute sent from the Association. It was so good to know that the comradeship forged all those years ago still continues. It is something I shall remember and treasure for ever.

These friendships made during National Service are quite unique and very special. It was a part of Reg's life that was talked about by him a great deal. Thank you for your kindness.



Doug Mitchell writes:-

Many old comrades from B Coy 1/5th Queen's will recognise the face of Harry Gaffuri (Gaff), Harry told me in a recent letter that he often goes back to Enfidaville and at the War Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday he had his photograph taken with Her Majesty's Ambassador to Tunisia, and one taken behind a gravestone, he had written on the little cross "From one of the lucky ones" for he said he always considers he has had sixty years bonus.



Her Majesty's Ambassador to Tunisia with Dawn, Connie, and Harry, Remembrance Sunday, Enfidaville, 2000. The Ambassador's name was Rawlingson.



Harry has kindly sent me the two photographs and thought they would be of interest to old 1/5th Queen's veterans. Harry used to live in Bognor Regis, but he has moved to Huntingdon and was the subject of an advertisement for McCarthy and Stones, purpose built retirement homes which was headed "Ideal Fox Hole for a Desert Rat".

## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



**John Barlow** of 23 Meare Close, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5RZ. is seeking any information or details of his Father, Frank Stanley Barlow 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. He writes:- He was a prisoner of war near Torun (Thorn) in Poland having been captured at St Valery en Caux in 1940. I believe he was sent to Stalag XX(2A). Although I have some information relating to this period of my late father's life, I am

interested in learning more about his experiences and those of his fellow POWs. I was told about your Newsletter and I wondered if you would be able to insert a notice in the next edition requesting any of your readers with information, or knowledge of my late father to get in touch with me at the above address.

Mention was also made of a book call "I Remember", which was written by Stan Rayner who was a POW in Poland during the same period although I do not believe he was in the same camp. Do you know if it is still possible to obtain a copy of this book?

Any assistance you are able to give me would obviously be greatly appreciated.

□ □ □

## SIGNALS



### 60th Anniversary - The British Battalion, 20th December 1941

#### Exchange of signals - The British Battalion

The following signal was despatched to The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, Royal Tigers Association.

From the President and all members of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association and particularly the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

We remember with you the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and The 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment the formation of The British Battalion on 20th December 1941 at Ipoh, Malaya.

Quote from The East Surrey Regiment history "From the start this integration of Leicesters and Surreys was a remarkable success and the "esprit de corps" and fighting of the Battalion was of the highest order".

□ □ □

The Officers of the Royal Tigers' Association send warmest greetings to the Officers of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, wishing to commemorate the close and cordial association between the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment after their amalgamation as The "British Battalion" on 20th December 1941.

We especially remember on the sixtieth anniversary the heroic and gallant fight at Kampar, when their courage and fighting spirit against an overwhelmingly numerically superior enemy reflected the highest traditions of our two Regiments and prepared them to endure the struggle for survival in captivity.

### Rupert Bogs Off

Freedom at last! Someone has just tipped me the wink that 'himself' will no longer be editing this illustrious publication. Incidentally why is it referred to as the Newsletter? It is far more than that and the title ought to illustrate just what a quality publication it has become. But I only say that sort of thing when the editor is well out of earshot. If you get the chance have a look at any other Regimental Magazine – absolutely no competition and that is when you look at the active regiments, let alone amalgamated-out-of-existence souls like us. On top of that, they do not produce the many quality supplements that we are privileged with. Now, no matter who the new editor is and however good he is, he will not have that vital information about my past that the present editor has been threatening me with, these past seven years. So I can now slope off into the sunset, knowing that no one will ever hear about the 'affair of Mrs Arlott, her daughters and the spaghetti bolognaise covered cat that was found in her boudoir.' Phew.

My thoughts now turn to farewells that I have known in the past. Some farewells are jolly affairs but others can be far more serious. I still remember the day I said goodbye to Harry Smith and his Mum. Harry was nowhere near being a saint. For most of the time he was considered by most to be a sinner. The last time I saw Harry was at Nottingham Assizes where he was about to be sent down the river for a stretch inside. Before the trial started I sat down with Harry's mother and told her that I would not be saying anything very nice about her son and she should be prepared for him being sent to prison. She was very kind to me, sensing my embarrassment and lack of experience in such matters and she did her best to comfort me. I have never forgotten her. Here I was telling her that her son was in grave danger of becoming a frequent visitor to the inside of Her Majesty's many prisons and she was trying her best to make the ordeal as easy for me as she possibly could. "It's alright son, I understand. Ever since his father died I knew he would end up in prison. He's ever so naughty – but you see, I still love him and I thought the Army would make him see sense. Do you think we can get a cup of tea here?"

One of the duties of an officer was to be present in court whenever one of his soldiers was up before the law. It was not the first time I had had to carry out this duty but it made it no less distasteful. I always hated the job. I felt that a member of the Regiment was being seen by the public in an unfavourable light. Guilty or not guilty, it was not the place for a soldier to be. It was also ordered that the officer representing the accused should be in uniform. So there was no hiding the fact that a member of the regiment was involved in court proceedings. I had once even been given a lecture by a Magistrate for not attending court in uniform. I had been on leave and heard that one of my soldiers was appearing in court. so I dropped everything and went to see what I could do to help, only to get a real wiggling from His Worship. There's justice for you.

I had known Harry since he slept just three beds away from me and we were both Private soldiers in the October National Service intake. Harry was very streetwise and he knew ways of making money that made lesser mortals quake. Part of his ritual for going out in the evening was to strap on at least six watches – three on each arm. These would then be covered with his shirtsleeve and he was ready for the night's trading. But when business was slack Harry would resort to desperate measures to make money. First he would make sure that a crowd was slowly gathered round his corner of the pub and then when he considered that the time was ripe and the crowd was big enough, he would begin. He would bet people that he could hold a lighted cigarette end against the bare flesh on his arm for one minute. The cash would be collected and deposited with whoever seemed to be, by mutual consent, the most honest looking person in the group. Then Harry would begin to hold the burning cigarette against his arm whilst someone else

manned the watch - not one of Harry's since they were known to be on the temperamental side.

As the minute ticked by several of the crowd would have to look away. It was not a pleasant sight. But at the end of the full minute everyone would have to agree that Harry had won his money. There was no trick to the feat. It was just will power and insensitivity to pain, together with a great desire for money. If the punters had taken a look at other parts of his arms they would have seen the scars that told of previous encounters with the fiery Woodbine. I never saw anyone else who was even slightly tempted to emulate his moneymaking methods. Mind you, this was just about the only one that was even vaguely legal. You got some idea of how Harry made his living when you saw his scrawny little body going over the ten-foot wall on the assault course. He might have been short with stringy arms, but getting over a wall was a skill that must have been passed down in the genes from father to son. He just oozed over the thing with a deftness that defied gravity and friction. Farewell Harry.

It is a fact that farewells from foreign parts and from foreign armies can be quite risky affairs. They tend to get just a smidge out of control and the normal laws of decorum and good sense get bent out of all recognition. The farewell parties in Sharja would always go on until the exact moment the aircraft was due to leave and then all the participants and the leaver would overload any available transport and tear off towards the runway – it seemed to make things go better if there was some sort of musical accompaniment – so we normally had a piper. Then everyone would board the plane, with piper, and ensure that the leaver had a suitable seat and that the air hostesses were well aware that they had a VIP on board. Only then could the plane leave. Needless to say the authorities soon got bored with this ritual and ordered changes to be made to the sequence of events attending anyone's farewell. Especially since it was found that on several occasions the wrong person had departed on the plane.

The Navy had gone one better. After a contingent from HMS Ashanti had been royally entertained in the mess they all politely took their leave and left to take a boat back to their ship which was due to sail on the early morning tide. After they had left we returned to the mess for a nightcap and sat around to express satisfaction with having had a pleasant evening. But Hark! What was the noise – it seemed like a deep rumble with a hissing sound at the end. To begin with we ignored the annoying sound but then curiosity got the better of us and we had to find out where the noise was coming from. After an extensive hunt we found it; an unconscious midshipman asleep behind the sofa. We debated what to do – the majority favoured leaving him there. But then I witnessed real compassion, which was beyond the call of duty. One young officer picked up the sad-sack midshipman and heaved him out to his Landrover. from there he drove to the boat club and took out a canoe. With the Middy loaded into the front seat of the canoe he paddled out to sea and the anchored HMS Ashanti. "Ahoy there, I have one more passenger for you." The Trucial Oman Scouts bred a caring sort of officer.

Then there are the incoming farewell calls.

"Duty Officer Speaking." This was said in my officious "I am in charge and I know exactly what is going on," type of voice. "I want to speak to Dave before he leaves and tell him I love him."

"I am sorry miss but I cannot pass on messages and I have no idea who Dave is or even where he is."

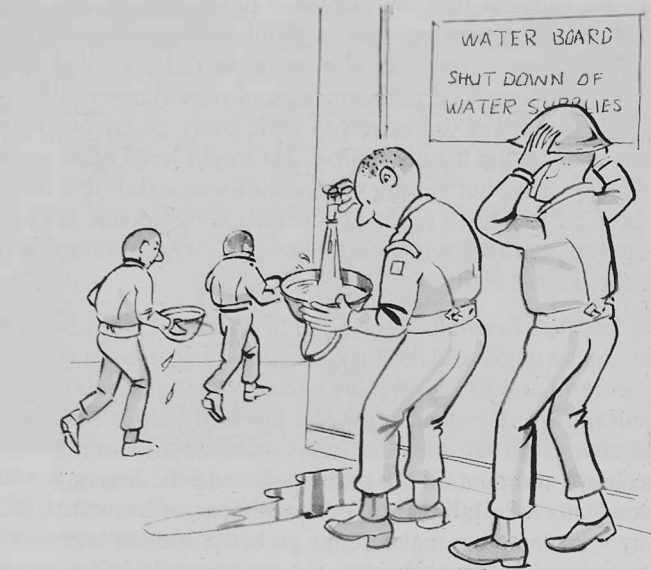
"Oh go on, please, I only wanted to tell him I love him and that I am having his baby."

"Listen Miss you will have to speak to him at some other time, it is past midnight. But congratulations – when is the baby due?"



"Any minute, I am in the phone box and I think it's coming now! I need him with me. Ahhhhhh....."

It is at this point that any duty officer starts to wonder if he is about to be taken for a 'Candid Camera' ride. My mind went back to the duty officer in Bury St Edmunds who had been persuaded to wake the camp and get everyone to fill suitable receptacles with water, since the 'official from the water board' had said there was going to be an emergency shut down of the water supplies.



An emergency shut-down of water supplies

But babies in telephone boxes – well that's a different matter - you cannot take chances with something like that - so I sent an ambulance to the Bury St Edmunds' phone box. The young lady was delivered of a healthy baby girl at 1.17am.

For emotional farewells you could not beat West Africa. I had just finished a two-year tour with the Royal West African Frontier Force in Sierra Leone and I was going to spend two weeks going back home courtesy of Elder Dempster Lines on the SS *Accra*, via Gambia and Madeira. It had been good to have all my friends aboard for a last drink in my cabin but now they had left, so I made my way on deck and looked down from the rail. Slowly the ship swung out from the dockside - bow first. Just one line was holding her by the stern. As she swung, so I made my way further aft, waving all the while to my friends on the quayside. Then from behind some derricks marched a line of six buglers. They halted, turned to face the ship and as the last line fell from the *Accra* they sounded the 'Hausa Farewell.' Tears poured down my face as I stood there, at attention, acknowledging their tribute. Sierra Leone slowly drifted out of sight but the sound of the bugles stayed with me.

Now it is time to be off. I have outstayed my welcome and it is time to wander off into the undergrowth. You have been kind and suffered enough of this rubbish. But before I go there are three things I would like to do - First to thank those of you who have been kind enough to write and pass on your comments. These letters have been much appreciated. It is a lonely old world and when someone takes the trouble to write – well it spreads a nice warm glow. Secondly I must record my admiration for Chris Collins who provides the high quality cartoons – what a dull read it would be without them. And finally I need to say a word about our Editor. Over the years I have poked fun and been as rude as my courage would allow. But underneath the barbs and sarcasm lies a respect born from many years of friendship. No one has done more for the Regiment and its reputation; no one has worked harder or achieved so much. No one deserves our gratitude more.

Grief!! I must stop taking these tablets they are having a very funny effect on me. I wonder if it is the blue ones or maybe it

is one of those striped jobs, with the torpedo ends and coloured like a PWRR boating jacket.....

A number of readers have written and asked the full name of Rupert, and wondered what he looks like. As this is my last edition of the Newsletter, I have decided to publish the only photograph I have been able to obtain. It shows a very angelic and one might even say lovable little lad. Nothing - but nothing could be further from the truth. I can assure all readers that from the day he joined the Regiment to the day he left, Rupert, wherever he served did manage to get into a few scrapes! On the other hand looking back, many young Ruperts were the same. At least **Our Rupert** has offered his advice and pearls of wisdom to the young officers of today and entertained our readers with his writing over a number of years. On behalf of us all, Rupert, Thank you.

(Editors note: period of kindness now over - I still retain all incriminating evidence and photos!)

Rupert



Rupert

## Congratulations and Best Wishes



### Diamond Wedding congratulations to:-

Mr and Mrs Kenneth Honeyman who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 31st January 2002.

RSM Jack Chaffer and Doll who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 6th March 2002.

### Birthday congratulations to:-

Colonel Peter Durrant who celebrated his 75th Birthday on 21st December 2001.

The Revd Dr George Gerrard, who is 86 in May 2002. George is now a resident in Manorhead Residential Home at Hindhead. He sends best wishes to all members especially those he served with in 1/5th Queen's

### Best wishes to:

Since the last issue of the Newsletter in November 2001, there have been a number of our members who have had operations and spells in hospital. We wish them all a speedy recovery, among these are:- Colonel Gerald Sharpe, Major John Tamplin, Brigadier Charles Millman, Major General Rowley Mans, Mrs Daphne Hill and Mrs Val Jones, wife of Colonel Alan Jones

### The Preserved Diary

ORQMS E Camp was the Orderly Room Sergeant of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the Malayan Campaign and was taken prisoner. Throughout his long years of captivity in Japanese hands he maintained, at great personal risk, meticulous records of all members of the Battalion who were held by the Japanese. Despite many searches by the enemy they never found his nominal roll. After the war the detailed book was accepted by the Infantry Records Office as the official record of casualties and by the Regimental Paymaster as the basis for pay and pension awards.

OQRMS Camp was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his services in the Malaya Campaign.

The diary, continued in use by the Secretary of the Regimental Association, and now beautifully hard bound, is held at the Regimental Museum at Clandon. It is a mine of information, its entries telling many stories in themselves. Poignantly and sadly some entries tell of death.

Only the second entry in the book shows Leslie Paget Birkett Bingham as having died of wounds on 26th February 1942, while on a succeeding page Richard Wilkinson Roy Bradford is shown as killed at Guru on 17th December 1941. As was the practice of the times the religions of personnel are recorded under such headings as "CE, RC or CONG".

Postings and promotions are recorded as well as deaths. Robert Patrick Cave is shown as "Posted to Unit on first commission 23.8.41". A less happy entry shows him as "wounded to hpl (hospital) on 1.1.42".

The confused state of fighting of the times is indicated by the fact that Alastair Conway Hill is recorded as being "last seen at Kelazar - several jungle sores", although he was later marked as KIA (killed in action). Some evacuations of wounded took place by sea as J G Quarrell was so embarked in the (Hospital) ship *Talamba* on 15th January 1942.

Doubly tragic was the death of Reginald Clarence Spencer who was killed by RAF bombing at Namprodok, Thailand on the 9th September 1944. (Nowadays known as "friendly fire").



ORQMS E G Camp receiving the Meritorious Service Medal from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal The Lord Harding.

Gallantry, as is already well known, was not lacking. William George Vickers was awarded the Military Cross. Medical men also paid the price of duty. H B Thomson RAMC, attached to the Unit on 11th September 1941 was shown as missing on 17th December 1942.

Relatives and Next of Kin of members are shown as being dispersed at locations far and wide - ranging from Eastbourne

in Sussex to County Dublin in Eire and to other addresses as far afield as Australia and South Africa. Doubtless, wherever sited, the arrival of the various ominous fateful telegrams must have been equally tragic and distressing.

The 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment had many casualties in the Malayan Campaign but it gained an indelible and glorious place in history.

### The Lost Diary

An entirely separate record, less comprehensive than that of ORQMS Camp, but nevertheless important in itself, was kept by another member of the Battalion but it met an unfortunate end as, indeed, did its writer.

In 1981 ORQMS Camp received a letter from Canon Eric Stott in which he describes how two soldiers, L/Sgt Shorthouse and Corporal Hawkins, evaded capture by the Japanese and were hidden by a Chinese merchant named Lee, firstly in his house and later in a hut in the jungle. Shorthouse compiled a lengthy document describing their experiences. Both men survived until nearly the end of the war when they became ill with malaria. Hawkins died and Shorthouse buried him in the jungle, sadly recording "Now I am alone". Soon afterwards Shorthouse himself died and the Lee family cremated him in the hut in which he and Hawkins had sheltered. Mr Lee preserved Shorthouse's diary and after the war showed it to a Major in the War Graves Commission who declared, "This is a lot of rubbish" and, to the amazement of Mr Lee, tore it up. With its shredded remains went a valuable piece of history and also, one may well think, the character and reputation of the erring Major.

Deprived of such a record, Mr Lee and his family, who had so bravely concealed the two men, received no recognition at all of their services.

### The Queen's Royal Surrey Golf Society

The Autumn Meeting of the Golf Society was held at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 10th October 2001.

Once again the weather was kind to us, and twenty-four members attended to compete in the various competitions. At the conclusion of the day's play the prizes were presented by the Captain of the Society, C C Surtees Esq.

### Prize List

Autumn Bowl Senior Division	M J Power Esq	71 net
Glasgow Greys Cup Junior Division	J R L Wells Esq	74 net
Petri Plate Aggregate Spring & Autumn Meetings	Maj R A Green	134 net
Heales Memorial Trophy Stableford	A W Fuller Esq	36 pts
Veteran's Halo	W J T Ross Esq	39 pts
PM Greensomes	Capt B M L Scripps & R G W Bing Esq	
Society Sweep	1st C T Stanton Esq	
	2nd A F Price Esq	
	3rd Maj J C Rogerson	
Autumn Meeting	9th October 2002 Woking Golf Club	



Continued Service

“Old soldiers never die” ‘tis said and while this may not literally be true it is a fact that many of them live to ripe old ages and collect lengthy Army pensions in the process. Not unnaturally, successive Governments over the years have looked at various ways of offsetting this expenditure. This is often effected by using pensioners to supplement or replace the more expensive regular soldiers in certain appointments and duties at various times and places.

Documentary evidence exists which shows that as far back as the seventeenth century the Army was paying pensioners, then known as the Independent Companies of Invalids for supplementary duties. The term Invalids was later considered to be inappropriate and had been dropped by 1800. Succeeding titles were Royal Garrison Battalions in 1802, Royal Veterans Battalions in 1804 and also Addison’s Army of Reserve. They performed their duties and functions well, particularly in Ireland and at Peterloo but a drive to reduce Army expenditure caused them to be disbanded by 1828. The situation may have been influenced by the fact that Sir Robert Peel was at that time preparing to form his “new police”, who emerged in 1829 in the form of the Metropolitan Police and took over many duties previously performed by troops.

Between 1830 and 1840 there were a number of investigations into misappropriation of Army Pension Funds. As a result many changes were made including, among other things, the establishment of new Veteran’s Battalions.

Despite much public opposition, the newly formed police service was being developed and expanded and many former Veterans were enrolled as Special Constables, thus forming a valuable reserve to the permanent establishment. Because of their previous Army background of discipline and training they were found to be particularly useful in public order situations.

The Government, meanwhile, was obsessed with making cuts in Army expenditure, feeling that now the threat of Napoleon had been removed Britain could rest safely behind the “wooden walls” of the Royal Navy.

Among the economics suggested was the use of Army pensioners overseas to replace regular troops. A Bill to this effect was passed into law in June 1847 and authorised the formation of Six Companies of Pensioners for service in New Zealand. Implementation of the scheme over the next two years resulted in the withdrawal of 500 troops from the territory. From this success other enrolled Pensioner Forces were established in such diverse places as Nova Scotia, Hudson Bay, Malta, Gambia and the Falkland Isles.

Australia from its foundation in 1840 could only be regarded as one vast open prison, largely populated by prisoners and those who guarded them. The latter duty involved many regular troops. Needs for economies and the requirements for the services of troops elsewhere, notably in India, resulted in yet another scheme being devised for the use of an Enrolled Pensioner Force. Initially they were destined for use in Western Australia which, on financial grounds, was reluctantly being forced to accept convicts. But if convicts were to be accommodated in Australia they first of all had to be transported there and to this end further bodies of Enrolled Pensioners were formed to act as escorts and guards on convict ships from England. On arrival, some Pensioners became prison guards or part of the already formed local Pensioner companies and some Pensioners brought their wives and families with them to become settlers in the newly developing territories. The two main settlement centres were Perth and Fremantle, from whence Pensioner detachments were frequently dispersed to other depots and outstations. For many years the Enrolled Pensioner Force was commanded by

Captain (later Colonel) John Bruce who did much to improve their lot and conditions. Soon after his death in 1870 eventual disbandment of the Force was discussed by the Colonial, Home and War Offices.

In 1868 the practice of transportation ceased with the arrival at Fremantle of the last batch of convicts. With the decline of the convict population there was also a corresponding decline in the need for guards with the result that the Enrolled Pensioner Force, after continuing reductions, was eventually disbanded in 1880. A few members were retained for certain specific duties in a smaller body known as the Enrolled Pensioner Guard. Following the cessation of the appropriate grant from the Treasury the Guard ceased in March 1887.

At about the same time as the Enrolled Pensioners were serving in Australia there was another smaller Force of about 222 men serving in Van Dieman’s land. Also some men on completion of service with the Colours elected to go to pension in the colonies.

74 men of the forebears of The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment are known to have enlisted in the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia.

All were Privates and included:-

- James Whiteley - 31st Regiment
- John Day - 31st Regiment
- William Oliver - 31st Regiment
- John Gallagher - believed to be 31st Regiment

JAMES WHITELEY a shoemaker by trade, enlisted in the 31st Regiment at Kilkenny on 14th February 1843.

Due to a clerical error his name on his first Army pay sheet was shown as Whitely (without the second ‘E’) and he continued to use that version thereafter. He spent his off duty hours profitably in the Regiment, devoting his spare time to study. He served in the East Indies and in India, taking part in the First Sikh War and being slightly wounded at Sutlej and more seriously at Moodkee where sabre wounds to his right shoulder and left arm eventually caused him to be repatriated to England for treatment. He was discharged on 26th March 1847 with a pension of 8d a day for the rest of his life. As for the fruits of his studies in the Army he realised his ambition to become a school teacher and married Johanna Walsh in 1850. He enlisted in the Enrolled Pensioner Force, taking advantage of offers of pay and land grants in Australia, and embarked with his wife and daughter in the convict ship *Minden* at Plymouth on 21st July 1851 on a voyage of 85 days duration. Approaching Fremantle the vessel struck a rock, thankfully without damage or casualties, and the rock has since been known as Minden Rock.

James served in the York detachment of the Pensioner Force for many years and later both he and his wife became school teachers. They had eleven children, two of whom died young.

Johanna Whitely was the first female Catholic school teacher in Western Australia and was honoured by having a park named after her in the Town of York.

After the disbandment of the Pensioner Force in 1880 James eventually retired to Fremantle where he died on 30th June 1894 in his seventy-first year.

JOHN DAY was born in or near the town of Cashel in the County of Tipperary and enlisted in the 31st Regiment at Fethard on the 18th May 1840. He served in the East Indies for 6 years 241 days and in India where he saw action at Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal and Sobraon, later receiving the appropriate Sutlej Campaign Medal awards.

He was discharged on 26th February 1847 because of a gun shot wound in the right hand received at Aliwai.

He arrived in Australia with his wife and one child on 1st June 1850 in the first convict ship to Western Australia - The Scindian. Another child was born in the colony.

He was a Pensioner Guard and was appointed a night warder in a convict establishment on 21st May 1851. He later took up land in Perth but found it to be too poor for farming so he returned it to the authorities and received further land in North Fremantle. Tragically he was drowned in a boating accident on the Swan River on 21st September 1852.

WILLIAM OLIVER was born in Manchester in 1810 and enlisted in the 31st Regiment in 1826 when aged only 16. Stationed at Tilbury and then Chatham he embarked for India on 17th January 1827 and arrived at Meerut on 24th June 1827 after passage aboard the *Herefordshire*. He was discharged from the Regiment in October 1847, being medically assessed as “completely worn out by rheumatism and fever”. His residence was noted as Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester.

He enlisted in the Enrolled Pensioner Force and was called up with his family to Tilbury on 13th April 1853. From there they took voyage in the convict ship *Phoebe Dunbar*, 704 tons, which arrived at Fremantle on 30th August 1853. The death rate on board was the highest on any of these voyages to the colony. The ship’s surgeon received a reprimand for his negligence.

Oliver and his wife served in various stations and endured many hardships. Four sons were born of their marriage. One died in infancy but the other three became distinguished settlers, being involved in exploration and large scale sheep and cattle farming.

William Oliver died in 1881 in Fremantle, the cause of death being recorded as “Morbus Cordis”. His grave site is unknown.

JOHN GALLAGHER Little is known of John Gallagher although there is adequate documentation regarding his descendants who seem to have been numerous.

In this day and age it is difficult to envisage the difficulties and hardships endured by the pensioners and their families in an entirely new and foreign land. From the moment they set foot on the outward bound transports to the moment they either left Australia or died they were subject to all the perils of pestilence and the elements that Nature could provide. But despite it all they, with others, built a great nation.

Nearer home and in more recent times there has still been a place for the pensioner to play an active and valuable role in reserve services. Following serious industrial disturbances in South Wales in 1911 many pensioners enrolled in the newly formed First Police Reserve. Similarly during the Second World War many joined the Police War Reserve.

As late as 1947 there was a police reservist performing duty in Cheltenham when wearing the South African War medal ribbon. And, of course, as in the 1830s there was, and still is, the Special Constabulary.

A Small Redemption

I am an “outsider” with no recent military connections but a great respect for and appreciation of those in the armed forces who preserve my right to freedom. Some fifteen years ago, through my interest in the Great War, I discovered a tenuous link to the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment in the person of Great Uncle Philip, Lance Sergeant Philip Thomas Whitehead MM and Bar 17th (1st Footballs) and 23rd (2nd Footballs) Battalions The Middlesex Regiment who died of wounds on 14th September 1917 and is buried in Rheninghelst

Military Cemetery just outside Poperinghe in the Ypres Salient. With the help of many (including the inestimable Lt Col. Les Wilson MBE) I collected fragments of information about GUP as I affectionately refer to him.

He had enlisted in Tottenham at the age of thirty-eight leaving a wife and son (who eventually saw service in the RFC) at home in Edmonton. After training he went to France and eventually arrived on the Somme in mid July 1916. He won the MM in the area in front of Delville Wood for “*carrying up ammunition under very heavy shell fire*” possibly during the strong German counter-attack on the 28th July. He was a private at that time but by the time of his second award in August 1917 he was a Lance Sergeant serving with the 23rd Bn, and died of wounds just four days before receiving the award in the field. The citation referred to “*carrying out wounded under very heavy shell fire*” and I believe this to have taken place in the vicinity of the Canal just north of Ypres. I have since been fortunate enough to have purchased his Military Medal but am still searching for his trio - Pip, Squeak and Wilfred!

Over the intervening years I have visited GUP’s grave at least once a year - never finding any sign of other family visitors - only my own weathered poppy crosses. Until last October! On my second visit of the year, en route to the 25,000 sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, I was amazed to see two poppy crosses in front of the headstone with dedications written on them. Closer inspection revealed the names of two Grandsons, Don and Philip, and perusal of the Visitor Book produced entries cross referenced to my own from July. Armed with these names and addresses, I used my mobile ‘phone to contact a friend in the UK. I requested him to obtain the telephone numbers which I would get when I returned to my house on the Somme that evening.

This I did but only one was accessible and I immediately telephoned him to make initial contact. The missing one rang me the following evening, apparently delighted to add another to their already large family circle. Since my return to England we have swapped information and I have been able to tell them how GUP won his two awards and I have received a wonderful copy of a photograph of him with his wife Rose, my Grandfather’s sister.

I think it is both amazing and moving that a casualty of the long-ago conflict should be instrumental in bringing family members together. War, the great destroyer of families can, it seems, reverse the process if circumstances are just right.

SC

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Mistaken Identity

Following the capitulation of Singapore on 15th February 1942, the Japanese opened up the Port and Dock facilities for use by their German and Italian Allies.

A German merchantman had docked in Singapore and a gang of POWs was going back and forth loading and unloading the cargo. The work was being casually overseen by a Japanese soldier armed with a rifle. It was a hot and steamy tropical afternoon. The Japanese soldier suddenly noticed that one man was stretched out sunbathing. He shouted a few ‘Kurrahs’ at the sunbather, who took not the slightest notice. Angered, the Japanese went up to the sunbather and gave him a hard kick.

The German matelot jumped up in fury, picked up the smaller Japanese and, rifle and all, dropped him over the side into Keppel Harbour.

LW



# Regimental Deaths

*Alsop* - On 30th December 2001, Private Ernest George Alsop. 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1928-1937.

*Bowyer* - On 15th January 2002, Warrant Officer 2 Herbert Charles (Ray) Bowyer, aged 94 years. Served in Belgium and Malta.

*Brand* - On 30th November 2001, Private Robert (Bob) J Brand, aged 63 years. 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, 1956-1959.

*Burton* - On 23rd February 2002, Private James Burton aged 103 years. 7th Bn The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment, 1917- 1920.

*Carter* - On 21st November 2001, Arthur Carter. 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1939-1946. Member of 5 OMA.

*Clough* - On 28th November 2001, Lance Corporal R B Clough MBE, aged 75 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment, and RAPC.

*Coleman* - On 12th January 2002, Anthony Cyril Coleman.

*Colley* - On 31st December 2001, F E (Frank) Colley of the Band and Drums 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Frank and his brother E Colley were at Colchester in 1937. Frank was a POW of the Japanese for 3½ years after the fall of Singapore.

*Crockford* - On 14th December 2001, Roy C Crockford who served in The 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment and 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) 1953-1960.

*Dell* - On 7th December 2001, Captain James William (Jimmy) Dell, aged 87 years. 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Ford* - On 25th February 2002, E H (Ben) Ford, 1/5th The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Ford* - On 10th May 2002, Chief Inspector Richard Ford, aged 78 years, Regimental Museum Curator, Clandon, 1988-1994, Royal Navy, Surrey Constabulary and Honorary member, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association.

*Franklin* - On 15th March 2002, Corporal Leslie Franklin, aged 73 years. 2nd Bn and 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Goode* - On 4th March 2002, Lance Corporal Reginald Dennis Goode, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1954-1956. Served in Malaya, a member of the Bn Rifle Shooting team, represented the Bn at Bisley and in Malaya. He was a voluntary Ambulance driver.

*Hall* - On 29th April 2002, William Frederick Hall, served in The Queen's Royal Regiment and East Surrey Regiment 1938 - 1946.

*Harris* - On 16th December 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh H W Harris, 2nd, 1st and 5th (TA) Battalions The Queen's Royal Regiment 1940-1959

*Harris* - Captain R J Harris JP, The East Surrey Regiment.

*Harris* - On 7th December 2001, Corporal William (Bill) Edward Harris, aged 78 years, 2nd/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hitchcock* - On 6th August 2001, Lance Corporal Arthur W E Hitchcock, aged 82 years, 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment - Intelligence Section. Present at Dunkirk, North Africa, Italy, including the final battle at Cassino and Civil War in Greece. He often sent contributions to the Regimental Newsletter with his memories of events and experiences and enjoyed corresponding regularly with other ex-servicemen.

*Hoggarth* - On 5th January 2002, Captain Peter Hoggarth, aged 86 years. The Hampshire Regiment and The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Homer* - On 17th December 2001, Maurice E Homer, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1957- 1959.

*Howard* - On 4th March 2002, Colour Sergeant S Alex Howard, 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Jessup* - On 26th January 2002, Major Kenneth Aisne Jessup, aged 87 years. 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 194 1-1946.

*Labbett* - On 18th February 2002, Major Peter Labbett TD, aged 73 years. Devonshire Regiment, 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and 4 and 6 Bns The Queen's Royal Surrey and Queen's Regiments 1954-1967.

*Lett* - On 4th October 1989, Major Ernest Gordon Appleford Lett DSO. Death previously reported in November 1989 Newsletter (see obituary)..

*Litton* - On 8th January 2002, Major (QM) Charles W Litton, served in the 2nd 2/6th and Quartermaster to 1/6th The Queen's Royal Regiment 1931-1946.

*Madge* - On 16th January 2002, Captain Stanley A Madge MBE, aged 81 years. Served in The Devonshire, Royal Sussex, Dorset Regiment, 2/7th and 2/5th The Queen's Royal Regiment 1940- 1947.

*Malone-Bartrip* - On 28th April 2002, Company Sergeant Major Eli Samuel Malone-Bartrip, aged 79 years, The Essex Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Served as a PSI with 6 Surreys and was a member of the Battalion's team for the Nijmegen Marches in 1959.

*McWhirter* - In October 2001, Lance Corporal Peter McWhirter, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1942-1947. Member of 5 OMA.

*Merrin* - On 9th March 2002, Private Roy (Digger) Merrin, aged 54 years, 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and 1 Queen's 1966-1971. Served in Germany, Bahrain, Berlin and N. Ireland.

*Mott* - On 6th November 2001, Sergeant Ronald Mott, aged 81 years. Served in 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 'D' Coy 1939-1946.

*Neal* - On 9th December 2001, Sergeant James Neal, 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, aged 80 years.

*Parks* - On 16th March 2002, Albert John Parks, aged 81 years. A pre-war Territorial. He was evacuated from Dunkirk between 1940-1945. Saw service in N. Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. In the late 50's he re-joined the TA at Woking. A member of the team that won the Courage Trophy.

*Patey* - In June 2001, Private A W Patey, aged 84 years, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Peake* - On 10th February 2002, Lance Corporal George Peake, aged 83 years. 1/5th and 2/5th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment 1936-1945. Escaped from Dunkirk in a fishing boat without oars with 4 comrades, they eventually managed to cross the Channel and reach the English Coast at Eastbourne.

*Pegler* - On 4th December 2001, Major Ben Holmes Pegler, aged 83 years. The Queen's Royal Regiment 1940- 1945. He was GS02, Special Force HQ, Chindit Operations 1943-1944.

*Pickard* - On 10th September 2001, David Pickard, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Prior* - On 21st December 2001, Corporal Geoffrey Prior, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*Puxty* - On 28th March 2002, Henry (Harry) Puxty who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment and the DLI.

*Sawyer* - On 23rd April 2002, In-Pensioner Charles Joseph Sawyer, aged 74 years, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

*Snelgrove* - On 14th March 2002, Lance Corporal Cyril Snelgrove, aged 87 years. 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment served 1939-1946.

*Thornton* - On 5th March 2002, Private George Thornton, aged 80 years, 1st and 70th Bns The East Surrey Regiment 1941-1944.

*Tuck* - On 7th December 2001, Professor John P Tuck, The East Surrey Regiment 1940-1945.

*Workman* - On 28th July 2001, Private Jim Workman, 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Member of 5 OMA.

*Yelland* - On 3rd January 2002, Private Leslie Henry Thomas Yelland, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

# Regimental Families

*Cummins* - On 17th November 2001, Patricia Rosemary Cummins, widow of Major A V A Cummins, late the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, and RAPC.

*Edwards* - On 9th March 2002, Margaret, beloved wife of Major D R Edwards.

*Gerrard* - On 4th March 2002, Patricia Gerrard, beloved wife of the Revd Dr George E Gerrard, 1/5th and 11th Queen's.

*Kearslake* - On 8th January 2002, Mrs Kearslake beloved wife of Private V F Kearslake.

*Thompson* - On 27th March 2002, Mrs Joyce Thompson, widow of Frank Thompson who served for many years in The Queen's Royal Regiment. Frank Thompson and Joyce (known to all as Mrs T), were joint caretakers at the Woking Drill Hall. When that Drill Hall closed they moved to the new Cadet Headquarters at Farncombe.

*Wenn* - On 26th November 2001, Sheila Margaret, aged 70 years, beloved wife of Captain Grahame Wenn.

# Obituaries

## Major P G E Hill



Kitchener and returned to England with the battalion in January 1939. The battalion was in 4 Division which in October 1939 crossed the Channel as part of the British

Major Peter Guy Egerton Hill was born at Chatham on 30th July 1911, the son of Lt Col Chandos Hill, Royal Marines. Peter was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment on 29th June 1932 and was posted to the 1st Battalion in India. The battalion later moved to Sudan where he took part in the Alexander Korda Four Feathers film in the role of ADC to General

Expeditionary Force and manned defensive positions on the French-Belgium border. Peter was then Motor Transport Officer. In May 1940 the battalion moved up to Brussels where it had its first contact with German ground troops.

Peter was soon appointed to command HQ Company, which then included those platoons which later became the Support Company. He got most of his company back safely from Dunkirk. The battalion re-formed at Axminster, Devon, and although in a reserve defensive role was busy training for its next encounter with the enemy. This was a very trying time for the battalion.

Soon after the return to England the Commanding Officer Lt Col R A Boxshall left to command a Brigade. He was replaced by a senior Surrey major, who within a few months was promoted and posted. A pattern then seemed to build up of senior officers, mainly from other Regiments, being posted to the battalion as Commanding Officer or Second-in-Command for a short time, and then being posted away. The solid anchor of the battalion was Peter Hill. For various short periods he was acting Second-in-Command or Commanding Officer of the Battalion. The Regiment has much to thank him for.

In 1942 the position stabilised and Peter had reverted to command of HQ Company when the battalion as part of 78th Division took part in the Operation Torch landings in North Africa in November. During the advance into Tunisia, Peter was wounded at Tebourba in December. He took over B Company for the invasion of Sicily in 1943 and on into Italy, leading his Company in the very successful assault alongside A Company on the ridge at Larino.

In December he was appointed to the staff as DAAG HQ 13th Corps where he served for the remainder of the Italian campaign. This took him after the war to Palestine where his conduct earned him a Mention in Despatches in 1946. He was then selected for the Staff College (at Haifa) and after several staff appointments, commanded the Depot at Kingston from 1950 to 1952 and was responsible for the planning of the Regimental 250th Anniversary celebrations. In 1952 he was appointed to G2, the staff at Fortress HQ, Gibraltar.

From 1955 to 1959 he commanded No 1 Training Battalion REME at Blandford and then served in Malta as Camp Commandant until 1961 when he retired from the Army. He was then appointed Secretary to the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

In 1973, while still in this post and following a whirlwind courtship of thirty-five years, he married Daphne, the elder daughter of Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips KBE CB MC. They had first met on HT *Somersetshire* in 1938 when Daphne was coming home from India with her parents and Peter joined the ship at Port Sudan.

In 1976, after retiring for the second time, on this occasion following fifteen years as Secretary to the Regimental Association, he and Daphne devoted much of their time to the setting up and running of the Museum in its new location at Clandon, with Peter acting initially in the role of Curator. They continued their work on a regular basis and whenever there might be any sort of need almost to the end of Peter's life.

His knowledge of and interest in the Queen's and particularly the Surreys, and of many personalities of all ranks were from the beginning of utmost assistance to the Museum and the resolution of conundrums. He was much involved in the production of many of the Museum's booklets, both as a writer and proof reader; these included *'The Guide and Historical Background'* the accounts of the *'Battle of Cassino'*, the *'Malaya Campaign 1941-42'*, *'The Queen's in Burma'*, *'The Surreys in Italy'*, *'Algiers to Tunis'*, and *'The Final Years'* written in association with Lt Col C L A Squire MC TD. He also assisted his wife Daphne in the production of *'The*



*Territorial Regiments of Surrey*'. In everything Peter was meticulous and detailed, and this care he gave too in providing information to individuals and in ensuring the proper recording of all aspects of Regimental History. The Museum and the Regiment owe a very great deal to him.

(From a compilation by a number of Officers)

LW

*Printed below are a selection of tributes to Peter Hill.*

Editor

As a man Peter was the perfect example of a proper, and some would say, old fashioned, Army Officer. He demonstrated always the highest standards of probity, loyalty and good manners, with the expectation of right conduct and behaviour in return. He was always and will remain a credit to The East Surrey Regiment.

Toby Sewell

On retiring from the Foreign Office in 1989 I "volunteered" to help in the Regimental Museum and very quickly met Major Peter Hill, a dedicated Trustee and staunch supporter of the Museum. He regularly drove each Wednesday, with Daphne, from their home in East Sussex for our weekly working party. On becoming Chairman of the Museum Trustees it was agreed that we would computerise the Collection. Peter's encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the two former and amalgamated Regiments and their artefacts was of vital importance in drawing up detailed descriptions as a precursor for computerisation.

Because the artefacts had been boxed and unboxed so many times since amalgamation accurate records were maintained with difficulty and the difficulties were compounded by artefacts being spread between those on actual display and those in the attic storeroom, ninety-eight steps up and no lift!

Peter's gentleness, unstinting willingness to take on any task that was asked of him and his constant encouragement was of tremendous help at this busy juncture in the Museum's evolution. As Peter grew older he was obliged to slow down but he still attended when he felt able and I, like so many, will be ever grateful for his generous and unfailing support.

Peter Durrant

Peter was a close friend of my family from almost the moment he joined the Regiment - as he was to so many who were lucky enough to know him. I have never heard Peter referred to other than with affection and respect. He was in every sense, an admirable man and a most loyal and devoted member of the Regiment.

Peter Roupell

Although, sadly, I never served with Peter, I was lucky enough to get to know him socially through his great friend Major Rosie Sutton. The two of them introduced me to some of the best restaurants I can remember! These included Leonis (Quo Vadis) in Soho, the Mitre in Hampton Court and a little inn - the name escapes me - in Alfriston in Sussex. It was in these places that I heard from Peter and Rosie about soldiering before and during the 39-45 war. Peter, like his friend, was a brilliant raconteur and exceptionally amusing. There were a great number of laughs and I shall never forget those friendly dinners. I admired Peter enormously. His devotion to the Regiment, his integrity, patience and good humour served as an example to all. Certainly he taught me a great deal, including something about excellent food and good wine! A truly fine soldier.

Bryan Ray

Having missed serving with Peter in Italy by a few days, my first recollection of him is at the Regimental Museum at Clandon when I joined the working party in 1985. Peter taught me a lot of regimental history and the importance of maintaining regimental records. Later we wrote three booklets together for the Museum. Always Peter was a kind and patient

man to work with and he could always be relied on to provide the right phrase to describe a situation. I miss him and his friendly help very much.

Anson Squire

Unfortunately I only got to know Peter and Daphne when I retired in 1995 and became a 'volunteer' at the Museum on Wednesdays. Having been bullied into writing *'The Queen's in the Middle East and North Africa'* by Daphne, I soon became a tremendous admirer of their differing, but sterling, qualities which both of them were putting at the disposal of the management of the Museum. As an aspiring author I found Peter's memory about regimental matters quite phenomenal and impeccable. This ability to recall practically any event from the histories of either of our forebear regiments he very kindly made available to me, thus saving me many hours of fruitless searching. I owed him a great debt of gratitude for his many words of advice, always given in the gentlest way.

Bob Johnson

I first met Peter Hill in 1964 soon after, as a young officer, I had been posted to 4th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) at Portsmouth Road Drill Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames. One day walking along a corridor, I met this smart and distinguished looking person; "Good morning, Sir!", said I, and was much surprised to receive not a similar reply but an introduction and polite enquiries as to who I was and where I fitted into life at the Drill Hall. This did not fit my image of a Senior Major at all! It was not long, of course, before I found that my image of senior officers was in any case inaccurate, but Peter excelled in his ability to combine splendid human qualities with an insistence on the highest standards in everything which concerned the Regiment.

Later, when I became involved in the Museum, I came to realise that Peter was in truth one of its founding fathers. He had seen to it that the East Surreys' records and artefacts were safeguarded through the amalgamation and then performed the same function for the Queen's Surreys when the time came to close RHQ at Kingston at the next upheaval. We should not now have even the basis for a good Regimental Museum but for his timely initiative.

Peter was one of the Regiment's great men, but it is for his personal charm, friendship and kindness that I shall remember him - and for that ever distinguished appearance.

Adrian Birtles

When first appointed Curator of the Museum I, as an ex Naval man, was not too conversant with military matters but Peter was always ready to help and advise. His regimental knowledge, particularly as regards the East Surreys, was phenomenal. Even the smallest details could be recalled from memory. He will be greatly missed but always well remembered as an officer and a gentleman.

Richard Ford

I first met Peter Hill in Khartoum in 1938. He was senior subaltern and to me gave the very correct impression of smartness and efficiency. We soldiered together in the 1st Battalion for the next six years.

After Dunkirk he became OC HQ Company and remained so until the end of the Tunisian campaign. It was here that his flair for administration came to the fore. In Sicily and Italy he commanded a rifle company, so he was also very much a fighting soldier. Towards the end of the war a kind commanding officer saw that some of us had seen enough of infantry warfare and Peter left for a staff post in Palestine. After the war when he commanded the Regimental Depot at Kingston, his administrative abilities were required to the full. The Museum and other records needed proper management, and here he was in his element.

Every regiment needs a Peter Hill. The amalgamation, the move of the museum, first to Portsmouth Road, and then to Clandon required a man of his ability, and also of course the full support of his wife Daphne. He became a 'Father Figure' to anyone interested in our history, customs and traditions.

We were friends for over sixty years. Not only did Peter look like an officer and a gentleman, he was an officer and a gentleman. What more need be said.

Toby Taylor

A very steady officer who, at times of much regimental change, stood out first and foremost as an officer of his Regiment. Indeed I still recall the occasion when he was commanding the Kingston Depot and rebuked me sharply for departing prematurely back to the staff from Adjutant 6 Surreys, although I protested that it was not my doing. I remember particularly his and Daphne's immense dedication to the setting up of the Queen's Surreys Museum at Clandon after the individual museums at Guildford and Kingston had to close, and their keeping Clandon going for many years. Peter was indeed also much involved in the production of various booklets and I remember his helpful research when I was working on my India book - *"Regimental India 1825 - 1947 The Surrey Connection"*. His polite comments caused me to re-write it more than once. But above all we should remember the steadfast attendance of Daphne and Peter at regimental occasions despite their frustrating lack of mobility. They were a lesson for us all in courage and dedication.

Michael Clarke

#### Major E G A Lett DSO



A brief obituary of Gordon (or Johnny) Lett appeared in the Newsletter of November 1989, but further facts of his life and service career were told by his son when a plaque was dedicated to his memory in the Regimental Chapel at All Saints Church, Kingston-upon-Thames in January 2002.

He held a Commission in the Supplementary Reserve and served with the 2nd Battalion at Shorncliffe from 1931 until granted a Regular Commission. He was then posted to the 1st Battalion in Fyzabad, India, in 1935 under the command of Lt Col (later Brig.) G R P Roupell VC. Here he was encouraged to extend his expertise as a mountaineer and climber. He led a Battalion expedition to the Himalayas in April-June 1937 which received high praise and detailed coverage in (among others) the "Statesman of India", and led to his later election as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. From India he moved with the 1st Battalion to Khartoum in the Sudan. In 1938 he was seconded to the Indian Service Corps, and therefore back to India where his passion for climbing led to his leadership of a further Himalayan expedition in April 1939.

On the outbreak of WW2 he served with the IASC first in Eritrea and then in the Western Desert where he was twice Mentioned in Despatches before being captured at Tobruk in July 1942. Then a Major commanding 11th Infantry Brigade Ammunition Column, he defied a German threat to shoot Allied personnel found guilty of destroying useful military equipment, by ordering his Indian-drivers to back their vehicles, full of ammunition and explosives, up to the cliff edge. They were then all pushed over the edge and into the sea. The full story is to be found in a book by the travel writer Barbara Toy, "A fool in the Desert". The "fool" is a self-deprecating reference to herself and not to Gordon!

Gordon then found himself in several PoW Camps including Bari, Chieti and Viano before escaping into the mountains above the Cisa Pass at about the time of Italy's capitulation in September 1943. Here in the Rossano valley he founded and led a multi-national anti-Facist but otherwise non-political force of partisans comprising not only Italians but also Russians, Poles, Yugoslavs, Australians and many others. His force became known as the Battaglione Internazionale and it carried out effective guerrilla warfare in difficult circumstances against the better armed and more experienced Germans behind their lines until their remnants escaped over the Brenner Pass in about March 1945. (See his recently republished book "Rossano"). Any of these partisans who were caught were invariably, usually summarily, executed. The main road leading into Bassano del' Grappa is tree lined and to each tree is attached a photo of a young partisan soldier executed by the Nazis. Most of them were members of the Battaglione Internazionale.

However the work of harassing the Germans needed the intervention of specialists and special equipment so in December 1944 Gordon became Liaison Officer to No. 1 Special Force, SOE (Special Operations Executive). In that capacity he received a parachute drop of SAS troops under the command of Captain (later Lt Col) Bob Walker Brown, helped them inflict considerable damage on the enemy and then assisted them to retire in good order through enemy lines. He and Bob became firm friends and later established a charitable Trust for the benefit of the Italian peasants who had done so much to help the Allied cause.

In March 1945 Gordon was ordered back through the lines and was the first Allied officer to enter the important Italian naval base of La Spezia which he secured with the help of local partisans pending the arrival of Allied forces and Allied Military Government. He became seconded to the Foreign Office and thence to Allied Military Government where he assisted the screening Commission in compensating Italians who had assisted him and other escaped Allied POWs.

Before repatriation (and re-employment in the Foreign Office) he was Military Governor of the City of Pontremoli and its surrounding area. He was awarded the DSO for his services behind the lines and received a variety of Honours from the Italian Government including the Medaglia Argento al Valor Militare, and elevation to the rank of Commendatore. He was made a Freeman and Honorary Citizen of the Cities of Pontremoli and Reggio Emilia.

After demobilisation in 1948 he continued to work for the Foreign Office at home and abroad, and played an important part in the formation of the Reserve Officers Association, now known as the Reserve Forces Association, and in its membership of the Interallied Confederation of Reservists (CIOR).

WEMcC

#### Major K A Jessup



Ken Jessup joined the TA in 1939 and served with 2nd Bn Queen's (Westminster) until 1941. He was commissioned and then joined 1/7th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment. He soon proved to be a seriously minded, efficient and reliable officer and so was chosen as part of a special team to train a civilian entry posted directly to the Battalion, in early 1942. His quiet, cool and calm manner was

admirably suited for this task.

He was given command of the Carriers Platoon and appointed Adjutant during the battle of Alamein (October 1942). He served with distinction in that post until September 1943 when



he became OC HQ Coy and returned to the UK from Italy in December 1943.

During training in the UK he was injured and was not able to continue active service with 1/7th Bn and he became a Training Officer at the Infantry Depot at Maidstone and remained there until demobilisation. He was Mentioned in Despatches 1944. After the war he continued his employment with W H Smith and Sons and finally retired after forty-six years with that firm.

He was an active member of the Queen's (Southwark) Association and a Vice-President. He had a very keen interest in regimental history and in the part played by 1/7th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment.

A true friend and popular comrade he will be remembered with great affection by all ranks of the Battalion who tender their condolences to his family in their great loss.

SP

#### Major P Labbett TD



Those members of the Association who served in 6th Surreys or 4th Queen's Surreys between 1954 and 1967, or in the Mortar Platoon of 3rd Queen's Surreys from 1965 will be sorry to learn of Peter Labbett's sudden death. Although in apparently good health, he collapsed and died on his way home from the Imperial War Museum (where he had just delivered a lecture) on Monday 18th February 2002.

To understand the man it is helpful to have a glimpse of his childhood. Peter was the son of a Regular officer in the Devons who had served in two world wars. His father had enlisted as a Private soldier in 1915 on a "seven and five" engagement, was commissioned, rose to the rank of Colonel and retired in 1953. Peter therefore followed the flag, spent much of his youth in a military environment, and certainly inherited a strong sense of duty and loyalty. It is probably true to say that, living through much of WW2 in Malta, he also suffered a relatively early baptism of fire.

His upbringing had two obvious outcomes. Namely he became a soldier and a lifelong collector of militaria, particularly small arms and small arms ammunition. The collection gave rise to expertise and the expertise to international recognition, the delivery of lectures and the authorship of several books and other written works. As to soldiering, he followed in his father's footsteps and in 1946 enlisted as a Private soldier in the Devons, was granted a Short Service commission in 1947, and served with the Royal Berkshires in Northern Ireland, Egypt and Eritrea until 1949 when he was released.

As a civilian he worked for British Electricity in Portsmouth, and soon joined the TA being commissioned in 457 HAA Regt (RA) (TA). In 1954 he left British Electricity and joined ICI which involved him in moving from Portsmouth to London, and transferring not to another Gunner unit but to his first love, the Infantry. He joined 6th Surreys at Richmond as a Platoon Commander, later moving on promotion to Bn HQ at Kingston as MTO. That job gave him the apparently inalienable and unique right, unavailable to any other officer in the Battalion (as he was wont to remind us) to ride motor bikes. After three years as MT0 he was given command of the Mortar Platoon, later known a Support Platoon in which he revelled and excelled. In 1961 he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration and in 1962 promoted Major. This entailed moving to St John's Hill Wandsworth in command of a Rifle Company, but he found it hard to leave his beloved mortars and so in 1965

and 1966 was responsible, in Annual Camp, for the training of all three Mortar Platoons in 47 Brigade, a task which he performed with expertise, wit and humour. These Camps were on Dartmoor, and like many other military training areas there was civilian opposition to their continued military use. The chief protester at Dartmoor was a formidable lady who frequently appeared in the target area and chose to do so on what was to prove the last Mortar shoot by 47 Brigade. Peter's comments though memorable are still unprintable!

Peter leaves Elizabeth his widow, two sons by a previous marriage and his brother Michael to all of whom we send our condolences and our thanks for many happy memories of Peter, his trademark moustache, his sense of fun, loyal friendship and expertise.

WEMcC

#### Captain J W Dell



Jimmy Dell was one of the young Emergency Commission officers' who joined the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment at about the time the battalion was engaged in hostilities against the Vichy French in Syria, June/July 1941. He continued on active service with the battalion at the siege of Tobruk, September to December 1941, and then went on to Ceylon, India and Burma 1942 to 1945.

I did not know Jimmy until about September 1943, when the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was re-organised into two Columns to form part of the late General Wingate's Long Range Penetration Force (The Chindits) operations behind the Japanese lines in Burma 1944. Jimmy had been appointed as Column Administrative Officer for 21 Column, commanded by the late Major General J F Metcalfe.

His task as administrative officer was no light task. He had the responsibilities of ensuring supplies required for the Column were gathered in from all the Platoon Commanders and departments over periods of five days. These demands had then to be collated and coded for transmission back to base for preparation and dropped by air supply.

There were many minor administrative tasks that needed his attention each day, particularly during the period we called the long halt, some two to three hours. This may not seem to those who had not experienced this sort of operation to be of any consequence. One has to remember, beside these duties, he of course carried on his back the 70 lbs pack, and weapons and ammunition, so, he, like all of us, would look forward to a period of rest during the long halt. Alas, this was not always his good fortune to enjoy!

Jimmy took all this in his stride, and remained calm and an example to us all, particularly when at times things got a little difficult. He was of a quiet disposition, and talked very little about the war, and I believe it was not until the last year or so in his life that his family got to hear from him some of his wartime experiences. He was one of our better young officers of that period, well liked and very popular. We who soldiered alongside him, will miss his company, particularly at the annual Cathedral Service held at Guildford, and our annual meetings at Clandon.

TA

Jimmy Dell was born in Woolwich Mother and Baby Home. When he was two, he moved with his mother to a house at Abinger Common where he attended the local school. At the age of ten he went to Ardingly College in Sussex, supported financially by his father's regiment. At Ardingly, he joined the

CCF unit. He enlisted in the TA in April 1939 firstly into 2nd Bn The (London) Rifle Brigade, then saw active service with the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Middle East (Western Desert, Syria) then Ceylon 1942, India 1943, 1944 the battalion was part of 16 Brigade, The Chindits. For his services in Syria he was Mentioned in Despatches.

On demobilisation in 1946 Dell was out of work for six months until some regimental contacts found him employment with the Atlas Insurance Company (later General Exchange) (GE)) now AXA. Over the years he worked overseas in insurance including a period in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He was a member of the Atlas Pistol Club and in his spare time he converted an ex-army pontoon into a cabin cruiser on the Grand Union Canal. He was an enthusiastic gardener and was on the local Gardening Club Committee in Burpham where he lived. He married Daphne in 1979 when he was 65, sadly Daphne died in 1999 after twenty years of happy marriage.

He always maintained his interest in all things military and researched the records to establish when his father was killed in 1916. He was a staunch supporter of the Association and always attended the annual church service at Guildford Cathedral.

LMW

#### Major J W T Pretsell MC, MB, ChB, MRCP



Jimmy Pretsell will be remembered for the contributions he made to the lives of numerous people both in war and in peace by his skills in medicine and his gift of friendship. Born in Glenlivet, the son of a General Practitioner, he attended Edinburgh Academy prior to entering Edinburgh University in 1936 for training in Medicine. On graduation, having won the Silver Medal as well as Blues for football and hockey, he completed

his house training appointment before volunteering for service in the RAMC.

He was posted to the Middle East where he joined 1/6th Queen's as Regimental Medical Officer shortly before the Battle of Alamein. Thus began a long attachment embracing three campaigns, as 131 Queen's Brigade, of which 1/6th Queen's was part, joined 7th Armoured Division in the long advance culminating in the capture of Tunis in May, 1943. He had now been promoted to Captain and, during the period of preparation for the invasion of Italy, played an important part in sustaining the health and well-being of the Battalion; his overall supervision of anti-malarial precautions, including the daily dose of mepacrine to be taken by every man, proved totally effective.

In September 1943, he landed with the Battalion at Salerno. Following the fighting to secure the Bridgehead, he was the only Medical Officer in the force of all arms comprising 1/6th Queen's Group which led the advance of 7th Armoured Division through the Vietri Pass into the Naples Plain and, by capturing Scafati, secured intact the one remaining bridge over the River Sarno, thereby making possible the rapid advance of the Division to the River Volturno and beyond. For his part in these actions he was awarded an immediate Military Cross. Extracts from his citation read:

*"He worked tirelessly day and night... on a number of occasions he personally went forward both on foot, and in the ambulance, under fire. By his personal courage and devotion to duty he was responsible for the care and safe evacuation of casualties, many of whom would not have lived had they not received such immediate medical attention"*

On reaching the River Garigliano, 7th Armoured Division was withdrawn from operations and in December embarked for England in order to take part in the invasion of North-West Europe. Following a period of training in Norfolk, during which Pretsell attended an Investiture at Buckingham Palace where he received his Military Cross from HM King George VI, he went with 1/6th Queen's to Normandy. Here again he rendered exemplary service, often in the face of great adversity, and particularly when 1/6th Queen's were holding Briquessard to cover the withdrawal of 22nd Armoured Brigade from Villers Bocage. During the afternoon of 14th June, eight Allied rocket-firing aircraft attacked Briquessard having mistaken it for Cahagnes. The Regimental Aid Post, not short of casualties at the time, due to intense shelling, received more than its share of rockets. He continued to serve with 1/6th Queen's in Operation Goodwood and during the advance to the Seine and on to Falaise, receiving a Mention in Despatches in September 1944.

He was then posted to 131 Field Ambulance and took part in the advance through Belgium and Holland, The Rhine Crossing and subsequent fighting through Germany, ending the war in Berlin. During this time his experience as a Regimental Medical Officer proved invaluable and he was promoted to Major. After de-mobilisation in 1946, he returned to Edinburgh where he completed Membership of the Royal College of Physicians before moving to Surbiton to join a practice with which he worked for nearly forty years.

During this time he became a highly respected member of his profession, well-loved by colleagues and patients alike. He is survived by his wife Florence and by two sons and two daughters, eleven grandchildren and one recently arrived great-grandson. He and Florence were members of their local tennis and golf clubs - Jimmy being a fine golfer with a handicap of 4, captained the Club in 1966. Together with their family they contributed to the social life of the community, making many friends.

MF

#### Lieutenant Colonel H M W Harris



Hugh Harris was born in Cobham, Surrey in 1919. Educated at Marlborough College and Queen's College Oxford. He left in 1939 with an MA Degree. He volunteered for the army and was commissioned into the Queen's Royal Regiment in 1940, having passed through 164 OCTU at Colchester.

He served with 50th Queen's and then 15th Queen's in the UK until 1942 when he joined the 2nd Battalion in Ceylon. He was later posted to the 1st Battalion in Assam and Burma from 1944-1945. He was demobilised in 1946 and joined the Territorial Army in 1950.

By 1956 Hugh Harris was Second-in-Command of 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA). When the Commanding Officer (then Lt Col F A H Ling) left he handed over command to Hugh Harris.

This was a difficult time for the battalion. National Servicemen by this time no longer had to serve with a Territorial unit, and so recruiting was a major problem. At this time too, the role of the battalion changed with the worsening international situation. The primary aim became Aid to the Civil Power.

All this Hugh Harris took in his stride. He organised local recruiting parades with the local towns, and lasting links were forged which paid dividends long after he had handed over command.



He proved to be an excellent Commanding Officer and oversaw the transition from NS men serving in the unit to an all volunteer manned battalion.

In civilian life he was Deputy Chairman at Sandell Perkins from 1975-1981, one time Chairman of Wimbledon Conservative Association, a member of West Sussex County Council, a Justice of the Peace for Surrey and a member of the Builders and Merchants Livery Company.

DW & LMW

#### Captain P Hoggarth BSc



Peter Hoggarth was born in London on the 3rd April 1916. He was educated at Perins Grammar School and then went on to London University.

He joined The Queen's Westminster Civil Service Unit early in 1939 and on the outbreak of war joined the Hampshire Regiment. In 1942 he was posted to Syria and Lebanon with the Spears Mission.

In April 1943 he transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment and served with the 1/7th Battalion in North Africa. He went with the battalion to Italy serving as Intelligence officer. He was wounded in the jaw on 20th October 1943. After leaving hospital he rejoined the battalion and landed in Normandy on D+3, still serving as Intelligence Officer.

On the 19th July 1944 he was again wounded in the chest and abdomen during the Villers Bocage fighting. Evacuated to UK he went to Preston Royal Infirmary where he recovered. Returning to duty he joined 1/5th Queen's in July 1945. He was demobilised in 1946 and entered the Civil Service where he worked until his retirement in 1977.

#### Sergeant J Neal



Served during the Second World War with the 2/5th Queen's and saw service in North Africa and Italy. He was a journalist, then Chief Sub-Editor and Managing Editor of The Gravesend and Dartford Reporter. He moved to York in 1975 and joined The York and County Press. He later became Managing Director and retired in 1986. He was a keen

cricketer, a member of the MCC and played for a number of clubs in the south of England. In York, he was president of the Yorkshire County Bowling Association and a president and secretary of the Bert Keech Bowls Club.

GO&LMW

#### Corporal L Franklin



Leslie Franklin was called up in October 1946 and completed his basic training at Invicta Lines, Maidstone. He was posted to the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Crowborough, Sussex and moved with the battalion to Dortmund. He was a regimental signaller and was in one of the last vehicles to move by road into Berlin, before the Russians closed the roads into that city.

He served in Berlin throughout the Airlift and then moved with the battalion to Iserlohn, and was demobbed in 1949. He joined the Territorial Army on leaving full time service. He worked as

a London Underground driver for fourteen years and then in 1965 worked for Dowty Fuel Systems until his retirement.

To his widow Mae and daughters Maureen and Susan we send our very sincere condolences.

LMW

#### Mrs Elizabeth Labbett writes:-

Many thanks indeed for your kind letter of 22nd February which I truly appreciated. I was also most touched by the beautiful wreath which arrived for Peter's funeral from the President and all members of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association. Peter's army background and career were so much a part of him that it came as a most fitting tribute. Thank you so much

#### Richard Ford



In the early part of the Second World War, at the age of sixteen, Richard Ford became a part-time fireman in the Sodbury Fire Brigade in Gloucestershire and as such served in the horrendous conditions of the Bristol blitz in 1940 when six firemen were killed in one night alone.

Later he voluntarily enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1942 as a telegraphist, serving with the 16th Destroyer Flotilla, Home Fleet on anti-submarine and anti-E-boat patrols in the North Sea and English Channel.

After the war he joined the Police Force and served in the Gloucestershire Constabulary, Bournemouth Borough Police, Nyasaland Police and the Surrey Constabulary, eventually retiring as the Chief Instructor at the Home Office Police Training Centre, Nutfield in 1971. During his service he was commended four times for criminal investigations and arrests and in 1960 was commended by the Bournemouth Watch Committee for initiative and courage in attempting to rescue a man from drowning at the pier during a gale on the previous Boxing Day. In this attempt he was injured and became a hospital casualty.

It was while serving at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, that he met, (and on 1st January 1948 married) his policewoman wife Mary and they made police history by being the first married couple to serve on duty together. Earlier police regulations, revoked in 1947, had required policewomen to resign on marriage. They transferred to Bournemouth together where Mary later resigned on expecting their son Richard.

After his police service Richard became the Car Parks Manager for Woking Borough Council, administering their car parks and prosecuting car parking offences in court.

Keenly interested in military history he was a frequent visitor to Clandon Museum and in 1988, after retiring from Council service, he became the Curator, a post he held until his final retirement in 1994. Proudly made an honorary member of the Regimental Association, he continued his connections with the Museum afterwards, mainly by way of the Newsletter. He was a member of the Orders and Medals Research Society and, as an enthusiastic student of speech and drama, was also a Licentiate and Examiner of The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and was a Silver Medallist of the Poetry Society.

Following the death of his wife Mary in 1997 he undertook voluntary work of a different nature when he researched and wrote the History of the Maryvale Pastoral Centre, Bramley, Surrey, a religious establishment owned by the Franciscan Sisters of the Divine Motherhood and administered by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

LW

#### Dedication

Some of our members travel long distances to attend regimental reunions. Last year Fred Harrison travelled from Wichita, Kansas, USA where he now lives, to attend 5 OMA dinner at Farnham. Fred served with the regiment at Dover, North Africa and in Italy.

o o o

#### Remembering the Scouts

In Holy Trinity Church, Guildford a small memorial plaque if dedicated to former members of the 9th Guildford Scouts who fell in the First World War. The first to fall was Pte G Prewett of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the last, almost in sight of victory, was Pte W Prior of The Queen's Royal West Sussex Regiment who was killed in France in October 1918

source: Surrey Advertiser

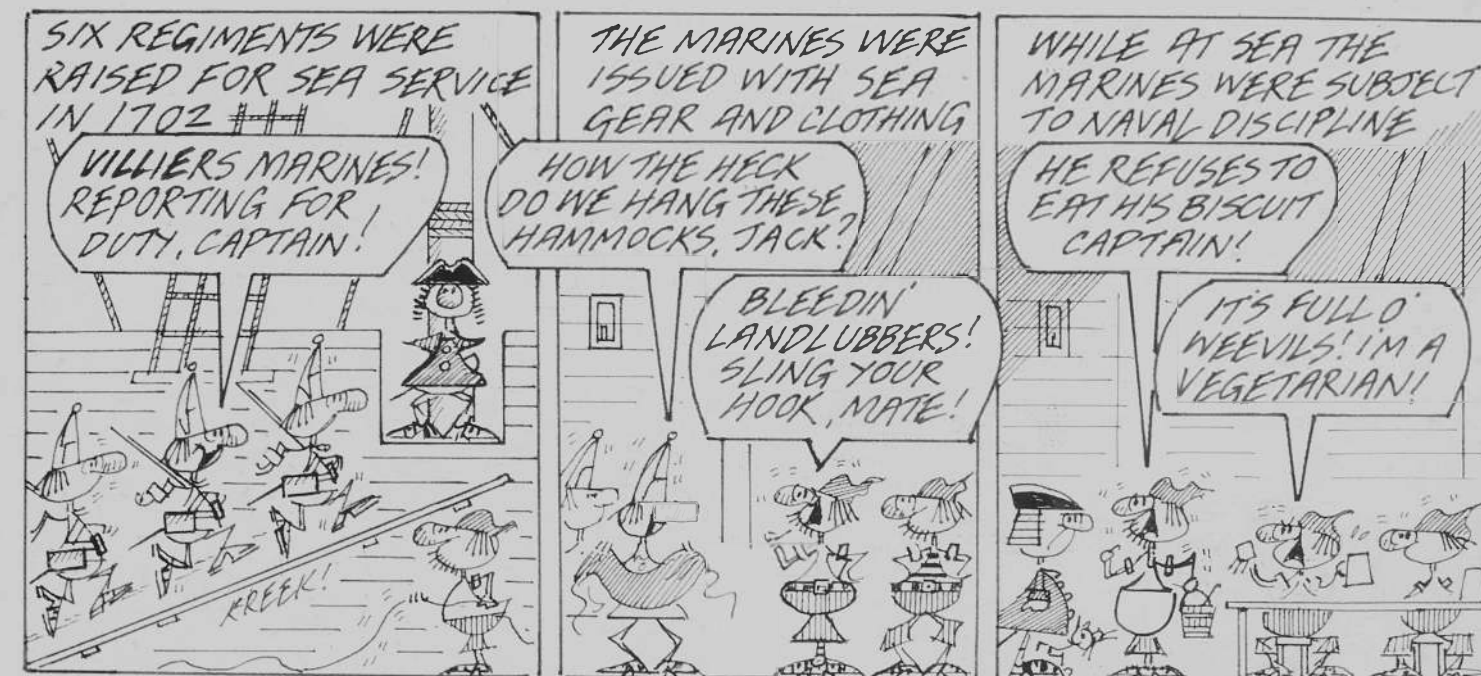
RF

#### An East Surrey Regiment hassock



Following the Memorial Service for Peter Hill, Mrs Maureen Rickman presented a beautifully worked hassock displaying the East Surrey Regiment badge to the Revd Jim Bates, for use in the Chapel.

#### Regimental History as seen by G Robinson



#### Villiers' Marines

King William III had decided on an increase to his army, when it became evident that the short lived peace with France, dating from the Treaty of Ryswick of 1697 must presently come to an end.

On 12th February 1702, the King signed the commission of George Villiers to be a Lieutenant Colonel of a Regiment of Marines and Alexander Lutterell to be a Major in the same regiment. Eight days later the King, fell from his horse and died on the 8th March. It was Queen Anne who signed and issued the warrant for the formation of the six new marine regiments.

It would appear that during the early days of the new regiments some uncertainty existed as to their exact status and duties when afloat and ashore, for on 1st July 1702, were issued "The rules and instructions for the better government of the Marine Regiments." These regulations directed that when on shore the Marines were to be quartered in the vicinity of the dockyards "in order to guard them from embezzlement or from any attempt that might be made on them by an enemy."

No sooner was Colonel George Villiers' Regiment of Marines ready for active service than it obtained full opportunity of proving its fighting quality, for on 4th May 1702, war was declared by England against France and Spain, and the vigorous plan of campaign designed by King William was at once taken in hand by the ministers of Queen Anne. The British force already stationed in the Low Countries was considerably augmented, and the chief command in that area was bestowed on the Earl (soon to be created Duke) of Marlborough, in conjunction with Prince Eugene of Savoy. It was, however, not the good fortune of Villiers' Marines to serve under Marlborough.

Theirs was possibly an even more arduous fate, for the life of the soldier at sea, never one of comfort, was indeed one of almost incessant suffering in the days of Queen Anne, as we may learn from the picturesque language of Private George Dene, written, it may be added, after a very brief experience of marine service.

"While we lay on board, we had continual Distruction in ye foretop; ye pox above board; ye Pleague between Decks; Hell in ye forecattle, and ye Devil att ye Helm; so that you may easely judge what course we steered". "Ye pox" to which Dene referred was of course small-pox, as deadly an enemy to the soldiers of Queen Anne as was enteric fever to those of Queen Victoria.



The Barracks, King's Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1881



***"You are improperly dressed. Get yourselves properly amalgamated and stop sulking"***

In 1881 the Cardwell Reforms caused the numbered regiments of the Line Infantry to be abolished and the amalgamation by pairs of the old regiments formed new ones with territorial titles. This necessitated changes in badges and the loss of the old traditional facing colours. English and Welsh regiments had white facings, Scottish regiments had yellow and the Irish green. Royal regiments retained their blue facings. The loss of regimental numbers and facings caused much resentment in the infantry and from 1890 some regiments managed to restore their old facings. The old 31st and 70th became respectively, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the East Surrey Regiment, the 31st thereby, losing their affiliation to Huntingdonshire which they had enjoyed for a hundred years.