

NOVEMBER 2002

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



President
Brigadier R. W. Acworth CBE

Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel F. B. Herd TD JP DL

Association Secretary and Editor
Major A. W. Russell MBE

Benevolence Secretary
Major J. C. Rogerson

Association correspondence to:
42 Lincoln Drive
Pyrford
Woking
Surrey GU22 8RR

Telephone/Fax: 01932 344150

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NEWSLETTER





Forecast of Events

2002

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

2003

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Council Meeting - Clandon.

SOBRAON DAY (1846)

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Trustees Meeting - Clandon.

The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association Annual Lunch - Union Jack Club.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Territorial Trustees Meeting - Clandon.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, Charity Trustees and Officers' Club Meetings - Clandon.

YPRES DAY (1915)

The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Lunch

6th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment Annual Reunion Lunch - Union Jack Club.

Golf Society Spring Meeting - Sudbrook Park

Golf v Royal Marines - Fleet.

President's Reception for Freedom Town Mayors of Surrey - Clandon.

ALBUHERA DAY (1811)

5 Queen's OMA Annual Dinner - Farnham. Details from: I Chatfield, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Surrey GU7 3NN.

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794)

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.

MINDEN DAY.

2/6th and 2/7th Bns Queen's Royal Regiment OCA Combined Annual Reunion: details from Maj M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR.

SALERNO DAY - 60TH ANNIVERSARY.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.

Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking Golf Club.

The East Surrey OCA Reunion.

Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey, London.

Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.

Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Hailes Church, Camberwell - Southwark, Bermondsey and the Cenotaph - London.

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

20th December

7th February

10th February

7th March

8th March

8th March (tbc)

22nd March

23rd April

25th April

26th April

8th May

13th May

16th May

24th or 31st May (tbc)

1st June

15th June

1st August

6th September

9th September

6th October

8th October

October (date tbc)

6th November

7th November

9th November

20th December



Editorial

I must start my first editorial by recording my gratitude to John Rogerson and Les Wilson for their assistance and advice during the handover periods and my first months working for the Association. I am also extremely grateful for the warm welcome, encouragement and offers of assistance extended to me by Association members on numerous occasions.

I am very conscious of the difficult task I face in succeeding Les Wilson as Editor of an outstanding Newsletter. My first edition reflects the decision to produce a slimmer publication but I hope readers will continue to find it interesting and worthwhile.

I would still welcome articles and other correspondence for inclusion, together with dates and details of forthcoming events. Much has been done to chronicle the history of our fine Regiments, not least through the excellent supplements which have accompanied some previous Newsletters. However I am sure that many personal experiences and stories remain to be recorded and would invite such contributions. Photos and similar items will, of course, be returned.

One deficiency which I feel particularly keenly is my ignorance of many of the personal and service details of members, especially when their passing is to be recorded in the Newsletter. Some members have provided personal details for our records; however, despite the sterling efforts of those who have assembled it, the database remains very sketchy in many instances. I would be grateful for assistance with information in order to be able to pay proper tributes. In a happier vein, I would also welcome input so that I can include notes of congratulations and best wishes where appropriate upon events such as wedding anniversaries and significant birthdays.

The President has highlighted some of the Association's recent major events in his notes. These and other occasions are recorded in both words and pictures in the following pages. As the Newsletter goes to the printers the nation is preparing to commemorate the 60th anniversary of El Alamein and for Remembrance Day. It is hoped to reflect those events and the forthcoming 60th anniversary of Salerno in next year's editions.

Next year's annual church service will return to the customary format with the opportunity for refreshment in the refectory after the service; those proposing to attend are asked to complete and return the enclosed proforma to enable an accurate forecast of numbers.

In looking to the future as well as remembering the past, I will take this opportunity to wish you and those you love a very merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous, healthy and happy 2003.

Tony Russell

President's Notes

2002 has been a busy and successful year for the Association. The Chairman of the National Trust opened the refurbished museum on 17th May and we were delighted to have the Lord Lieutenant with us too as well as the freedom borough mayors and other distinguished guests. Under the direction of the Chairman of the Museum Trustees, Adrian Birtles, we now have a fine, modern museum which would be the envy of all former county regiments. To him and his team we owe a great debt of thanks.

Our celebrations on 9th June to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the 300th Anniversary of the raising of the Villiers' Marines were, in spite of some atrocious weather, a huge success and we were delighted the Lord Lieutenant was present and took the salute on the march past. Next year's service is on Sunday 15th June and I hope you will put that date in your diaries now.

Sadly we have to record the death of General Rowley Mans. He was known and respected by all who knew him for his quiet kindness and great sense of humour and fun, quite apart from his professional abilities, and he will be remembered by many. To his wife Veeo and three sons we offer our deepest sympathy.

We are fortunate always to have been a "rich" Association, however, in common with other charities, we are not immune to the decline in stock markets and reduced yields from investments. The Trustees will continue to keep our finances and organisation under close review and to take prudent decisions to safeguard the future. Our priorities for spending will continue to be first benevolence, secondly Association activities and lastly the museum.

With best wishes

Bob Acworth

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The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Since the last overview given in the Newsletter the Regiment has had a hectic schedule. The Regiment celebrated its 10th Anniversary on the 9th September 2002.

At the time of writing the 1st Battalion is still based in Tidworth but is currently on a tour in Kosovo having departed in May 2002 and will return at the end of October 2002. They are in the Armoured Warrior role and part of the Multi National Brigade operating in and around Pristina. Life has settled down in Kosovo but there is still the constant threat of some problem. The Battalion has had high profile visits ranging from the Crown Prince of Sweden to the Commander of the Royal Danish Life Guards who are serving as part of the French Brigade. The Colonel of the Regiment visited from the

Frontispiece:

*Field Officer 2nd Queen's in Dress, and a Company Officer 31st in Frock Coat, Home Service dress 1860.
From an original illustration by Bryan Fosten.*

9th to 11th July and the President of Kosovo presented the Minden Rose to Battlegroup Headquarters on the 1st August.

The method of operation is also changing prompting reaction from the various factions; static guards provided security to ethnic groups and this has been the practice since the start. The CO has now changed this and removed these static guards and replaced them with mobile patrols and unpredictable foot patrols. The result is enormous pressure both emotional and political from the Serb community and a lot more pressure on the Junior Commanders. The false or real incidents and minor demonstrations that the Battalion endures is a price worth paying and keeps them busy. C Company was recently deployed to Macedonia and B Company were deployed (out of area) to Mitrovicva with the French. All deployments were a great success.

Battalion training (potential NCO cadres) and sports continue with the planning of the 2003 Cricket Tour of South Africa well under way.

The major event for the 2nd Battalion has been the Arms Plot move from Aldershot to Tern Hill in Shropshire and the transition from Mechanised (Saxon) to a Light Battalion (feet!). The Battalion hosted the Grand Reunion in July in Aldershot, a difficult task whilst commencing the Arms Plot move, and moved 2500 people in various events in a small modern barracks.

Training has continued with the newly formed 2 Infantry Brigade situated in Folkestone. Soldiers provided the civilian population for other units training for Northern Ireland; many other tasks involved groups or individuals taking on tasks to assist with many trials and other activities. Full recruiting has its advantages and these deployments were not quite such a drain on manpower as in the past.

The Battalion has provided big support for the recruiting drive and also exercised the joint Freedom, with RMP & RLC, of Chichester. Sgt Pullen was appointed Sobraon Sergeant and Cpl Loosely Kohima Corporal.

One of the main sporting achievements has been the Battalions Sevens Rugby Team taking part in the highest level of rugby in the Middlesex Sevens, held at Twickenham. Prizes were won for this event.

As this Newsletter goes to the printers the Battalion has been deployed to RAF Manston to be in support to fight fires if or when the firemen go on a national strike.

The 3rd Battalion has had a year of change. They are now part of the new re-organised 2 Infantry Brigade along with four regular Light Role Battalions which includes 2 PWRR. The Battalion has also a new defined role and mission providing reaction force tasks to help with home land defence. There is also a new affiliation with the

Shorncliffe based regular Battalion which is currently the 2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

There was a rewarding exchange exercise with the Oregon National Guard and training focus moved from fighting in woods and forestry to fighting in built up areas.

The Battalion has deployed soldiers in support of operations on the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) to Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Cyprus. These were not all with our own units but others such as The Queen's Royal Hussars (Kosovo) and 1st Bn The Royal Scots (also Kosovo). Two Company Commanders have also had attachments to 1 PWRR in Kosovo. The experience gained and the medals worn are proof of the various opportunities that exist in the 3rd Battalion.

Weekend training and various ceremonies have walked in tandem with TA life. The 3rd Battalion is on good form.

B (Queen's Regiment) Company The London Regiment have just returned from a successful Annual Camp in Germany at Sennelager. For those old BAOR veterans nothing has changed. The weather was dry and the plain was dusty. Adventure training camps were held near the Moenesee dam.

They have FTRS soldiers serving with 1 PWRR in Kosovo - this also includes an officer.

Major Alex Bond continues his command conducting that fine balance of leadership and example which is so essential in the TA.

C Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers based in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight continues to thrive. They produced men for the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty's visit to Portsmouth to commemorate her Golden Jubilee which was a great success for the Company. The service organisers of the event conveniently forgot that we had TA in Portsmouth in their effort to give the Navy and Regular Forces a higher profile. It was thanks to Captain Harry Wragg (PSAO) that the Company was included in the Guard of honour.

Annual Camp this year was held in the Ukraine. It was a great success with the Company being part of the Battalion Group. The Company provides 10% of its established strength to soldiers on FTRS. They are serving in Kosovo with 1 PWRR, Cyprus and also in the UK. The Company looks forward to a good year.

Every year events change; we are unsure what will happen in 2003 with Iraq and other potential conflicts but the Regiment is ready for any eventuality.

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Benevolence.

It having been agreed by RHQ PWRR and forbear Regiment Association Trustees that benevolence should be centralized at RHQ in Canterbury, Major John Rogerson has continued to run our benevolence since handing over his other Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association responsibilities. Funds set aside by the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity Trustees for individual benevolence cases are administered on our behalf from Canterbury and ring-fenced. All other finances, including grants to other charities and organizations, remain under the direct control of our Charity Trustees.

By late October, during 2002 a total of £30,148 had been expended on 88 individual benevolence cases. This figure excludes grants/annuities awarded by the Army Benevolent Fund.

Appended below are extracts from a selection of letters of appreciation received since the last Newsletter.

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I must write to you and thank you for the Association's award of £500 toward the cost of my hearing aids, which have made a great difference to my everyday activity and way of life. I was very interested to read the newsletter you so kindly sent to me and to catch up with the activity of my old Regiment. Being now in my 88th year some of my memories are a little dim nevertheless it is still of great interest to learn of old comrades although the names don't readily come to mind. Once again I thank the association for their generosity.

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We would like to thank you most sincerely, for the assistance given in obtaining a grant towards the nursing home fees for the above mentioned gentleman and also your good wishes. We are currently still awaiting the local authority funding, but are optimistic that we shall soon have Dad comfortably placed in the home of his choice in Selsey.

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I am pleased to say I have now received the scooter. I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the British Legion and my former regiments, R.M.P, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and the Seaforth Highlanders for yours and their generous contributions.

This has made a great difference to my lifestyle as I am now able to get out and about in my local district. Please accept my grateful thanks

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I have asked my daughter to write this letter to you on my behalf, as I am suffering from Parkinson's as well as

Emphazemia, and unfortunately my hand writing is all over the place. I am writing to you as representative of the The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, to say a really big thank you for all your help and support towards the funding for a paved driveway to my house.

I am very pleased with the end result. It has made such a difference to my life. This has enabled me a lot more mobility with access to and from my home. Without your help with this project, I would have become more and more housebound, as parking outside my home was becoming almost impossible. Once again, thank you to all of you who agreed the funding and for your help.

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I am now in possession of my mobile wheel chair which I have partly to thank you for. Brief as these few lines are I cannot thank you and the Association enough for your efforts on my behalf - God bless you all.

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the sum of £500 you awarded towards the funeral expenses for my late husband. It has been a very difficult time for myself and my family to come to terms with. However I cannot believe the kindness of people like yourself, it means such a great deal to me. SSAFA has been an immense help and I cannot express my gratitude enough.

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Thank you very much for your generous grant for the purchase of a therapeutic reclining chair. In the short time that I have now used it, it has been of considerable benefit to my health and mobility.

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Thank you very much for making it possible for me to go on holiday. It was very kind of the Regimental Association; if it was not for them I would not have been able to have a holiday which I did enjoy. SSAFA have been very helpful. At present my husband has been taken back into hospital and is still there. Once again thank you very much indeed for your help.

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M Paine, Royal British Legion County Field Officer Sussex, writes: I am writing to inform you that Mr A died yesterday at a ripe old age. Your very generous annuity made a huge difference to his quality of life during the difficult time of his wife's ill health and since her death a year ago. He wrote a very nice letter in May thanking us for the financial help which he said gave him a little more independence and which I know boosted his morale considerably. I enclose a cheque for the excess grant on file with many thanks for your support in this case and for which Mr A repeatedly expressed his thanks.

Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency (ESHRA)

ESHRA is a new agency that has been funded for a trial period by several ex service charities. Due to its success it is to continue as part of The Royal British Legion. The service is provided for older people who served in the armed forces and their dependants.

ESHRA has details of all Care Homes providing residential and nursing care and independent living accommodation managed by ex service organisations. Also available are details of homes run by private and voluntary organisations as well as sheltered accommodation, if this is more appropriate for the needs of the individual.

The advisers can provide guidance regarding Social Services Assessments/funding, welfare benefits, service charities and other organisations that provide help for the elderly.

ESHRA has a website; www.eshra.com email; eshra@britishlegion.org.uk and a telephone helpline; 020 7839 4466 which is staffed from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on working days.

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Donations

The late Major Peter Hill left a legacy of £1,000 to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity.

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The sum of £242 was received in memory of the late Robert John Leaper and, in accordance with his family's wishes, passed on to 2/6th Queen's OCA.

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The sum of £895 was received in memory of the late Major Peter Hill and divided equally between the Charity and the museum.

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A donation of £500 was received from Richard Evans in Virginia, USA.

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In addition to those above, a considerable number of members made smaller donations or forwarded the 'extra pound or two' with their subscriptions. The Trustees wish to thank all those who have sent donations to our Charitable funds.

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Thanks are due to Major J L A Fowler TD for once again generously supplying the paper for this Newsletter.

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PAY ATTENTION - CAN YOU HELP!

Readers who may be able to assist with information about the following are asked to contact the Editor who will pass details on to the interested parties:

James David Haley who served with the East Surrey Regiment during World War 2 and is believed to have been discharged in 1944.

The Intelligence Section of 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1944 during the second Chindit operation.

Memoirs of officers who fought in France in 1940.

Congratulations and Best Wishes



Wedding anniversary congratulations to:

Mr and Mrs Robert Barter on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr and Mrs Tony Ramsey who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on August 11th 2002.

Birthday congratulations to:

Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis who celebrated his 80th birthday on 7th June 2002.

Stan Smith who celebrated his 80th birthday on 10th October 2002.

Major General Michael Forrester who celebrated his 85th birthday on 31st August 2002.

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Lt Col Les Wilson MBE is presented with a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs Sarah Goad JP.

Museum Notes

The Museum Notes in the May Newsletter were actually written just after the Museum re-opened quietly for the start of the Clandon Park season in March, at the end of the final hectic weeks of the refurbishment project. To say that since then it has been back to "business as usual" would not be quite accurate: there have been plenty of visitors as usual, the regulars pleased to find the Museum open again, and all impressed by the new displays, but there has also been a good deal of other activity.

Highlight of the Spring was the formal inauguration of the refurbished Museum. The ceremony was performed on 17th May by the Chairman of the National Trust, Charles Nunnely, at the reception given by the President of the Regimental Association for Surrey civic leaders and the friends, workers, designers and contractors of the Museum. It was a happy occasion, and both Charles Nunnely and Brigadier Bob Acworth said some nice things about the new Museum and the people who had worked to achieve it. We were particularly pleased that the Chairman of the National Trust carried out the re-opening ceremony, as this cemented publicly the closer working relationships between Museum and Trust which have developed over the last two years or so,

Needless to say, although the Museum was looking very good on the opening day, not all the work had actually been completed. Two big jobs which have been done since were to put number tags on all the showcase exhibits which refer to "menu" cards in the cases which explain what each exhibit is - a task which kept Penny James busy for a good while - and setting up the displays of our magnificent collection of medals in the display case which had been delivered only just before the re-opening; Roy Harding has completed this with remarkable speed. Even with the large new case, we cannot display all the medals in the collection, and special storage shelves are now being installed for the remainder, which will allow easy retrieval for inspection. Our medal collection is still growing of course (and gifts of medals are always welcome, since they are a valuable part of the history of the Regiment and its members), and the main display has been designed to allow new acquisitions to be put on display quickly and for the display to be easily varied from time to time.

The annual Open Day for members of the Regimental Association was held in mid-September and was well-attended. A special event at the Open Day was the dedication of a display panel to commemorate the life of the late Major Peter Hill without whose efforts the Museum probably would not exist and who was a major contributor to it right up to the end of his life. We were delighted that Mrs. Daphne Hill was present at this occasion, and grateful to her and to all Peter Hill's friends who had contributed to the provision of the display, which depicts "Uniforms - of our Regiment - Through the Ages". It was good also to have the modern Territorial

Army represented on the day in the person of the very smart Corporal Lee Fisher of the Queen's Surreys Company of 3 PWRR at Farnham.

It is always good to see members of the Regiment at the Museum whenever it is open, but I am conscious that many members are not able to visit Clandon, so (Editor permitting) I thought that a brief description of the new layout might be welcome, and I hope that there will be space in the Newsletter for a few photographs to illustrate this. (Editor: see centre pages)

Approaching the Museum entrance, you walk the length of the basement corridor of Clandon Park House, passing the National Trust Shop, the loos, and the restaurant; more importantly, passing also a selection of our historic Colours and other displays as a lead-in to the Museum proper. The two main rooms of the Museum have displays mainly in chronological order - with some "extras" - so turning left inside the door, first is a brief display on the modern Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, then back to the start of our Regimental history in King Charles II's time, and moving forward through the period of the overseas and colonial wars to the end of the 19th Century. Turn left into the second room and, on the left is a large case on the Great War period: continue round the room to displays on peace-time soldiering in the inter-war years, the 2nd World War and the Malayan Campaign. Then there is a case on "Recruiting Through the Ages", and one on our old Depots and our chapels which includes the delightful and evocative model parade-ground scene. Back into the first room, and on the left is the display of our Regimental Heroes who have been awarded the VC and GC. Then is the Museum Shop, dispensing books, badges and Regimental mementos, then the new inter-active audio-visual display which gives some real insights into soldiering in the Regiment in the 2nd World War. The medal display covers the whole of the far wall and is really quite a sight. Lastly, in the centre of the room is a display mainly of pictures, illustrating our historic connections with maritime soldiering.

The third exhibition room, now entitled "The Regimental Room", is shared with the National Trust so regrettably not always open to visitors. It is nonetheless well worth looking at if you can, as it contains stunning displays of our best Regimental treasures laid out on a thematic basis and including sections on The Freedom Boroughs, the Messes, Colonels of the Regiment, Volunteers, and Band and Drums. Entrance is from the second room of the Museum.

The final room is the Administrative Office and Archive Room, home to the Curator, Staff and Volunteers when not otherwise engaged, and to the large collection of historic documents and photographs. This is the nerve-centre of the Museum and the place to go if you want to do some research (please make an appointment if you want to look at documents). Here also the Museum gives

a public service of providing extracts, nicely printed, from the National record of British soldiers (of all regiments) who died in the two World Wars.

After that brief tour, it remains to say that we have been pleased by the reception from the Regiment and the public given to the refurbished Museum, and we are grateful for both the commendations and the criticisms which we have received. Constructive criticism is always welcome and useful. It helps us to improve the Museum, and we know that there are several things waiting to be done when resources permit (we also know that the job will never actually ever be complete!).

The Museum Trustees are now beginning to look to the next stage in the Museum's life, and how to deal best with the reality that the Regiment will start to fade away in the very foreseeable future; more on that in due course. More immediately, we shall soon be saying goodbye to Penny James, our splendid Curator of many years, when she retires at the end of this season. At the time of writing, the process of recruiting is in hand, but more on this too in the next Newsletter.

Adrian Birtles.

Annual Church Service

The Association's annual church service at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, June 9th 2002 celebrated both the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the Tercentenary of the raising in 1702 of Villiers' Marines. Despite unpromising weather, a congregation of over 450 Association members, families and guests had taken their places by the time the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey was greeted on the cathedral steps by the Association President and escorted to her seat by the Dean. The congregation then stood while the colour party from 2 PWRR marched into the cathedral followed by the Association standard. The moving service which followed was conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend Victor Stock, and included readings by the Association President and by Col David Dickins. The preacher was the Reverend James Bates, Rector of All Saints, Kingston upon Thames, where the Regimental Chapel of The East Surrey Regiment is located.

After the service the colour party and Association standard led the Dean, Chapter and congregation out of the cathedral. Association members then moved to form up behind the Kohima Band under the eagle eye of the RSM 2 PWRR before, led by Col John Francis, marching past the Lord Lieutenant who took the salute from the cathedral steps. Sadly, at the last minute the increasingly blustery wind and low cloud prevented the planned display drop by the Free-Fall Parachute Team of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, although their plane actually circled overhead. Undaunted by the deteriorating weather members, families and guests adjourned to a large marquee on the cathedral green for a

buffet lunch, liquid refreshment, speeches and much reminiscing, all to musical accompaniment provided by the Kohima Band.

The Association was extremely grateful for the generous support provided by the Regimental family during the preparations and on the day. Particular thanks were due to 2 PWRR which provided most of the administrative personnel and the colour party, and to the Kohima Band. Without such assistance the event would not have been possible.

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Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Parade

It all started with a phone call from John Rogerson a few months before the great day, asking me if I would care to, with Mike Etherington our Association standard bearer, represent the Regimental Association on the Parade celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee on Tuesday the 4th June.

After getting over the initial shock of such an honour to be asked and saying yes, I asked John "why me"!! He said that I was one of the few members that the 'mysterious they' could think of who still remembers how to wear a beret properly! In due course I received all the bumf regarding the Parade. I made arrangements with Mike to meet him at an RV of great importance on the great day, the Albert public house in Victoria St, a few minutes walk from where we had to form up in Tothill St.



Messrs Etherington and Lefevre on Parade.

We were on parade at the required time of 1300 hours, where we met Jerry Patmore, another Association member, carrying the standard of a different regiment (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) the old 57th of Foot. I

asked him what he was doing carrying the 'Middies' standard and he told me that he was originally badged Middlesex on joining up and was later transferred to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. Another standard bearer was of The Queen's Regiment (the young Queen's as I call them).

We also saw Brian Bartlett of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (50th of Foot), who is a colleague of mine in the British Army Association, and representatives from The Buffs (The Royal East Kent Regiment), The Queen's Own Buffs, and many more too numerous to mention. It was wonderful and moving to see so many of the old Regiments' Cap Badges and Association Standards again. All the men on Parade were as usual smartly turned out and a credit to all their Regiments and Corps.

I don't think any other Army could have its ex-members so well turned out; in fact lots of tourists were asking to be photographed with us all. As one American said to me "only you Brits" could look so smart and put on a show like this, it's great!". Mike gently told him that we Brits' have quite a bit of experience of it over 500 years (give or take a few). The American was dumfounded when Mike told him our Regiments had over 300 years of doing it, and as he walked away I heard him say to his wife "Oh God we've got a lot of things to be grateful for with these guys, no wonder they win wars!".

Standing in ranks of twenty and twenty files deep, from the air we must have looked an impressive sight and that was just the Regimental Associations. As usual it was a case of hurry up and wait; finally after many false starts it wasn't till on Horse Guards Parade Ground that we really got into our stride and moved as one mass of 400 men.

When we marched into the Mall behind 400 Royal British Legion Standards from all over the UK the crowd erupted into a massive sound of cheering and applause. It seemed as though they had been waiting for us 'Old and Bold' to arrive. The noise was deafening, people were leaning over the barriers to shake our hands and touch us, with cries like "Well done the Old 'uns!", and so on, parents lifting up their children to get a better look at us, and cameras flashing and clicking.

It was a job to hear the sound of the band above it all and hard to keep step and dressing but as we got nearer to Her Majesty in the viewing stand it all came together, and on the command "Eyes Left", it was a proud and smart 400 men who did it as on a parade ground of old; none of us had lost our touch.

As we marched past Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family you could almost feel the pride and loyalty of the men to the Queen, their Country, and the Regiments they were once a part of. It was one of the proudest moments of my life; to be able to represent so many men of three of the finest regiments of the British Army, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

As we passed in front of Buckingham Palace some of the greatest cheers we got were from all the children and young people who were all dressed in Golden Yellow who had formed part of the procession earlier and had already finished before we had started.

On passing the rear of Wellington Barracks even the off duty Guardsmen came out and cheered and applauded us, and as we were nearing the end of our march it did us all a power of good. Just after that we were back where we had started lining up four hours earlier and finally given the order to dismiss. Mike gave a great sigh of relief as he rested the Standard he had been carrying for so long. Having carried it for about 2½ miles, I think he had done a sterling job, and I wasn't sorry to relax either I can tell you!

Both of us agreed it had been a marvellous day and we would not have missed it for the world. It was a great day to remember, and we were looking forward to the next Jubilee.

GL & ME

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5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment OMA Annual Dinner - Glorious First of June 2002



Left to right: Jeff Brown, Mick Malam, Jack Chaffer and Howard Welford enjoy liquid refreshment before the main event.



Under Maurice Nason's supervision, John Rogerson checks the prizes before agreeing to purchase a raffle ticket from Stuart Browning.

Golf Society spring meeting

The 65th Spring Meeting of the Golf Society was held at Sudbrook Park on Thursday 9 May. The course was in excellent condition and fine weather was enjoyed by the 24 members who took part in the Medal and Stableford competitions.

This year a new format was introduced, with a morning round only, followed by an excellent lunch, then putting for the Harry Adcock Trophy.

We were pleased that the new secretary of the association, Maj Tony Russell was able to play and that Maj Paul Gray, Maj and Mrs Basil Crutchfield and Mrs Jennifer Davidson were able to join us for lunch.

At the AGM held at the end of the day's play M J Power Esq was elected as President for the next three years in succession to Lt Col P G F M Roupell, and C C Surtees Esq was re-elected as Captain for the next two years. The prizes were presented by C C Surtees Esq.

Prize List

Challenge Cup	Col J G W Davidson	75 Gross
Dodgson Cup	Maj R A Green	70 Net
Heale's Memorial Trophy	Capt P J Dorey	40 Pts
Veteran's Halo	Col J W Sewell	46 pts
Harry Adcock Trophy	Lt Col F B Herd	33 Putts -3
Senior Division Medal	W J T Ross Esq	69 Net
Junior Division Medal	Lt Col G B Redfern	70 Net

Society Sweep

1st J W Farrar

2nd W J T Ross

3rd J L Midwood

The autumn Meeting will be held at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 9th October 2002.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Sudbrook Park on Thursday 8th May 2003

Q.R.S.G.S. V R.M.G.S. Fleet 14 May 2002

Once again we achieved a convincing victory over the Royal Marines at Fleet on 14 May. The margin was 6 1/2 to 3 1/2. Since 1969 we have now won 15 times and lost 14 with 5 halved matches.

The day was marred by a heavy rainstorm in mid morning lasting about half an hour, but both the players and the course quickly dried out. In spite of the storm the Royal Marines first pair with a combined handicap of 22 were round in a gross 69, too good for Mike Power and Vic Ebbens. Our second pair in the morning John Davidson and Peter Roupell also lost, but the rest of our

team came in in fine style, so that at lunch we led by three matches to two.

In the afternoon we played a greensome over 9 holes and won by 3 1/2 to 1 1/2.

Our star players with two wins were Colin Howard and Richard Wells. Foster Herd and Christopher Surtees won once and halved once, while everyone else achieved one victory; they were Mike Power, Vic Ebbens, John Davidson, Peter Roupell, Tim Ross and Malcolm Howard.

AM

M J Power Esq	0	Maj Gen M J P Hunt	1
Maj V D Ebbens		N Kelly Esq	
Col J G W Davidson	0	K Wilkins Esq	1
Lt Col P G F M Roupell		N Roberts Esq	
Capt M Howard	1	Maj Gen P R Kay	0
C C Surtees		Capt D E R Hunt	
W J T Ross Esq	1	N Silvester Esq	0
Lt Col F B Herd		M Thompson	
C M Howard Esq	1	Capt A B Gordon	0
J R L Wells Esq		K Tyrell	
	3		2

PM

M J Power Esq	1	N Kelly Esq	0
J R L Wells Esq		K Wilkins Esq	
Col J G W Davidson	1	Capt D E R Hunt	0
Maj V D Ebbens		N Silvester Esq	
Capt M Howard	0	K Tyrell Esq	1
W J T Ross Esq		N Roberts Esq	
C M Howard Esq	1	Maj Gen P R Kay	0
Lt Col P G F M Roupell			
Lt Col F B Herd	1/2	M Thompson Esq	1/2
C C Surtees		Capt A B Gordon	
	6 1/2		3 1/2

○ ○ ○

Grand Reunion, Aldershot



Maj Palmer and Tommy Atkins pose for the camera.

Colonel Sir Palms Fairborne 1635 - 1680

The Queen's Royal Regiment were always justly proud of Colonel Sir Palms Fairborne who served and died heroically in the defence of Tangier during the 17th Century British occupation. He was the first of many distinguished Officers of the Regiment who achieved his advancement by his military skill, thoroughness and attention to detail and by his natural aptitude for command and leadership. At the former Depot in Stoughton Barracks, Guildford his name is permanently commemorated by one of the roads within the newly developed Cardwell's Keep.

The purpose of this article is also to write about Sir Palms eldest son Stafford, who started his service career at Tangier with his father in the Governor's (or old Tangier) Regiment. After five years as a subaltern and the withdrawal from Tangier he transferred to the Royal Navy. Both father and son have significant entries in the Dictionary of National Biography; but before turning to Stafford Fairborne's remarkable career, which seemed largely unknown to the old Queen's, I wish to reveal as much about their family background as it has been possible to glean.

It would appear that the Fairbornes were a Lancashire family from St Anne's, and Palms was born in 1635, seven years before the outbreak of the Civil War. His father Colonel Stafford Fairborne was a Royalist commander at Newark on Trent which was for long a fiercely contested strategic crossing on the Great North Road. The "Queen's Sconce", (named after Charles I's consort Henrietta Maria) a large earthwork for mounting cannon, is still to be seen there.

On 30th January 1649 King Charles I was beheaded in Whitehall, and the Royalist cause at its lowest ebb with its defeated supporters dispersed, demoralised and financially ruined. It may explain why young 16 years old Palms spent the year of 1651 fighting as a mercenary for the Venetians against the Turks besieging Candia (Heraklion) in Crete. Apparently Palms Fairborne greatly valued his first experience of active service; years later when he was granted a coat of arms it featured a Turk's head impaled on a sword, with a Latin inscription "Learning is Strength".

The next time Palms Fairborne comes to notice is on 14th October 1661 as a Captain commanding a company at Lord Peterborough's initial muster of the "Tangiers" Regiment on Putney Heath before it sailed from Deal to become part of the garrison. It seems likely that prior to his formal commissioning he had met and married his wife Margery who was a young widow. Born Margaret Devereux, she had been briefly married to a Mr Mansell, and proved to be a loyal and supportive wife who accompanied her husband to Tangier.

Altogether she bore him seven children, their eldest Stafford was born in Tangier in 1666; unfortunately the church registers for the Anglican Garrison Church are missing.

Stafford Fairborne was named after his grandfather, the Royalist commander at Newark, and spent his childhood and school years in Tangier overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar, and the famously beautiful view of the Spanish coastline.



A detailed drawing of Major Palms Fairborne aged 34 and wearing Full Dress. Made by the distinguished artist Wenceslaus Hollar during a visit to Tangier in 1669, and incorporated by him into a large watercolour in the Print Room of the British Museum.

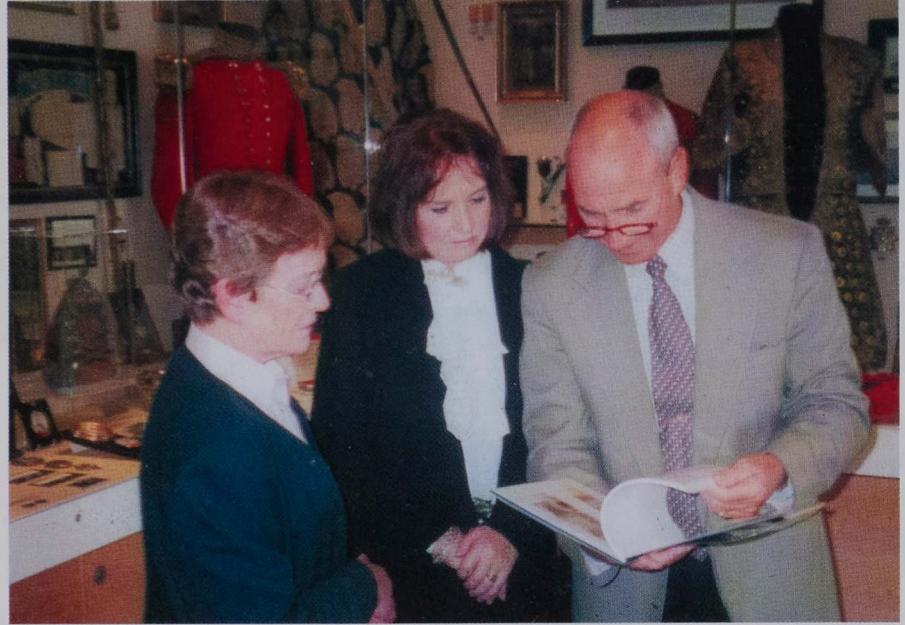
During this time his father's career progressed as Palms was promoted to Major in 1664 in recognition of his outstanding abilities in the first two years of fighting with the Moors, and in 1675 he was knighted. In May 1676, the Earl of Inchiquin, who had been in post as Governor for barely a year, took two years leave of absence and nominated Major Sir Palms Fairborne joint Deputy Governor with the elderly veteran Colonel Sir Roger Alsop as the other appointee. The latter declined to act on grounds of infirmity, and died later that year. (Interestingly Roger Alsop is referred to in one source as Sir Palms uncle, so perhaps his mother had been a Miss Alsop before marriage).

During the next two years Sir Palms, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January 1677, acted as Lieutenant Governor with skill, firmness and diligence at a time of extreme financial stringency, when at one time the pay of the garrison was 2 1/2 years in arrears. Sir Palms and Lady Margery too found it hard going raising their growing family in a house situated between the Head Court of Guard and Catherine Gate, the landward entrance to the City.

The truth was that Tangier had few friends in Parliament prepared to vote the necessary funds. Many Members regarded it as an expensive liability, and/or a nest of "Popery" with its Roman Catholic Cathedral and priests.

In April 1678 the Earl of Inchiquin returned and resumed his Governorship, granting the Fairbornes two years

The Refurbished Museum



Mrs Penny James presents a copy of *The Infantry Regiments of Surrey* to Col K Bache (Head of the Danish Royal Military Household) and his wife during their visit to the museum in September.



Left to right: Capt Adrian Birtles, Chairman Museum Trustees, Mr Charles Nunneley, Chairman National Trust, Mrs Sarah Goad, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Surrey, and Brig Bob Acworth CBE, at the official re-opening ceremony.



Right: Some other eye-catching exhibits in the Regimental Room.



Above: Some of the new arrangements in the main part of the museum.



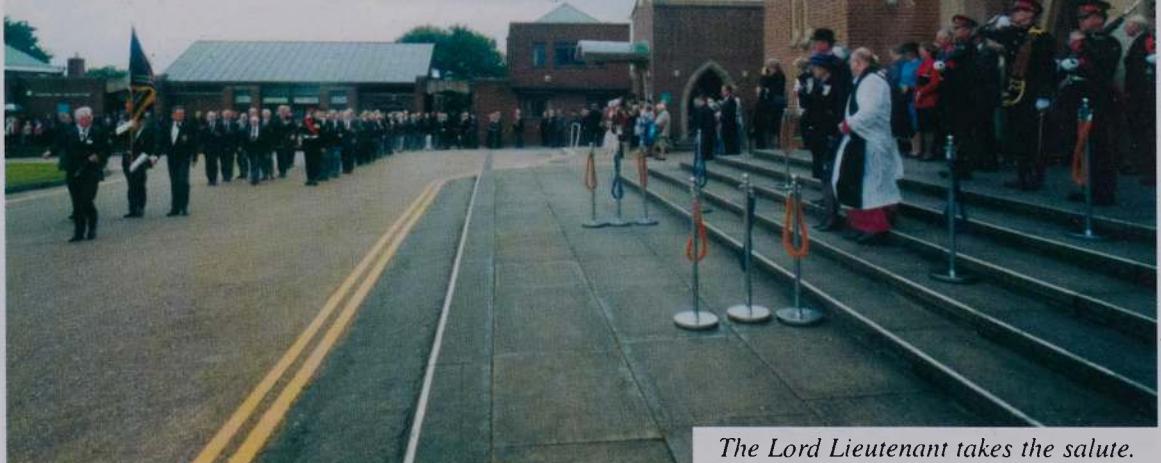
The President presents the Lord Lieutenant with a copy of *The Infantry Regiments of Surrey*.



Pictured above:

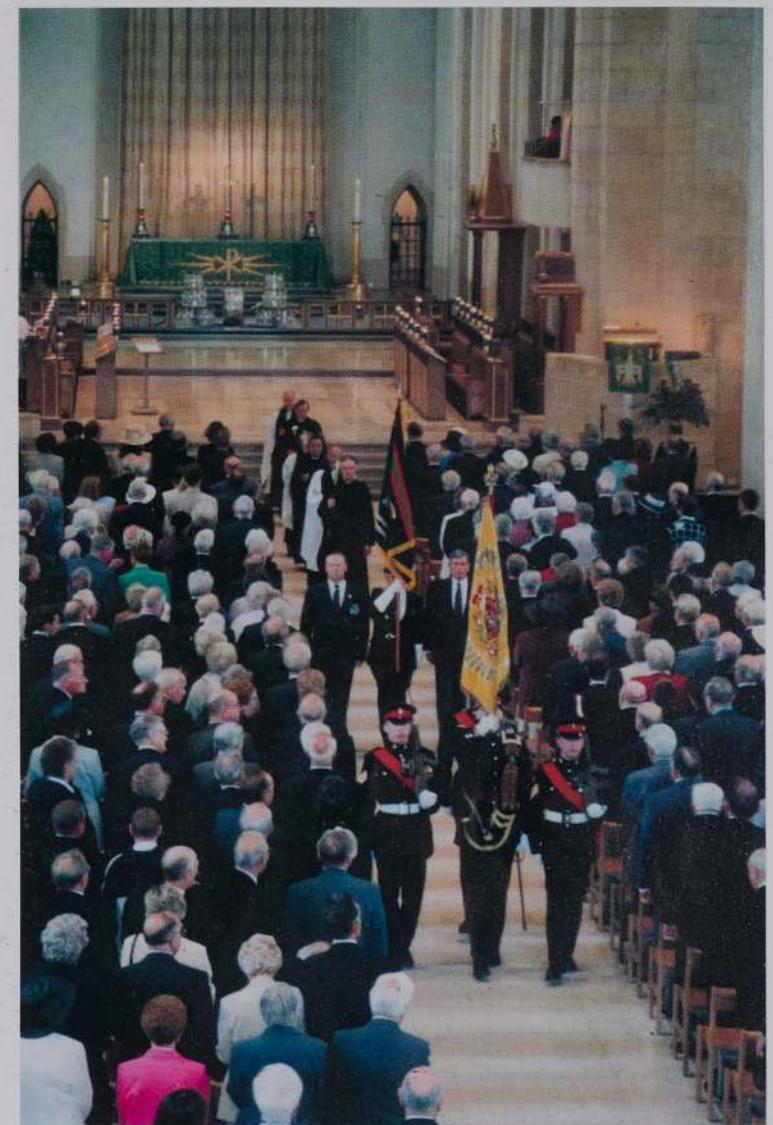
A: Col John Davidson, Dave Hosken and George Lefevre compare notes.

B: Enjoying refreshments after the Service. (L to R) Rod Harbrow, Ron Harper, Bob Hatcher, Harry Cookson, Alan Bennett and Bruce Dunkeld.



The Lord Lieutenant takes the salute.

The Annual Church Service at Guildford Cathedral



leave of absence. They went home to England for the first time in 16 years and doubtless Sir Palms and Lady Margery had many things to arrange for their children.

On 1st August 1678, Stafford Fairborne was gazetted an Ensign in Captain St John's Company in the Governor's Regiment, of which his father was the Lieutenant Colonel. He was 12 years of age, and it is difficult to comprehend this 17th century practice of commissioning children either by purchase or by patronage; probably Sir Palms "fixed" it as he was by no means wealthy.

It also seems highly likely that Samuel Pepys the Treasurer of the Tangier Committee would have met Sir Palms in London, as they had corresponded frequently in the two preceding years that he had acted as Governor. It is a shame that his eyesight prevented Pepys from keeping his famous diary at this time, as it would be illuminating to have his description and opinion of Sir Palms. But subsequent events indicate that he made a very favourable impression on those in authority in London.

In April 1680 he returned to Tangier with his wife and children to find it heavily besieged by the Moors and at risk of falling. The weakened garrison was forced to sign a humiliating four months truce which left them holding only three of the fifteen forts outside the City walls, and the Earl of Inchiquin was recalled to London to answer for his ineffectual Governorship. Once again, the newly promoted Colonel Sir Palms Fairborne was left as the Lieutenant Governor of Tangier. In answer to the urgent despatches from such an experienced and respected soldier recently in England, the government in London responded by despatching large reinforcements, including a composite battalion of Guards, plus warlike stores. The King of Spain sent 200 experienced cavalry who were invaluable in the imminent fighting, as were a battalion of seamen landed from the Fleet.

All the while, Sir Palms was planning, organising, training and encouraging the troops and shortly before hostilities recommenced he was confirmed as Governor and Commander in Chief. There could have been no better choice.



*The Prospect of Tangier from S.West.
Drawn by Wenceslaus Hollar in 1669 from a position close to Pole Fort.*

On 20th September 1680 Sir Palms personally led a surprise sortie which recaptured the ruins of Pole Fort and immediately began rebuilding it under strong Moorish counter attacks. There was continuous fighting around Tangier for some weeks prior to a major dawn attack by the whole Garrison on 27th October. But unfortunately three days before, Colonel Sir Palms Fairborne while reconnoitring, was struck in the body by a musket ball that knocked him from his horse. It was quickly recognised that this was a mortal wound and on 27th October he was carried in a chair to a balcony overlooking the countryside outside the City walls to watch the day's fighting. Not only had Sir Palms earned the respect of the Moors in all the years he had met them in peace and war, but he also had the trust and confidence of his own troops who felt they were, at last, on an equal footing with their besiegers who numbered about 15,000. Led by Colonel Sackville of the Guards, who was the next senior commander, the British and the Spanish troops fought with skill and enthusiasm, determined to avenge Sir Palms before his own eyes.

By late afternoon the Moors were defeated and routed from their lines and camps before the dying Governor, who had devoted 18 years of his life to Tangier. He lived long enough to witness his triumphant troops return to the city, but their losses had been heavy with many dead, and over 330 wounded; the ships' Surgeons were landed from the Fleet to help with tending them. On the other hand the Moors' dead were in the order of 2000, and this time it was they who asked for a truce.

It is not clear if 14 year old Ensign Stafford Fairborne took part in the fighting. I think it probable he was left to support his father, and comfort Lady Margery when he died later that night aged only 45.

In official despatches home Sir Palms was described as... "a man of undaunted resolution and spirit".... "of indefatigable diligence".... "a worthy, able and brave officer". Deeply mourned by everyone at Tangier he was buried in the Anglican Garrison Church, the site of which is now an Islamic Theological College opposite the Grand Mosque. The latter was the Portuguese Roman Catholic Cathedral for nearly 200 years.

The bereaved Lady Margery Fairborne returned to England with her younger children and was awarded a pension of £500 a year for life by King Charles II - but this was irregularly paid after the first year and she had financial difficulties raising her large family of young children. As late as 1703 her eldest son Sir Stafford was petitioning Queen Anne for the arrears of her pension. She erected a monument to her late husband Sir Palms, with his coat of arms, in the nave of Westminster Abbey.

In 1683 she was married (for the third time) to Jasper Paston a younger son of the first Earl of Yarmouth. This remarkable lady and early example of a "regimental wife" died in June 1694. She is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Admiral of The Fleet Sir Stafford Fairborne 1666 - 1742

After his father's death in October 1680, Ensign Fairborne remained in Tangier with the Governor's (or Old Tangier) Regiment until the withdrawal in the winter of 1683/84 overseen by Lord Dartmouth.

The purser's log shows that he sailed in the "Montague" in March 1684 with Captain St John's Company and disembarked at Falmouth before being stationed in the West country.

In June the Regiment was styled "Our Dearest Consort the Queen's Regiment", but sadly in February 1685 King Charles II died and was succeeded by his controversial brother the Roman Catholic Duke of York who became King James II and who had married, as his second wife, Mary of Modena. The widowed Queen Catherine of Braganza remained in England and her regiment was renamed the Queen Dowager's but retained on its Colours the entwined Cs (as on the famous Third Colour) for Charles and Catherine. At the same time, Trelawny's (or the Second Tangier Regiment raised in 1680) became the Queen Consort's Regiment in honour of the new Queen, Mary of Modena. On their Colours they had a crown above her initials MEBR, standing for Marie Eleanore Beatrice Regina. Suffice to say that this switching of titles has caused endless confusion to military historians ever since!

In March 1685 Stafford Fairborne was promoted to Lieutenant in the newly renamed Queen Dowager's but almost immediately transferred to the Royal Navy in the same rank. Throughout the occupation of Tangier there were always ships in port and crews ashore and it would be interesting to know if the Army officers received formal sea going experience with the Royal Navy. Stafford Fairborne shone from the onset of his career as Lieutenant of the "Bonadventure". Two months later she was part of a naval squadron in the Straits and took part in a successful action with Sallee "rovers" or pirates. Her Captain was ill ashore and Lieutenant Fairborne in command was highly commended for his part; so much so that he was given the Captaincy next year of the "Half Moon", a captured Moorish vessel. He was clearly his father's son, and still only 20.



An oil painting of Sir Stafford Fairborne by Sir Godfrey Kneller, circa 1703, after he was appointed Vice Admiral of the Red, and aged 37. Formerly in the Royal Collection, it is now at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

During the next sixteen years he commanded a whole succession of ships, and highlights of this period include the siege of Londonderry in 1689 when he was landed with a naval brigade to attack the shore defences along Lough Foyle which was preventing Major General Percy Kirke's relief of the city by sea. As an experienced foot-soldier he would have been a natural choice, and the Queen's were always proud of their links with the Royal Navy, even so it must have been unusual to find 9 Company of his old regiment at the siege of Dundalk later that year, being commanded by Captain Stafford Fairborne RN!

At the Battle of Beachy Head in June 1690 between the Dutch and a combined Anglo French fleet the British C in C was disgraced for not engaging the enemy ships closely enough. An accusation which could not be levelled at Fairborne, because the protective hammocks in the nettings on the upper decks of his ship "Warspite" were found to be full of Dutch musket balls.

In 1695 he commanded the "Victory" with his younger brother William Fairborne as Lieutenant; he is the only one of his six siblings I have been able to trace; and William died in June 1708 in command of the "Centurion" at Leghorn.

In June 1694 he married Dorothy Fane who bore him three sons (who predeceased him) and a daughter, before his wife died in 1707.

In June 1701 Fairborne reached Flag rank when he was promoted Rear Admiral of the Blue and he became Sir Stafford in November that year. He held a succession of Rear Admiral appointments until he was promoted to Vice Admiral of the Red in May 1703. Charnock in his "Biographia Naval" of 17th and early 18th century

naval officers devotes a long and detailed account of Sir Stafford Fairborne in the "Association" during the Great Storm of November 1703. It was the worst storm in recorded British history which caused widespread death and destruction ashore and at sea, and altered the coast line at places such as the historic Cinque Port of Rye, which found itself stranded two miles inland.

Briefly, the "Association" was at the Nore when the hurricane from WSW broke her anchor cables in the early hours of 27th November and drove her into dangerous shoals. Some of her ports were breached by the force of the waves and she listed dangerously with the volume of water on her gun decks. Sir Stafford had this let into the bilges by scuppering her decks - it would have to be laboriously hand pumped out later. Righted, but low in the water she was driven by the terrible storms across the North Sea, up the coasts of Holland, Germany and Denmark until she reached Norway. Eventually she managed to limp into Gothenburg in Sweden for essential repairs, out of provisions and with 28 of her crew dead from exposure and exhaustion. Sir Stafford procured new anchors and cables from Copenhagen, provisions and spars from Gothenburg and sailed before she became icebound in the Baltic. The "Association" escorted twelve homebound naval store ships, beat off some French privateers, endured further severe weather and anchored back at the Nore on 23rd January 1704. She had been off station for not quite two months. Sir Stafford Fairborne, and Richard Canning his Captain, were admired and acclaimed for this feat of seamanship.

In 1702 the European conflict known as the War of the Spanish Succession or "Queen Anne's Wars" broke out. While the Duke of Marlborough was fighting and winning his series of great land battles on the continent, the combined fleets of Britain and Holland were at sea. The French and Spanish fleets were out numbered and incapable of fighting a fleet action, but they sent frigates and many privateers to harass and capture our merchantmen on the sea lanes. In turn, there were a number of combined land and sea operations against their heavily fortified naval bases and ports. The most famous and lasting was the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 in which Luttrell's marines played an important part, and in the successful defence of the Rock against the outraged Spanish the next year. Although Vice Admiral Sir Stafford Fairborne was not present at these actions, he did play a prominent part as a senior naval commander at Cadiz, Vigo Bay and the capture of Barcelona in 1705.

His final action at sea was the combined land and sea assault on Ostend in June 1706. He commanded a squadron which included seven ships of the line, four frigates, a fire ship and two bomb ketches for firing mortar bombs into fortifications. After a close inshore bombardment the town and port were taken in three days. The prizes included three ships of war, six lesser warships and forty merchant vessels.

The following year this experienced and battle tested senior naval officer was appointed a Member of the Council of the Lord High Admiral, in other words a Sea Lord, and in October 1707 he was promoted to be

Admiral of the White in succession to Sir Clowdesley Shovell drowned in the disaster at the Scilly Isles. Finally, on 21st December 1708 he reached the peak of his career as an Admiral of the Fleet. It was also the year that he married Rebecca, daughter of Colonel Sir Thomas Paston, as his second wife with a dowry of £10,000. She was one of his mother's nieces, after Lady Fairborne married into that family 25 years before.

As an interesting diversion from his naval career Vice Admiral Sir Stafford Fairborne was elected Member of Parliament for Rochester 1705 - 1710, it was an Admiralty "Rotten Borough" and he was a Whig. In search of details I visited the Town Hall to be confronted at the entrance by a large inscription "These pavements were given by the Honourable Sir Stafford Fairborne-Anno Domini 1706. John Burgess Esq. Mayor". In the Council Chamber is a portrait of Queen Anne which he presented and an indifferent copy of his portrait reproduced with this article.

Politically, the early part of the 18th century is very important as it covers the evolution of Parliament and Party politics. The Whigs and the Tories were concerned about the succession when the childless Queen Anne died. Although the 1702 Act of Settlement had nominated the Protestant Hanoverian Electors to take the throne, it was possible it might be contested by the exiled Stuarts in France. As indeed it was after Queen Anne's death in 1714; by the 1715 and '45 Rebellions in Scotland.

Sir Stafford Fairborne's naval and political careers were ruined when the Tory Earl of Orford was appointed Lord High Admiral, and obtained from the Queen an Order in Council setting aside his last two appointments as an Admiral and an Admiral of the Fleet. In spite of his protests, he was allowed only the half pay of a Vice Admiral when he was not employed in the Admiralty or with the Fleet, and the Earl kept him unemployed for three years. In 1713 with a change of government and the rise of Robert Harley to power, Fairborne wrote to him stressing his 33 years service and 45 commissions in the service from the lowest to the highest - eg since he was a 14 year old Ensign in Tangier in 1680, and all his subsequent commands of ships and squadrons. He wanted an Admiralty appointment, but instead he was appointed a Commissioner to consider the future of the marine regiments made redundant by the Treaty of Utrecht which ended the War of The Spanish Succession. Disappointed, Fairborne retired with the title of Admiral of the Fleet and a special pension of £600 pa. I have been unable to establish where he and Lady Rebecca lived in his long retirement, but it seems they had an address St James's near Whitehall. They may have had a son in 1718, but finally he died on 11th November 1742 aged 76 - "the oldest admiral in the navy", and like his mother, he too is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The Commission he declined to chair has a very strong regimental connection. I am happy to report that in this the Tercentenary of the raising of Villiers' Marines they selected Goring's Marines (their fourth Colonel) to be transferred to the Army as the 31st of Foot, later to become 1st Bn The East Surrey Regt.

El Alamein

October 2002 sees a series of events to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the battle which was seen by many to mark the turning point for the Allies in the tide of the Second World War. Winston Churchill said "Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat".

The first phase of Montgomery's attack, code-named Operation Lightfoot, began at 2140 hours on 23rd October 1942 with a bombardment by over 800 artillery pieces. The 131st Brigade, which included the 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's, had been given the task of forming bridgeheads beyond the January and February minefields, through which the recce and then 7th Armoured Division would pass. They were then to protect the right flank of the armour. The minefield gaps would be created by flails mounted on Matilda tanks.

The 1/7th Queen's were detailed for the attack on the January minefield in the first stage, but came under heavy fire and suffered considerable losses before leaving the start line. Nevertheless they advanced on time and, in spite of the difficulties and heavy casualties, many got through the minefield and pushed on towards their objectives. The Battalion accomplished its task during the morning of 24th October though at heavy cost, those killed including the commanding officer Lt Col Burton. They were later relieved by the 2nd Buffs.

1/5th and 1/6th Queen's task of forming a bridgehead beyond February and covering the passing of the armour through the gaps was postponed until the night of 24th/25th October. Very little reconnaissance was possible and the enemy positions could not be accurately located. Moving forward under a barrage, the Battalions' orders were to consolidate in the position reached when the barrage stopped, actually about half a mile beyond the minefield. There they anxiously awaited the arrival of the tanks but these were unable to get through. The two Battalions remained in their bridgehead positions throughout the next day, exposed to heavy fire on a forward slope in full view of the enemy positions. Montgomery having decided to break off the attack to conserve 7th Armoured Division for later operations, the two Queen's Battalions were withdrawn under intense fire on the night 25th/26th. There were again heavy casualties and a number of parties, including the commanding officer and Battalion Headquarters 1/6th, were unable to get away.

Though suffering heavy losses, all three Battalions had successfully carried out their tasks.

Having been reinforced, on 29th October the Brigade moved north to be attached as the lorried infantry brigade to the 7th Armoured Division. The battle was at its climax and the attack "Supercharge" went in on the night of 1st/2nd November. Attacks on the night of 3rd/4th made the break through to open country and after 12 days of the most stubborn fighting the battle of El Alamein had been won.



B W Spears writes from 63 Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Middx TW17 9EJ:-

I recently had the opportunity to visit Clandon House, Guildford with my wife and only discovered the day before from a brochure that the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum was there.

I was greatly pleased about this as I served my National Service in 1955/57 with the 1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment at Kingston-upon-Thames, Shorncliffe and Brunswick BAOR. (MMG Platoon).

Your museum was very interesting and in particular a copy of your Newsletter Nov 2001 No. 70 where I read many well written articles and on page 34 sadly found one on the late CSM Jack Warner who was my Sergeant in MMG Platoon, Germany.

Having now phoned your Regimental Headquarters re my interest for further information and possible copies of earlier Newsletters and the one after Nov 2001, it was suggested that I should contact yourself re membership details and I hope you can be of help here. I look forward with interest to hearing from you in the near future. (ps I would also like to find out more about Pte Hunter (my intake) remembered on page 32).

Editors Note: Bill Spears is now an Association member. Can anyone help reference Pte Hunter?

Graham Swain writes about the Italy Star Association 1943-1945:-

As the new editor I hope you will allow me to continue with news and to report on our recent successful three day reunion service and parade in Chichester held on 17th 18th and 19th May. Although many ex-service organisations are diminishing in number we are at present holding our membership which is still over 2100 with branches all over the country, and New Zealand, which boasts some 320 members. Also included in our total are 600 members of the 3rd Carpathian Infantry Division of

the Polish forces whose members fought so valiantly at CASSINO with the KIWIS.

Any holder of the Italy Star campaign medal is welcome to join us - apply to the National Secretary, Graham Swain, 76 Manor Road New Milton Hants BH 25 5EN 01425 614884 formerly 2/7 Bn. Q.R.R.

We were blessed with fine weather for the reunion. 190 members spent the weekend at the Southdowns Holiday Village near Chichester where we were royally treated by the staff with excellent food, accommodation and entertainment each evening. On Saturday, the 11th National Committee meeting was held where amongst the items discussed were plans to return in 2003 to the same venue.

On Sunday, after an early buffet lunch, members were transported by coach to Chichester Cathedral for the service of remembrance and dedication. The guests who attended were the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex and his wife, Field Marshal The Lord Inge KG GCB DL who is the Patron of our Association and members of local authorities including the Mayor and Mayoress of Chichester. The congregation numbered some 400 and a very moving service was conducted by the acting Dean which included a wreath laying ceremony in St Georges Chapel, (which is the Regimental Chapel of the Royal Sussex Regt). The sounding of Last Post and Reveille by a bugler brought a lump to many throats. Some 16 Standards processed to the nave to be received by the acting Dean and laid up during the service. They had earlier paraded outside the Cathedral for the arrival of the guests and did so again on leaving.

After the service members assembled in a smart and orderly manner for a march to the Council House for a salute taken by the Lord Lieutenant.

The parade was led by the Rose and Thistle Pipe and Drum band, and the Field Marshal paid us the unique honour of marching at the head of the troops and paying his respects to the Lord Lieutenant and this was so much appreciated by the members. The parade was under the command of WO2 J Duggan 1st Bn Irish Guards who came over from Germany with his wife for the occasion. Very tall and, immaculately dressed in Bearskin and scarlet tunic, with a commanding presence he really added lustre to the parade and brought out the best in us old soldiers.

After dismissal members returned to the holiday village where after pre dinner drinks the VIPs were able to circulate and talk to members. We were called to the dining room by the bugler sounding the traditional 'Come to the cookhouse door boys' where 220 members sat down to an excellent dinner with ample wine. Traditional speeches were made with the Field Marshal who did end on a slightly serious note outlining the current threat by terrorism to world peace and his views were heartily endorsed and received. It was good to hear from someone so near the top without the usual spin doctoring which accompanies much of the news these days. The guests departed at 7.30pm and members then enjoyed entertainment followed by a sing song.

A most successful and enjoyable weekend with due honour paid to our fallen comrades at the Cathedral service. This is the second occasion we have visited Chichester and our plans are to return in 2003. How about joining us??

Roger Sawtell writes:-

This is a belated, but none the less sincere, thank you letter for all Major Rogerson's dedicated and very friendly work as Secretary of the Association. I was a late entrant to the Association and have appreciated the friendly welcome that I received and the way I have been kept informed about events and activities.

I am one of the few members from the 4th Battalion Queen's West Surrey Regt. TA, which I joined during the Munich crisis in 1938. Unknown to me the 4th Queens was converting to ADGB.

In the winter of 1940 I was thrown off in a small cadre to form a new militia RA regiment. We did this in a tented camp on the Exeter by-pass. The intake of conscripts from Yorkshire and Northumberland were mostly youngster but with a smattering of old soldiers from the 14-18 war. One such was a small, leathery skinned man with a face like a walnut. Asked what he did, last time, he replied "Batman", He got the same job again and was christened 'Scrotum, the wrinkled retainer'!

On leaving the Queens our honorary Colonel gave us permission to retain our Queens buttons and badges. I spent the rest of the war in the RA, but wearing Queens buttons and badges! Not wildly popular with RA senior officers with whom I served, but who could gainsay the Queen? Oh well!

Bob Brinkley writes:-

Please find enclosed cheque for £10, to assist the publication of 'Our Journal' and something for benevolence.

I would like to correct an item on page 17, No. 71. The 2nd Battalion sailed on 31st December 1938, not 1939. I was one of the 572 other ranks that reported back for the sailing, and not one person was late or absent, after a month embarkation leave!

I was 6087209 Pte Brinkley (MT driver).

Mrs Joan Puxty and family write:-

Thank you for your kind messages of condolence since Harry's passing. The very caring thoughts and loving tributes - together with the wonderful support at the funeral - have been very comforting and a source of strength to us all.

Harry would have been quite overwhelmed by the large congregation and very proud that over £1250.00 has been donated to Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

Thank you for the flowers that you sent in memory of Harry. We are looking forward to seeing a dedication in the book of remembrance at Eltham Crematorium and a

commemorative plaque in the Azalea Court, Level C, under P.

We hope that all the special times over the years: a conversation, a laugh, an idea, an outing, are now happy memories, helping to raise a smile and keeping the golden moments and Harry's love around us all.

Mrs Betty Best writes:-

Would you please convey my thanks to the Standard Bearer and the Bugler who attended my husband's funeral at St Mary's Church, Fawkham on May 29th. Thank you also for sending the very handsome wreath, it was much appreciated.

The whole service was very moving and attended by so many people who obviously had a real affection for Peter. Thank you again.

Mrs E Hall writes:-

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to thank you for your words of sympathy and kindness on the death of my husband W F Hall. The lovely flowers were very much appreciated and a great comfort to us all.

D J Dunn writes:-

My family and I just had to write and tell you how over the moon we all were at the response from the regiment at Private Robert Dunn's funeral. The wreath was a lovely gesture in itself. However the standard bearer and the bugler were the talk of all his friends who said it was the best funeral they had ever attended, making it a unique and special occasion. My uncle would have been very proud.

Tommy Atkins writes:-

Now that Colonel Les Wilson has retired from the difficult and demanding task of Editor of the Regimental Newsletter and previously as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, I felt that a word of sincere thanks and gratitude from those of us who I always refer to "As from this side of the fence" (i.e: below commissioned rank) would not be out of place.

I have personally known Colonel Les since way back in 1948, and have been in contact with him ever since, both whilst serving in The Queen's Royal Regiment, and after I had retired from the regular army.

I am sure that I speak for all those Warrant, Non Commissioned and Private Soldiers of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and lastly the The Queen's Regiment in saying "Thank you Colonel Les" for all that you have done for us over the past many years. We know that you have not enjoyed the best of health over the recent years, but being an obstinate old devil at times, (as Quartermasters usually are even though they have retired from regular service), you have been a constant hard worker in the interests of us all, and we all deeply appreciate all that you have done for us.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU COLONEL LES, FROM ALL OF US THIS SIDE OF THE FENCE.

Don Papworth writes from India:-

Many thanks for the despatch of the Newsletter of May 2002 and the excellent supplement, 'The Colours'. Always look forward to their arrival - Les Wilson and John Rogerson have done us so well over the years. As a matter of interest (or possibly not), we good citizens of G.B. have received from the British Deputy High Commission dire warnings of possible conflict between members of our old empire. It is good to know our safety, if not our finances, is at the heart of No 10 - alas our welfare in the form of frozen pensions remains too serious a problem to resolve.

Mrs Doris Dyckhoff writes:-

I have been asked by my brother W H Harwood, 1 Peters Avenue, Fulham Gardens, Adelaide, S. Australia 5024, to acknowledge receipt of two Association Cap Badges you had sent to him; he wishes to express his gratitude to you. They arrived a little late for his diamond wedding anniversary but in good time for his 81st Birthday. They are now framed with all his other memorabilia of W.W 1939-1945. A very proud man. I have enclosed a cheque for £10 as he requested.

Ron Harper writes:-

I recently attended the funeral of Reg Hill who died on 25th May 2002.

Reg joined the Queens Royal Regiment on 19th August 1954 at Stoughton Barracks and while in training was picked for the boxing team who were sent to Shornecliffe Barracks to represent the Regiment in the Home Counties Brigade Novices Championship. After training he was sent out to the Battalion who were serving in Malaya where he became a dog handler in D Coy under the command of Col (then Maj) Mike Lowry. It is the measure of Reg that when the battalion returned home to the UK in 1957, and although he was only a little over 5 feet tall, he undertook to carry not only his own kit but that of his friend Doug Cannon who was seriously wounded after what is now known as friendly fire. I made contact with Reg again just before Christmas 2001 after 45 years and found he had been suffering for some time with cancer. I have since found out that he was pleased to have had contact with the Regiment again and I am proud that I was able to put him in touch with his old pal Doug Cannon. The purpose of this letter is to try to put over to our members that there are still a lot of old friends out there who would love to know about the Association, you just have to look for them. I hope that you can find the room for this letter in the Newsletter.

Major John Rogerson writes:-

I was surprised and delighted at yesterday's Ladies Luncheon when David Dickins presented me with the two magnificent Lavlock paintings of our two 'pure' Regiments. The paintings will remind me of the seven and a half years spent as the Regiment's Association Secretary. Will you please pass on my appreciation for my most appropriate and treasured presentation.

Regimental Deaths

Allen - On 13th August 2002, James Terence Albert Allen MM (see obituaries).

Armstrong - On 2nd June 2002, John Armstrong who served with the East Surrey Regiment.

Best - On 19th May 2002, Lieutenant Peter Ernest Best who served with the East Surrey Regiment 1947-1948 including in Palestine.

Brooks - On 22nd September 2002, Corporal Roy "Ginger" Brooks who served with The East Surrey Regiment 1955-1957.

Brown - On 26th May 2002, Arthur Brown who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Dawes - On 24th April 2002, Sergeant Ron Dawes who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

Dunn - On 13th May 2002, Robert Henry Dunn who enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment in 1940 and subsequently transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment. His service prior to discharge in 1946 included North Africa, Italy, Egypt, Dalmatian Islands and Yugoslavia.

Hales - On 30th May 2002, Samuel Edward Hales.

Hill - On 25th May 2002, R Hill who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1954-57.

Horn - On 9th September 2002, Derek Albert Horn who served with The East Surrey Regiment 1951-53.

Ingall-Tombs (formerly Tombs) - On 26th June 2002, Corporal M A W Ingall-Tombs, who joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1959. Transferred to the regulars after national service and saw service in Aden, Hong Kong and BAOR prior to his discharge in 1966.

Johnson - On 21st September 2002, John Henry Johnson, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Leaper - On 22nd June 2002, Robert John Leaper, aged 81 years, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Enlisted in 1939, serving in France with the BEF, Iraq, North Africa, Italy, Sicily and Yugoslavia.

Legros - In Belgium, Mike Legros MBE, a driving force behind the Risquons-Tout Memorial and a long standing friend of the Association and the British Army.

Lewell - In May 2002, Sergeant Frank Robert Lewell who enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment and whose service prior to discharge in 1946 included France, Belgium and North Africa.

Lubbiter - On 26th September 2002, Sydney Reginald Cambrai Libbiter who enlisted into 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1939 and whose service prior to discharge in March 1946 included France, North Africa, Italy and Germany.

Lock - George Victor Lock, aged 82 years, who enlisted into 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1940

and whose service prior to discharge in June 1946 included North Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

Lucas - On 19th June 2002, James Sidney Lucas, aged 78 years, served Royal West Kent's, North Africa and 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1943-1946 Gothic Line to Venice.

Mans - On 16th October 2002, peacefully after a long illness, Major General R S N Mans CBE, late The Queen's Royal Regiment (see obituaries).

McGuinness - On 29th May 2002 after a long illness, Staff Sergeant Leslie John McGuinness who served with The East Surrey Regiment and latterly the Royal Signals.

Moth - On 2nd October 2002, aged 86 years, F V Moth who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Playford - On 20th July 2002, Sergeant John Playford who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1946.

Prestage - On 20th September 2002, Sydney Arthur John Prestage who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1932 - 1946.

Reilly - On 5th September 2002, after a long illness, William "Bugsy" Reilly, who served with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

Sanders - On 11th September 2002, Alan Greville Sanders DSO, (Sandy) aged 83 years, 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1940-1946. Awarded the DSO for action in command of his Company at the crossing of R. Savone, Italy, October 1943. Obituary in May 2003 Newsletter.

Saunders - On 4th July 2002, Sir John Anthony Holt Saunders CBE DSO MC (see obituaries).

Sayers - On 18th February 2002, aged 91 years, 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Guy Sayers died on 18th February 2002 at the age of 91 years, after a long illness. Ordained a Deacon in 1936 and a priest in 1937, his initial appointment was as Curate at St Peter's, Vauxhall. In 1941 he became a Chaplain to the Forces and in 1944 was posted to 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Italy. On his return to civilian life in 1946, he served as a Curate or Priest at Churches in Kilburn, Sheffield and Kettering before retiring in 1981, although he continued to officiate until 1993. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

MRN

Shepherd - On 14th September 2002, Frederick William Shepherd who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment December 1943 - June 1946. Lately a resident of The Royal Star and Garter Home.

Steel - On 25th June 2002, Stanley Frank Steel who enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939 and whose service included France, Belgium, India, Burma, Siam and Andaman Islands.

Taylor - On 30th September 2002, Corporal Cyril Taylor BEM who served with The East Surrey Regiment from 1937 to 1945.

Walker - On 6th May 2002, aged 81 years, Frederick Walker who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Webb - On 28th April 2002, Albert Joseph Webb who joined The East Surrey Regiment on call-up in 1945 and whose service prior to discharge in 1948 included Palestine.

Wyatt - On 2nd July 2002, aged 82 years, Peter W Wyatt who enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939 where he attained the rank of Lance Corporal prior to transfer to the RAOC where he achieved the rank of Warrant Officer 1. MID 1945.

Regimental Families

Brill - On 14th July 2002, Vera, beloved wife of Corporal R Brill BEM.

Isaacson - In May 2002, aged 103 years, Henrietta Mary Isaacson, beloved wife of the late Harry Isaacson who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1914-1918.

Obituaries

Major General R S N Mans CBE



General Rowley Mans was born on 16th January 1921 and educated at Surbiton Grammar School and RMC Sandhurst from where he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939. After a short spell at the Regimental

Depot and 13th Holding Bn he was posted to 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. From October 1940 to June 1945 he served with the King's African Rifles, with whom his active service included East Africa and Madagascar. He returned to join 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Palestine before going on to become the first adjutant of the reformed 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in March 1947.

From 1951 to 1953 he was BM of 39 Bde, both in UK and Egypt. From 1953 to 1955 he served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in BAOR and Malaya, before joining the staff of 17th Gurkha Div in Malaya. In 1957 he was appointed to command his Regimental Depot at Guildford and while there served on the Amalgamation Committee of The Queen's and The East Surreys.

He was an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, and then the Canadian Staff College, from 1959 to 1963, returning to Africa to take command of 1st Tanganyika Rifles later in 1963. After two further staff appointments, he became Deputy Commander South East District in 1969 on promotion to brigadier, relinquishing that

appointment to become Deputy Director of Personnel Services in the MOD in 1972.

Promoted major general in 1973 he became Director Military Assistance Office and held that post until his retirement in 1975. General Mans was awarded the MBE (operational) in 1956, the OBE in 1966, and the CBE in 1971.

General Rowley was President of The Regimental Association The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment from late 1973 until December 1977. Having been appointed Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment in October 1973, he was Colonel of The Queen's Regiment from 1st January 1978 until 31st December 1983. He was chairman of the Surrey Committee of the Army Benevolent Fund for several years as well as holding TAVR appointments. He also served on other Service charity and organisation boards. He devoted much time to the interests of former askaris, launching the Askari Appeal in 1998.

He married Veeo Sutton in 1945, and to her and their three sons we offer our sincere condolences.

(Tribute to Major General Mans will appear in the May 2003 Newsletter)

Sir John Saunders CBE, DSO, MC.

2/Lt John Saunders joined the 1st Battalion the East Surrey Regiment in Bournemouth in the summer of 1940. Several young officers joined there to replace the Dunkirk casualties. They were all very bright, and perhaps John was the brightest of them all. Always known as 'Jake' he was posted to B Company commanded by Major T.A. Buchanan. He was educated at Bromsgrove School and commissioned from the OCTU at Sandhurst where naturally he was awarded the Belt of Honour.

He had great personal charm, a good sense of humour and considerable all round ability. He spoke French fluently and this was very useful when B Company waded ashore in Algeria (Operation Torch 7th November 1942) and were quite lost. Our company objective did not even appear on our maps and air photographs. However we bumped into an Arab riding a donkey wandering round (he did not seem the least put out by being surrounded by about 100 very wet English Soldiers). This Arab understood Jake's French and kindly led us to our objective about three miles away.

He first saw action at Medjez-el-Bab but unfortunately went sick soon after and thus missed the severe fights around Tebourba (Dec 1942). Here his platoon was lost to the German Paratroops, but this may not have been so had he been present.

On 28th Feb 1943 when the paratroopers destroyed 'D' Company at Fort McGregor his newly formed platoon led the counter attack and re-occupied the position. Shortly

afterwards the Intelligence officer was wounded and Jake went off to Bn HQ as IO. A few weeks later the Adjutant, Harold Payne, was severely wounded and Jake became Adjutant, a post he was ideally suited for. He held this position throughout the Sicilian Campaign, and all up Italy including all the Cassino battles and the fighting around Lake Trasimino.

In October 1944 he was commanding 'A' Company for the attack on the Gothic Line. The fighting around Aqua Salata and Monte Spaduro was prolonged and difficult. He won his MC by flushing out some German machine gunners almost single handed during the final assault on Spaduro. Shortly before the end of the war he was posted to 2nd Bn The Lancashire Fusiliers and when the CO was wounded took command. He led with distinction and was awarded his DSO for his leadership around the Argenta Gap, leading to the Po Valley.

On leaving the army he returned to his pre-war profession with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. With his considerable ability he rose to the top as Chief Manager. Having spent most of the post-war years in the far east the regiment did not see much of him until his retirement. He was appointed CBE in 1970 and Knighted in 1972. In later years he occasionally came to our reunions but by this time there were very few around who knew him.

His wife Enid pre-deceased him but memories of her remain with us who remember the wedding in London in 1942.

A man of such great charm has to have ability as well to succeed in life, and Jake had both of these qualities in abundance.

The old regiment owes Jake a great deal, and our thoughts and sympathy are now with his two daughters and family.

RCT

Sergeant J T A Allen MM

6089893 Sgt 'Jimmy' Allen MM was born in Bermondsey, South London, on the 27th September 1921, and enlisted in the 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment (a Territorial Bn) at the age of 16 in 1937. At the outbreak of World War Two he was mobilised at the Braganza Street HQ and subsequently moved with the Queen's to the Dorset Training Area.

When the 1/7th embarked for France in April 1940 Jim was transferred to the 2/7th Queen's because of his age, but after Dunkirk he returned to his original battalion and served with distinction during the Desert Campaign from Alamein to Tunis, thence to Italy. After taking part in some very fierce fighting Jim returned to England with the 1/7th in December 1943.

The invasion of Normandy and subsequent actions in France, Belgium and Holland were all part of Jimmy's

Army life. His bravery and devotion to duty culminated at Heel in Holland, as, with his officers and several of the Platoon either killed or wounded, he led the remainder in a spirited dash to capture the Panheel Canal Lock, thus helping to clear the way for the 50th Division advance. For this magnificent effort he was awarded the Military Medal. His brave act was subsequently acknowledged by the good citizens of Heel and a plaque erected on the Canal Bridge by the Burgomaster at a ceremony in which Jim and some of his comrades took part. Jim returned with part of the battalion to England in January 1945 and took up the training of young soldiers with the same application to duty that had been present throughout his Army career. Sgt James Allen MM was demobbed in July 1946.

Several members of the family, together with a Bugler from the Regiment, a Standard Bearer from the Royal British Legion, Mr. Chris Clout from Heel and some of his former Comrades attended the funeral Service at the Holy Innocents Church, Orpington on 27th August 2002 and the subsequent interment at St. Luke's Cemetery, Bromley.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

JR

Major (QM) C W Litton

Charles, or Charlie Litton whose death was reported in the May Newsletter was a pre-war soldier in The Queen's Royal Regiment, who had a distinguished war time career. He enlisted in 1931 and after serving with the 2nd Battalion at Aldershot went out to the 1st Battalion in India, being with the Battalion at the time of the Quetta earthquake. Returning home in 1940 he became a WOII with the 2/7th Battalion where he was much admired and liked by all ranks and particularly for the care and enthusiasm he displayed when in January 1942 an intake of recruits direct from civilian life had to be absorbed and trained from scratch. Later in 1942 he became RQMS serving through that time in Iraq and on to Enfidaville. In Italy 1943 he was selected to be QM of 1/6th Battalion; with them he served through from Salerno, returning from Italy in December 1943, and on throughout the invasion of Normandy and the fighting in N W Europe until the Battalion's return again to England in December 1944. During this time with 1/6th Charles Litton became a highly respected member of the Battalion being promoted Captain (QM).

In 1946 with the reduction of the Regiment to peacetime numbers he decided to retire, returning to Guildford and working for the rest of his life as a local Government Officer. He lived in Guildford with his family for most of his life, before finally moving to Camberley and then to Taunton in his last years.

JWS



BOOK REVIEW

By Brigadier Professor Richard Holmes CBE TD
Colonel, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The Infantry Regiments of Surrey

by Lieutenant Colonel L M Wilson MBE and Lieutenant Colonel P T Crowley:
Colour Plates by Bryan Fosten

It is not often that I fall upon the review copy of a book with as much enthusiasm as was the case with this one. And, sadly, it is even rarer to find such eager anticipation justified by the contents. But *Infantry Regiments of Surrey* fully justified my high hopes. It is a meticulously researched and beautifully-illustrated history of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, and their descendants The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Regiment and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The authors, a retired lieutenant colonel quartermaster (military readers will know just how difficult it is to reach that rank) and a serving lieutenant colonel have approached what was evidently a labour of love with care and deliberation. They chart the history of the regiments so as to include both victories (the 31st Regiment's part in the dreadful killing match of Albuhera in 1811 is well documented) and defeats (the same regiment was part of the force which surrendered to the American rebels at Saratoga in 1777). They recognise that the life of a regiment is more than simply battle. A page is devoted to the sinking of the transport *Birkenhead* in 1852, when the troops aboard stood steady in rank and file to allow women and children to use the lifeboats. Another page examines recruiting in the 18th and 19th Centuries, another the effect of the Cardwell Reforms, and so on.

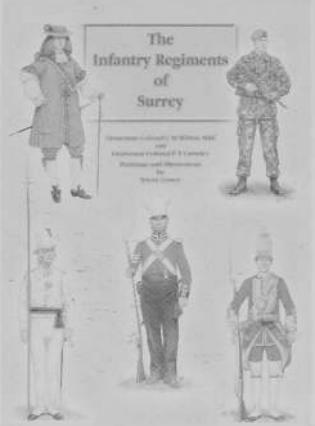
But what lifts this book above honest and workmanlike regimental history is the sheer quality of the illustrations. These are not simply numerous, and as well researched as the text, but they really do give us a feel for the figures they represent. There are soldiers here who are hot, cross and past their best, and Bryan Fosten has managed to combine regard for the accuracy of the uniforms he depicts with the ability to make his characters look like real soldiers, not figures from the top of a chocolate box. I commend this first rate book to anyone interested in Surrey and its military past, or in the British Army, to which the regiments of Surrey made such a proud and distinctive contribution for the best part of 350 years.

Richard Holmes

The book is available in hard back at £17.50 and softback at £12.50 for Association members from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, Guildford GU4 7RQ. All the profits will be donated to the museum in order to help their refurbishment and upgrading.

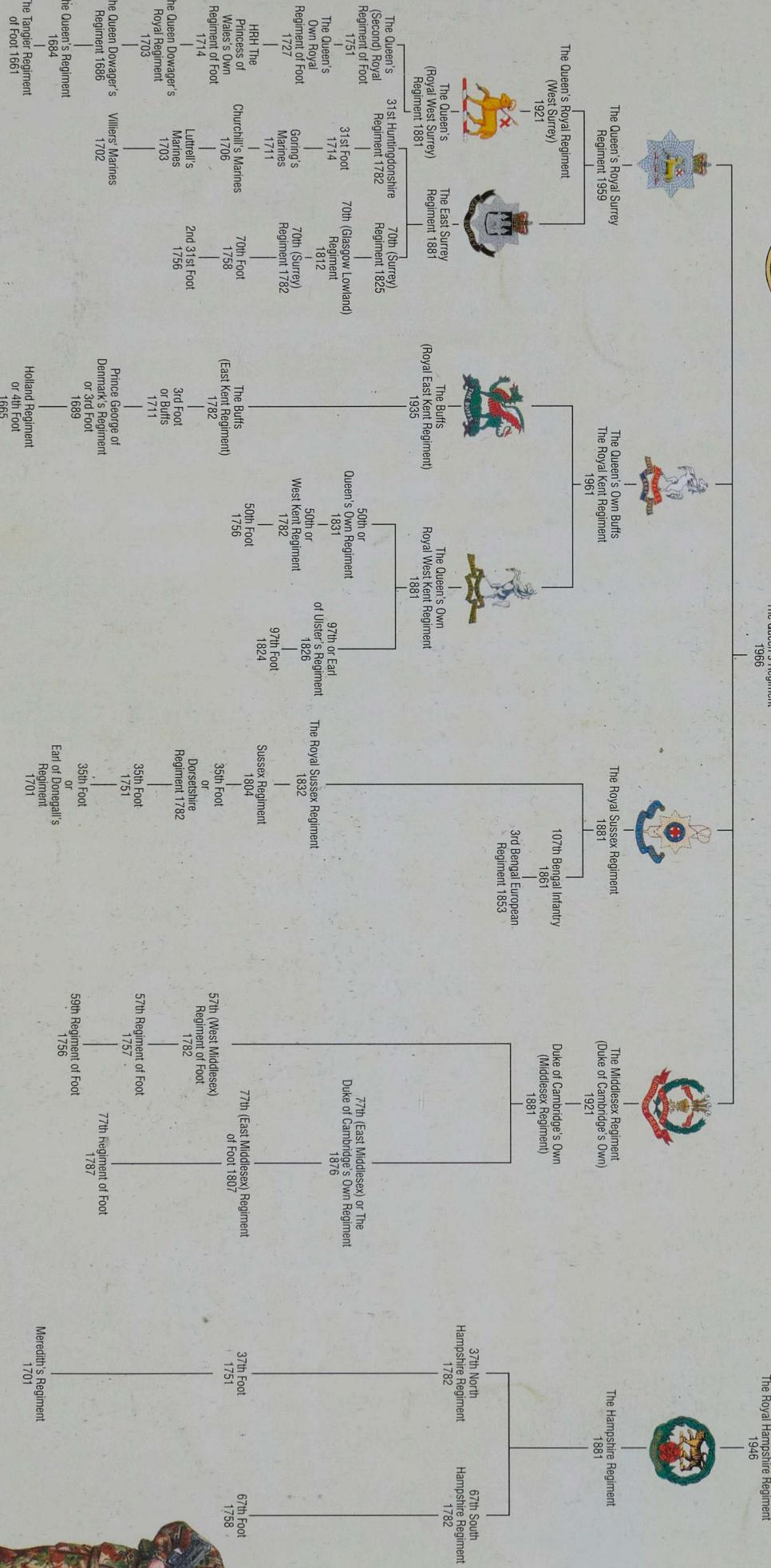
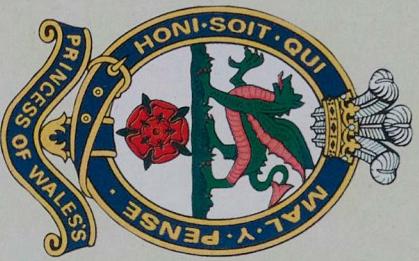
Branch Secretaries

5th Bn OMA-QRR:	I Chatfield Esq, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN	Tel: 01483 429425
6th Bn OCA-QRR:	J T Brown Esq, 6 Lawrence House, Millbank Estate, London SW1P 4ED	Tel: 0207 8210028
7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major J M A Tamplin MBE TD, 10 Hugh Street SW1V 1RP	Tel: 0207 8340120
2/6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M 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 SM5 3EF	Tel: 0208 4012070
WOs and Sgts Assoc:	P Henman Esq, 35 Downside Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5HR	Tel: 0208 6420585
Queen's Surreys 60/70 Assoc:	W L Soffe Esq, 19 Gale Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3QG	Tel: 0208 2603111
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



THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT
(QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)
100

1992



ENGLAND'S SENIOR INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE LINE
AND THE COUNTY REGIMENT OF SURREY, KENT, SUSSEX,
HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT, CHANNEL ISLANDS AND MIDDLESEX

Capt. Morgan's Company
Trained Bands of
London
1572

MAY 2003

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



President
Brigadier R. W. Acworth CBE

Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel F. B. Herd TD JP DL

Association Secretary and Editor
Major A. W. Russell MBE

Benevolence Secretary
Major J. C. Rogerson

Association correspondence to:

42 Lincoln Drive
Pyrford
Woking
Surrey GU22 8RR

Telephone/Fax: 01932 344150

NUMBER 73

NEWSLETTER





Forecast of Events

2003

15th June

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.

1st August

MINDEN DAY.

6th September

2/6th and 2/7th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA Combined Annual Reunion: details from Maj M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR.

9th September

SALERNO DAY - 60TH ANNIVERSARY.

14th September

Museum Open Day.

19th September

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity Trustees Meeting.

4th October

The East Surrey Regiment OCA Reunion. (1300-1900 hours).

6th October

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon (details with this Newsletter).

8th October

Golf Society Autumn Meeting, Woking Golf Club.

16th October

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Trustees Meeting.

25th October

5 Queen's OMA Reunion.

6th November

Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey, London.

7th November

Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club (details with this Newsletter).

9th November

Remembrance Day Parades - Guildford - Kingston - Hailes Church, Camberwell - Southwark, Bermondsey and the Cenotaph - London.

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941)

2004

6th March

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Territorial Trustees Meeting.

20th March

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Main Meeting, Charity Trustees Meeting and Officers' Club Meeting - Clandon.

6th May

Golf Society Spring Meeting, Sudbrook Park.

12th May

Golf v Royal Marines - Fleet.

13th June

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.

Frontispiece:

Officer of The East Surreys (Middle East 1943) and Private of The 1st East Surreys (Italy 1944) with the Divisional Signs of 7th Armoured Division, 78th Division and 56th (London) Division.

Back Cover:

The new website www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk



Editorial

The Newsletter seeks to be both a historical document and a vehicle to inform you all of the Association, Branch and other activities. Sadly this edition is no exception in recording the loss of a number of former comrades and members of the regimental family; we offer our sincere condolences to their loved ones. Articles also record the remembrance of those who made the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle. Later on this year will see events to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the start of the campaign in Italy.

In a happier vein, through word and picture this edition gives an insight into the many social and other activities of the Association and Branches, as well as recent commemorative events. I am most grateful to those who submitted articles and photographs. The Association's important ongoing benevolent effort, administered on our behalf by RHQ PWRR, is also reflected.

As noted by the Association President and Museum Chairman, the refurbished museum has been warmly received. It has recently benefited from the very generous presentation of the medals of Lieutenant Colonel Bushell VC DSO. If you have not already done so, why not pay your museum a visit; entrance is free. For those unable to go in person the new website - www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk - can provide a "virtual" display of key items in the collection, along with much other information.

With all good wishes

Tony Russell

President's Notes

After some years of uncertainty the refurbished museum is now well established and a credit to the Regiment. In the coming year or two we hope to reach an agreement on the long term future of the museum with the National Trust.

Although the total funds available to the Regimental Charity are less than forecast in Brigadier Doyle's report on the future of the Association this will not affect our priority task of providing financial assistance to those of our members in need. Nevertheless the Trustees continue to hope for a recovery in the stock market to enhance our capital base.

Sadly we have to record the death of Brigadier Charles Millman who will be missed by many and particularly by the 6th (Bermondsey) Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association of which he was President.

The branch secretaries had their annual meeting with the Trustees in March and it is very encouraging to see how active our branches are. The Association annual church

service in the Cathedral was well attended last year and I hope will continue to be. The Annual reunion at the Union Jack Club continues to be oversubscribed and is always an excellent time for walking down memory lane.

With my best wishes

Bob Acworth

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment



Since the last edition much has happened on the world stage, with the war in Iraq fought and won. The PWRR was not deployed to Iraq as a battalion, however it had approximately 50 All Ranks in the war zone and another 40 All Ranks in Afghanistan. The muddle and the confusion surrounding the firemen's strike never went away with 19,000 service personnel still on standby during the war. As we write this muddle still continues.

The 1st Battalion continues its Armoured Warrior role in Tidworth. It will in the near future form part of a brigade as the follow-on force for Iraq. Training must now take priority after the firemen's strike deployment had completely changed any proposed training programmes (e.g. an exercise that took over a year to plan was cancelled at 48 hours notice due to the firemen's strike!). The Battalion goes to Canada in August/September 2003 to carry out the all important live firing exercises required to fine tune their tactics ready for Iraq.

If Op Fresco (firemen's strike) continues the Battalion will once again take over responsibility for the South London Area providing 250 troops with a further 250 troops committed and deployed to Northern Ireland. They will man the Green Goddesses. The Battalion is in fine form, recruited to over establishment and looking forward to the next few months.

The 2nd Battalion has now settled into life at the new barracks at Ternhill (Shropshire). Their exercise to Kenya that was due to take place in January and February 2003 was cancelled at short notice due to the looming war in Iraq and the firemen's strike not being resolved. They will proceed on a 6 months tour to Northern Ireland in June 2003. They are now concentrating on specialist training for the Province at Lydd Ranges. The Colonel in Chief is due to visit them on 16 May (Albuhera Day) at Lydd.

The 3rd Battalion is now under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Tony Guthrie. The previous CO - Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Crowley - is now ensconced as a DS at Shrivenham having had a very successful tour. The Battalion have provided the main element (approximately 40 All Ranks) of a Composite (TA) Rifle Company for deployment to Afghanistan. This will be an exciting deployment and will commence in June 2003

for six months. The Battalion also provided 8 members for compulsory call out for the recent war in Iraq and also 5 ORs who are deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo and Cyprus, all in support of the Regular Army. In addition the Battalion is forming the Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF) with the HQ based in Canterbury. This force would be used in the event of a terrorist problem or natural major disaster. Annual Camp 2003 will be in Sennybridge.

B Company The London Regiment recently had a good Annual Camp in Sennelager. They also have provided 3 ORs for deployment to Afghanistan and had a couple who were subject to compulsory reservist call up for Iraq. Annual Camp 2003 will be at Dartmoor.

C Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers provides the highest percentage of soldiers for Full Time Reserve Service (those volunteering for a fixed term of deployment with the Regular Army) from the Battalion. They have 5 for Afghanistan, 2 for Iraq and more for Cyprus and Kosovo. Annual Camp last year was in the Ukraine and in 2003 it will be in Lithuania.

As can be seen there is a strong reliance on the part time soldier to support the Regular Army operations. This is excellent and well carried out by our volunteer soldiers.

In summary The Regiment is in fine form and once the firemen's strike can be resolved life should get back to the correct level of training and operations.

Benevolence

During 2002 a total of 163 cases were investigated and 131 individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped to provide 19 further electrically powered vehicles and contributed to 5 convalescent holidays. During this last year we have also assisted members who are cared for by the Ex Services Mental Welfare Society, War Pensions Agency, Combat Stress and the Ex Services Fellowship Centres.

The Regimental Charity paid out £36,435 as individual grants-in-aid during 2002. Of the 32 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted 15 after we had contacted them. Ten cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility or rent rebate. Twenty four Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) Annuities were administered and the ABF generously contributed £50 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 6 Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £624 from the ABF and £154 from the Association per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. We have one resident in Gifford House. The ABF total grants in support, which are in addition to the monies paid by the Regimental Charity, were £18,144.

The benevolence effort continues and between 1 January 2003 and 7 May 2003 the Regimental Charity made individual grants-in-aid totalling £11,874.

We are extremely grateful to Major John Rogerson at RHQ PWRR for his unstinting benevolence work on behalf of the Association. Thanks are also due to the ABF 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 we are particularly grateful to their caseworkers for all their assistance.

Appended below are extracts from a selection of letters of appreciation received since the last Newsletter.

o o o

I am writing with heartfelt thanks for helping with funds for me to get an alarm installed in my home after the burglars broke in. At last I feel I am safe again now. I have lived here for 48 years and had always felt safe before. Thanks to your kindness I really appreciate the security it has given me; I will never forget it. Kindest regards and thanks to all.

o o o

I have just had a visit from the Welfare Secretary Heathfield Branch British Legion, to inform me that you have kindly sent him a cheque for £200 to help me with my gas bills which I thank you very much for. Your help over the past years have been such a great help to me - and a great burden off my shoulders. I do not have the best of health at the moment and the doctor has told me that I must keep the flat warm on cold days. I was worried about this as I did not know how I was going to afford it, but with your kind help I feel much happier about it. Would you please convey my thanks to all concerned for your kindness and help.

o o o

I would like to express my grateful thanks to you for the assistance you have given me. I would also be grateful if you would, on my behalf, pass on my sincere appreciation to the other organisations concerned. With these contributions I am hoping to be able to proceed with the purchase and installation of a stair lift. This will greatly improve my quality of life and allow me to maintain my independence. Once again, many thanks to all of you.

o o o

I am writing to thank you for the generous donation of £500 to help me to repay the cost of the new gas boiler which I had purchased on a three year agreement just prior to my husband's death.

o o o

Thank you so very much for your very kind and generous help for me. I am now 83 years old but I am sure my late husband (he died 6 1/2 years ago) would be so thankful to know how the fund has helped me in my old age. Once again I thank you and all concerned.

o o o

Last week I got a big surprise and received a £25 voucher from the Regiment. I just wanted to say thank you, and as I am 80 and living on pension and no savings, I shall enjoy the voucher.

o o o

Many thanks for the Christmas card and especially the voucher. This will enable me to buy a surprise gift for my wife.

o o o

I would like to express my gratitude for the grant you have given me via SSAFA to enable me to replace my old solid fuel boiler for a new gas one - this will be an enormous help to me. I am sincerely grateful to you.

o o o

I wish to express my gratitude to the Regimental Association and Benevolent Fund for the cheque of £400 towards my advance payment for a mobility car. Also to thank you for the newsletter.

o o o

I have just heard that it has been decided for me to receive further Benevolence assistance in 2003, which I am very pleased and happy to accept. I thank you for the kindness that comes with this gift.

o o o

My husband and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for the generous donation which you made to the Royal British Legion toward a shower room on our behalf. I am glad to tell you the work is now completed and we are more than satisfied with it, so once again a big thank you. God bless.

o o o

I am writing to express my very sincere thanks to you and the Regimental Association for the lovely holiday they provided for me at Herne Bay. It was great there, excellent staff, food and comfort. I thank you all once again.

o o o

A Royal British Legion Field Officer writes: I have just received a cheque for £500 towards household expenses for Mrs A. 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? As year follows year, I continue to be impressed with your Association's swift and kind response to a call for help from the family of an ex-member of the Regiment. It will give me great pleasure to keep you in touch with Private A's widow for as long as you wish me to do so.

o o o

A Royal British Legion Field Officer writes: Thank you very much for your cheque in the sum of £200 to cover 50% of Mr B's gas bills. I can confirm that I will administer the funds as in the past. This is indeed very generous and I know that Mr B will be over the moon when I see him tomorrow. Thank you also for the Newsletter which will enable Mr B to keep up to date with his old Regiment. Once again thank you for your very prompt response.

o o o

THE WAR PENSIONERS' WELFARE SERVICE

The War Pensioners' Welfare Service (WPWS) exists to provide advice, guidance and practical help to War Disablement Pensioners, War Widows and War Widowers. You are entitled to help if you are currently receiving a pension or if at any time in the past you have received a gratuity for war disablement. WPWS also provide help to people who are in the process of claiming a War Disablement, War Widow's, or War Widower's pension.

WPWS will try to help with any kind of welfare problem. It does not have to be directly linked to your war disablement or your service in H.M. Forces.

Each area of the country is covered by a WPWS Welfare Manager who is responsible for providing help to all war pensioners, war widows and war widowers in the locality. Every Manager is assisted by support staff as well as a network of volunteer visitors. They also work closely with all the main ex-service organisations and, through them, can provide a wide range of advice and help.

Details below give a general idea of the type of help WPWS can give. However, if you have needs which are not covered they can still be contacted and, if unable to help directly, will do their best to put you in touch with someone who can.

Help claiming a war pension

WPWS can give expert advice on all aspects of entitlement to war pensions. If necessary, they will visit you in your own home and can help you to fill in a claim or appeal form. All their welfare offices are linked to

the main war pensions computer system so can provide speedy answers to any queries about your claim.

Financial assistance and employment difficulties

WPWS can provide advice on budgeting and money management and help you to check that you are receiving all the state benefits to which you are entitled. WPWS are also in touch with a wide range of ex-service charities providing financial or other support and may be able to identify any that could help you.

If you are of working age and find disability is preventing you from getting work or keeping your existing job WPWS may be able to help. They can work with organisations specialising in these kinds of problems to see what help is available for employment or re-training.

Disability needs

If you need items such as stair lifts, bathroom adaptations and personal alarm systems WPWS can help you to obtain these from your local Social Services Department. WPWS also link with ex-service organisations to get assistance for the purchase of wheelchairs and scooters. There are many specialist ex-service organisations which provide help with particular disabilities and WPWS can put you in touch with them and other local support groups.

Residential and nursing care

If a War Pensioner, War Widow or War Widower needs residential or nursing care WPWS can advise on ways of finding a suitable home or discuss alternative support available. WPWS will also be able to give advice on what financial help may be available with the cost of care needs. WPWS can also advise on respite care for family members.

Social contacts and everyday help

Loneliness is often the most difficult problem that can face someone if they have difficulty getting out and about. WPWS can usually arrange visits from one of their volunteers. These visitors are normally from the local area and may have knowledge of local services you might be interested in. They would work together to try and help with any problems isolation or disability may cause.

How to Contact WPWS

You should be able to find the local War Pensioners' Welfare Office in the telephone directory under "War Pensions Agency" or "Veterans Agency". Opening times for telephone calls are: Monday-Thursday 08:30 - 16:30. Friday 08:30 - 16:00.

Alternatively you can telephone the Veterans Agency Helpline who can provide the telephone number of your local welfare office or take details and arrange for a

member of the welfare staff to contact you. The Helpline number is: Free Phone (UK only) 0800 1692277. E-mail: help@veteransagency.mod.uk

There is also a website at
<http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk>

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Donations

The Trustees wish to thank all those who have generously sent donations to our charitable funds.

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At the Main Committee Meeting in March 2003 Branch Secretaries requested that the Newsletter include a reminder that legacies could be left to the Association Charity and the Museum Charity. Anyone contemplating such a generous act may wish to note that the Association Charity, the Museum, and the Territorial Charity are separate and distinct charitable organisations.

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Our thanks are due again to Major J L A Fowler TD for generously supplying the paper for the Newsletter.

ooo

Congratulations and Best Wishes



Congratulations to:-

Brian and Sheila Spear who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 15th December 2002.

Birthday congratulations to:-

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Taylor who celebrated his 90th birthday on 25th January 2003.

Stan Blay who celebrated his 80th birthday on 19th December 2002.

Ted Jephcote who celebrated his 80th birthday on 28th January 2003

PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



Readers who may be able to assist with information about the following are asked to contact the Editor who will pass details on to the interested parties.

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Les Carter seeks information about his late father, known as Charlie or Nick Carter, who served in the 1st Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment (B Company) and died in Burma in April 1944.

ooo

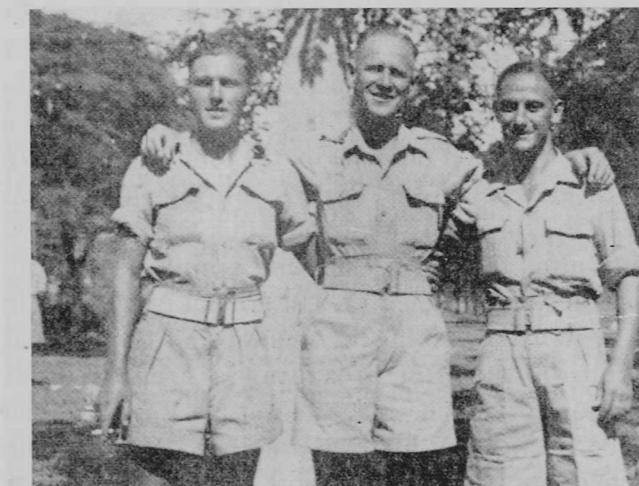
Doctor Elizabeth Kaegi would like to contact anyone who remembers her late mother, Sister Ivy Pritchard, who was a nursing sister with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in India and Burma, 1943-1946. She is believed to have served in Poona, India and then in a series of casualty clearing stations in Panitola, Kohima, Meiktila and Magwe.

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Peter Moore would like to trace any relatives of Major N T Lennan MC or Brigadier Alan Block, both Queen's Royal Regiment, who he knew in Italy and Greece through the latter stages of the Second World War.

ooo

Mrs D Boyland would like to hear from anyone who remembers her late husband Gunner N G Boyland who was originally enlisted into the Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1939.



Left to right:- Nobby Hodge, Sid Fossett (?) and Gunner Boyland

ooo

Barbara Smith would like to identify the individuals in the picture of the 'long and the short' below. There is no indication of when it was taken but there is a possibility that the individual at left rear could be her late father Private David Thomas Smith.



ooo

Marjo Janssen-Huijskens (from Holland) is trying on behalf of the Petit family who live on a farm at Horsterweg in Stramproy to get in contact with any of the soldiers from the Queen's Royal Regiment who were billeted with the family at Christmas 1944. One soldier was believed to have a sister named Barbara, and left a small purse containing a relic and two medals with the family.

ooo



Can anyone help identify the above officer?

ooo

Museum Notes

These notes are always written a month or so before you read them (even if the Editor's deadline is pushed to the limit!), so this edition picks up the story from last October, just before the end of the 2002 Clandon Park season. The first season for the Museum since the refurbishment went well; a good number of visitors, and a good many nice comments on the new displays (the odd grumble too, of course, from those who could not find an old favourite). Operationally, the winter period has seemed something like normal after the last two hectic years, with the usual round of cleaning and conservation work, and a pretty constant stream of research enquiries. Small improvements to the displays have continued, and we could, perhaps, start a "spot the difference" competition for the 2003 season! The new season in fact started on 1st April, and has been going well.

The Museum only functions because of the people who work for it and support it, and this has been an area of change during the last six months. Penny James retired at the end of the 2002 season after serving the Museum outstandingly for many years as our Curator, and playing a key role in the refurbishment project. The Trustees gave a small party for her after their October meeting, which managed to be a complete surprise for Penny. There we thanked her and wished her well for the future, and gave her a Regimental Brooch as a token of esteem. The search for a replacement for Penny is continuing. Many people probably do not know that this post is a Ministry of Defence employment; part of the valuable assistance that MoD gives recognised military museums. As a consequence, though, we have to follow Civil Service recruitment procedures, which are proving somewhat difficult and long-winded.

Penny's other role was as Secretary to the Museum Trustees, and we have been delighted to welcome Major Tony Russell as he has taken that on, particularly as he has rather been thrown in at the deep end.

All the changes have meant that Roy Harding has had a tough winter keeping the Museum clean and shipshape, shop operating, and enquiries dealt with. Good news has, however, come in the form of Samantha Higgs, whom the National Trust kindly seconded to the Museum to assist Roy during the winter, and who is now staffing the Museum during opening hours until a new permanent appointment is made. Samantha is highly qualified in museum work and a very welcome member of our team.

Behind the front line, we have been delighted to welcome Colonel Nicholas Davies as a new member of the Museum Management Committee; he brings a wealth of experience to us. We were also very pleased that the re-organisation of duties at RHQ at Canterbury permitted Major John Rogerson to continue as the PWWR nominated Museum Trustee.

The Museum Trustees have taken the process of planning for the longer-term future - 2010 and beyond - forward another step. The definite aim is now to keep a Regimental Exhibition at Clandon Park for the foreseeable future, which will mean reaching agreement with the National Trust over what will follow when the present Museum Lease comes to an end in 2011. Very likely the form of the Museum will have to change somewhat, and most probably our documentary archives will need to be passed to a more specialised organisation capable of conserving them and giving public access in perpetuity. Practical work to bring these things about is now starting, and progress will be reported in future Newsletters.



Penny James leaves her retirement party

Of more immediate importance, the Trustees agreed in March to commission a new Museum Website to replace the old one rendered obsolete by the refurbishment. We are most grateful to the Queen's Surreys Territorial Trustees for financial support for this work. The new website aims to go well beyond simply providing publicity for the Museum (it will do that of course); in effect it will become a Regimental and Regimental Association website, providing a great deal of information for anyone interested in the Regiment and its place in military history, whether they visit the Museum or not. The technical work is being done by our contractor David Swan Design, and the editorial content is being masterminded by Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson. With a little good fortune, by the time you read

this the website should be up and running on www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk (Editor's note: the Website is active and example pages form the back cover of the Newsletter).

The other thing that the Museum Trustees want to do is to set up a "Friends of the Queen's Surreys Museum" group to help to bring together better all who are interested in our Museum and its future, and to provide moral (and some tangible) support for the staff and volunteers in the front line. To get a "Friends" organisation off the ground, we need a volunteer to act as Secretary - not an enormous job, and the Museum's administration would be behind you. If you think this might be interesting (it would certainly be worthwhile), please contact any Museum Trustee or Staff member, strictly without obligation!

We hope to see many members of the Regiment at Clandon, friends old and new, during the 2003 season. The Open Day for members of the Regimental Association will be on Sunday 14th September, when all will be particularly welcome to see what we are up to and get together with mates and comrades.

Adrian Birtles

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Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell VC DSO - Presentation of Medals



The outstanding bravery and inspired leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell VC DSO was remembered during a reception and ceremony on Sunday 27th April 2003 to mark the gifting of his medals to the Regimental Museum. The ceremony was attended by all 17 surviving direct descendants as well as by other family members, and by representatives of the Regimental Association and of the Museum.

Lieutenant Colonel Bushell's VC had previously been presented to the Museum in the Autumn of 2002. The family subsequently agreed to give all the remaining medals to the Museum so that it would be possible to display the complete set of medals awarded to one of the Regiment's heroes. Andrew Maclehole, the eldest grandson, led the family party, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to be present. They were welcomed by the Association President and the medals were gratefully accepted on behalf of the Museum by Captain Adrian Birtles.

Christopher Bushell was born at Neston, Cheshire on 31st October 1888. After attending Rugby and graduating from Oxford University he was called to the

Bar of the Inner Temple in 1912, the year in which he joined the Special Reserve of Officers as a second lieutenant with The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment. In 1914 he went to France with the 1st Battalion as part of the original BEF, took part in the retreat from Mons, and was severely wounded in September 1914 during the Battle of the Aisne.

In August 1915 he married Rachel Lambert and in June 1916 the couple had a daughter, Elizabeth Hope, who subsequently became Mrs Maclehole. Bushell had returned to France in November 1915 and served in staff appointments before joining 7th Queens with whom he served as Company Commander, Second-in-Command and finally as CO. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches and in January 1918 he was awarded the DSO. On 3rd May 1918 the award of the VC for his actions in March 1918 was gazetted.

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell was killed in action on 8th August 1918, the first day of the Battle of Amiens, whilst in command of 7th Queen's. He was buried in Querrieu British Cemetery.

Lieutenant Colonel Bushell's citation reads:-

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in command of his battalion. Lieut-Colonel Bushell personally led 'C' Company of his battalion, who were co-operating with an Allied Regiment in a counter-attack, in face of very heavy machine-gun fire. In the course of this attack he was severely wounded in the head, but he continued to carry on, walking in front of both English and Allied troops, encouraging and re-organising them. He refused even to have his wound attended to until he had placed the whole line in a sound position and formed a defensive flank to meet a turning movement by the enemy. He then went to Brigade Headquarters and reported the situation, had his wound dressed and returned to the firing line, which had come back a short distance. He visited every portion of the line, both English and Allied, in face of terrific machine-gun and rifle fire, exhorting the troops to remain where they were and to kill the enemy. In spite of the wounds, this gallant officer refused to go to the rear, and eventually had to be removed to the dressing station in a fainting condition. To the magnificent example of energy, devotion and courage shown by their Commanding Officer is attributed the fine spirit displayed and the keen fight put up by his battalion, not only on the day in question, but on each succeeding day of the withdrawal".

Date of Act of Bravery
22nd March 1918
St Quentin

London Gazette
3rd May 1918

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Remembrance of Corporal John McNamara VC



John McNamara won the Victoria Cross on 3rd September 1918 North-West of Lens, France while serving with The 9th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. Sadly he was killed in action near Solesmes, France on 16th October 1918 and never knew that he had been awarded the nation's highest award for gallantry.

His widow received his Victoria Cross from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 27th February 1920. The medal is now in possession of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment museum.

Corporal McNamara is buried in Romeries Communal Cemetery, France. In recent years his grave has been visited by teachers, parents and pupils from Brownedge St Mary's Roman Catholic High School, Bamber Bridge, the successor school to that attended by Corporal McNamara. Corporal McNamara's home town has been subject to much redevelopment and a memorial plaque has been installed at a point roughly equidistant from the site of the house where he was born, the house where he lived and the mill where he worked.



Pupils and staff from Brownedge St Mary's Roman Catholic High School joined local dignitaries, former servicemen and friends of the school on Remembrance Day 2002 at the local memorial to Cpl John McNamara VC for a ceremony of readings and prayers, and to observe the two-minute silence. More than 40 took part.



Corporal McNamara's Citation reads:-

"For conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. When operating a telephone in evacuated enemy trenches occupied by his battalion, Corporal McNamara realised that a determined enemy counter-attack was gaining ground. Rushing to join the nearest post, he made the most effective use of a revolver taken from a wounded officer. Then seizing a Lewis gun, continued to fire it till it jammed. By this time he was alone in the post. Having destroyed his telephone he joined the nearest post and again displayed great courage and initiative in maintaining Lewis-gun fire until reinforcements arrived."

"It was undoubtedly due to the magnificent courage and determination of Private McNamara that the other posts were enabled to hold on and his fine example of devotion to duty is worthy of the highest praise".

Date of Act of Bravery
3rd September 1918
Lens

London Gazette
15th November 1918

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RSM Tommy Atkins on behalf of the Association presents a copy of *The Infantry Regiments of Surrey* to Tim Ward the curator of the Prince Consorts Library, Aldershot.

A Town Too Far

Having joined East Surrey Regiment at the age of 17 in May 1940, the late George Thornton was posted to North Africa with the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment in the autumn of 1942. As the spearhead of the 1st Army, the 11th Infantry Brigade, of which he was part, headed towards Tunisia. He recalled that:

Just before sunset we were ordered to get down to our transport and get our blankets. As we all started to go back up our hill, 186, a shout came, "tanks are coming". We thought it might be our Blade Force of a hundred tanks, Valentine and Crusader, but it was not. It was Jerry's heavy tanks, 88 mm guns, and all hell broke loose. They destroyed our transport and then came after us. We had never run so fast in our lives and, going up hill, this was where our training came in. They got to the bottom of the hill and couldn't climb it or elevate their guns to shoot at us, thank goodness. There were six tanks that came round where we were, two of which came to sort us out, the other four went looking for more targets along the road. We found out later that another 14 tanks came from the other end of the village. We heard that our artillery, 25 pounders, knocked 14 out at close range and another six were knocked out by an anti-tank unit. We found them along the road on Monday morning, all burnt out, when we went on patrol.

From then onwards, the barrage never stopped for several days. Dive-bombed, mortared, infantry attacks - it only stopped when it got too dark. To make matters worse, we discovered the Arabs were spying on our positions in the pay of the Germans, and Jerry was also spying on us dressed in Arab clothing.

Jerry knew where every position was, like gun emplacements; in fact, every single thing we had around Tebourba. To make matters even worse, everywhere we patrolled we were sniped at; even their fighters came so low they could see everything. We saw nothing of our Spitfires; we were so far forward they did not have enough range in their tanks to reach us. There were several battles between our tanks and Jerry's, but with their 88 mm guns they just blew ours to pieces from a long range. We lost over two-thirds. They also had three divisions of infantry as opposed to our one Brigade in this area, 1st Bn North Hants, 1st Bn East Surrey Regt, 1st Bn Hampshire, but we fought like tigers in a trap. It got to a point after several more days of onslaught when we were ordered to retire slowly back the way we had come, but on foot covering each other. Each battalion lost at least two-thirds of their troops, either killed, wounded or were missing, with Jerry firing at us all the time through the olive groves. Eventually at nightfall, hundreds of us moved out of the other side of Tebourba. But in the dark it was useless trying to keep together and many split up wandering all over the place. A colleague, Frank Thornton, and I met each other in the half light of dawn and kept walking, eventually arriving at some

thick woods about ten miles from Tebourba. It was either Beja or Medjez el Bab, where there were hundreds of our men from all sorts of back-up troops.

Our men were offered welcome cups of tea from troops already there, and we settled down as best we could to await orders for trucks to come and pick us up, but it was not to be. After a short time, a 15 cwt truck and an officer pulled in from the opposite direction on the edge of the woods and started to off-load their trucks. You might not believe what I am about to tell you, but it is something that I shall never forget.



They were Coldstream or Grenadier Guardsmen and they unloaded a wicker table, white tablecloth, white mugs and plates, silver cutlery and wicker chairs. They had spit and polish boots and the officers had shining pips. It would seem they were going to have breakfast, with Jerry just a few miles away. I approached the officer, saluted, and said, "I hope you realise where we are Sir, Jerry is just up the road and all this lot will show up from the sky and the road like a sore thumb. May I suggest you put them back in the trucks and prepare for trouble". He looked at me contemptuously and said "... off, I am in charge of this detachment". I replied, "on your head be it, you are wasting a lot of lives by doing this", but he would not listen to reason. They had not been long in Africa, a few days, docked at Blida harbour and were the head of their troops.

We all knew what to do and quickly dug slit trenches and got close to them in readiness. A little later, two Jerry fighters appeared. One went to one end of the woods whilst the other started from our sector and just flew from one end to the other and turned away. We heard that they had radioed back to the airfield at Tebourba, so we got in the trenches and stayed still. Within minutes, two Stuka dive bombers flew over, went to the other end, came back one after the other and dropped bombs right where the Guards were at the end of the woods. The trucks exploded, it was like an inferno. As the Stukas flew off, we approached the area; quite a lot were dead and dying and some severely wounded. Medics tried to have a look at them, but the heat was tremendous.

We all knew what the outcome of this would mean; very soon lorry loads of German troops would be arriving. Most of us took the right decision and went out the other end of the woods to go further back to be picked up. To our surprise, there was a French artillery battery facing the woods and just behind were two or three heavy German tanks straddled across the road and area alongside. I approached the French unit and spoke to the officer and said "La Boche tanks ici" and pointed behind them. He said "C'est la guerre" - in other words, he could not care less about the war and the Boche.

We all started to move away as quickly as possible before they opened fire and luckily there were some hills quite close. We went to the other side of them. Eventually, we reached a town called Souk el Arba right on the borders of Tunisia and Algeria (Tunisia is much smaller than Algeria). We were picked up after two days and nights, having been bombed on the first night by Jerry. We got back to our lines after about four days.

I went on to serve in quite a lot more places in Tunisia, before being severely wounded at Longstop Hill just before Easter 1943.

(printed by kind permission of "Wartime News").

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Victory at El Alamein by Derrick Watson



Lieutenant Watson, 1943

The 44th London Division, which contained the Queen's Brigade, was briefed in the inimitable style to stage a major diversion in the south.

So we set off one evening, two battalions, two companies up in line abreast across a thousand yards of minefields led by an officer, Captain Capper, on a compass bearing and Lieutenant Colonel East using a stick as a result of a First World War wound.

We were to advance behind a barrage of a thousand guns. There were casualties in the platoon on my right from one of our guns firing short or possibly from the enemy replying. I can still remember the shriek from Private Mansell when a booby trap on the barbed wire literally blew him to pieces.

Eventually our leading platoon and the 1st/6th Queen's on our left arrived in the middle of the Italian positions and some twenty to thirty Italians cheerfully gave themselves up and remained with us for the next 24 hours withdrawing with us at the end of that time.

German paratroopers took over and proceeded to inflict heavy casualties on us, using mortars and machine guns firing on fixed lines from entrenched positions. I remember young O'Connell, both legs severed by a mortar bomb, screaming for help and then for his mother before he mercifully died. Captain Capper who led the advance was hit and disappeared from sight - calling out deliriously at intervals during the day before he too fell quiet.

When the barrage stopped, the advance stopped. We had reached our objectives and were in close contact with the enemy. After a period of confusion in the darkness, we vainly attempted to regroup and advance further. I found myself sharing a slit trench with Sergeant Parkin in response to a shouted command to "dig in". We occupied that slit trench for the next twelve hours and once daylight came it was dangerous to lift your head and suicide to stand up. We had biscuits, bully and water in our bottles.

Fortunately, the sergeant and I found ourselves in a slight dip which meant we were safe from the enemy machine gun fire that continued throughout the day. For some reason, the mortar fire which had caused such casualties earlier did not recur, possibly because we were too close to the enemy lines or possibly because they had run out of ammunition. The only communication was by shouting from one trench to another. An officer runner, Lieutenant Opperman, was sent back before first light to ask for tanks to come forward in support and he was awarded an MC for performing this hazardous task.

As dusk approached, those forward of us who were in a position to observe the enemy reported they were gathering in force for an attack. The plans for a rearguard action were overtaken by a sudden rush of Italians, so we got up and ran. I still chuckle at the thought that not only did our prisoners run with us, but a few of the attackers joined us as well. I could not at the time recall crossing the thousand yards of minefields again or two considerable wire fences, but can still see the welcome line of our tanks who started up and opened fire as we approached.

Next day, the Folgore Division discovered that the Germans had taken all their transport so they had no option but to lay down their arms and cheerfully become prisoners of war. I think I was more frightened after the battle than I was before or during. During the advance I was keyed up to meet the physical demands made on me and once in the slit trench, the dynamism of the advance having been lost, I had rather a dumb acceptance like a cow in a slaughterhouse.

El Alamein - 23rd October 1942 - 60 Years On

"At 2140hrs. the barrage started on the whole front. It was the most powerful since the great artillery battles of the 1914 war, employing over a thousand guns." That is how the Regimental history records the start of the Battle of El Alamein, the battle which proved to be one of the significant changes in the Allies fortunes of the Second World War. In the words of Winston Churchill: "Before Alamein we never had a victory; after Alamein we never had a defeat." Now sixty years later, on a typical English autumnal day, we were gathering at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the battle and those who fought and fell there.

The congregation of veterans from all over the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, their families and friends were ushered to their places by Officers and Warrant Officers of the Guards Regiments, resplendent in their scarlet tunics, to the accompaniment of music played by the Band of the Royal Artillery, to await the arrival of the Royal Party which included The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; The Princess Royal; The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester; The Duke of Kent and The Princess Alexandra.



L to r:- Sid Bowbrick, Bill Morris, Doug Mitchell, Ken Honeyman, Noel Matthews

The opening fanfare was played by State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry. When the Royal Party had taken their places, the Union Flag and National Standard of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association followed by Branch Standards and Regimental Association Standards, which included our own Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Standard, carried by Mick Etherington, were processed through the Abbey and placed in the Sacraeum.

The Service conducted by The Very Reverend Dr. Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster began with Sir Donald Sinden, CBE, FRSA, reading the poem "El Alamein" written by Captain John Jarman of the 51st Highland Division. The hymns and psalms which followed were well known to most, and the passages from the Scriptures were read by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, CMG, CBE, and Dr. Manfred Rommel. The



L to r:- Noel Matthews, Sid Bowbrick, Bill Morris, Margaret Mitchell, Sir Donald Sinden, Dorothy Matthews, Margaret Bowbrick, Ken Honeyman

Address was given by The Very Reverend James Harkness, CB, OBE, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and formerly Chaplain General, HM Land Forces and the Prayers were led by The Reverend Chris Chivers and The Venerable John Blackburn, Chaplain General, HM Land Forces. As the Service came to an end, and the EAFA and other Standards were returned and the Royal Party departed, I am sure that the thirty one of our Association members who attended the Service at the invitation of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association felt privileged to have been at such an occasion.

Following the Service, a smaller number of representatives of our Battalions which served at El Alamein and their wives were invited by The Army Board to a reception in The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. Those attending were Major Maurice Nason, Doug & Margaret Mitchell, Bill & Gaynelle Morris, Noel & Dorothy Matthews, Ken & Kathleen Honeyman and Sid & Margaret Bowbrick. Bill Longley was also invited, but was unable to attend because of ill health.

The reception room was laid out with circular tables each hosted by a Guards Officer and as we nibbled at our nibbles and drank our wine, the members of the Royal Party visited the groups at each table and chatted with the veterans. In our case, we were honoured with a visit by HRH The Duke of Kent.

Finally our day had come to an end and it was time to go home. We had commemorated a great battle and spent time enjoying the company of those who came home, but let us not forget the following words, which were sung by the Choir during the Service.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say:

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

MRN

Presentation of Lieutenant Colonel C Bushell's Medals



The Medals



*The Association President in discussion with
Field Marshall Sir John Stanier*



*Captain Birtles with the medals and the 17 surviving direct
descendants of Lieutenant Colonel Bushell VC DSO*

Christmas celebrations 2002



*The Museum Christmas Party. L to R: Captain Birtles, Mrs Joan
Thompson, Lieutenant Colonel Herd, Colonel McConnell*



*In-pensioner Cyril Cook (East Surrey Regiment)
and Association President*

Annual Reunion 2002



*Mick Etherington receives spiritual guidance from
Father Chris Tuckwell*

Sandfield Terrace Plaque Unveiled



*Councillor Powell and Foster Herd
unveil the plaque*



Left to right: Ron Harper, Cliff Parkinson and Sid Levy relax



*Ian Chatfield looks on as Foster Herd fails to convince
Graham Bigwood*

El Alamein Celebration: HRH Duke of Kent with Maurice Nason and Doug Mitchell



5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment OMA Luncheon



Les Wilson keeps the 'Top Table' in order

Following the very moving service and reception at Westminster Abbey, on Saturday 26th October a luncheon was held at the Refectory, Guildford Cathedral to commemorate the Battle of El Alamein. This proved very successful for members and wives with nearly one hundred attending.



Bill Petch makes a point to Sid Whyte

The 2003 re-union will be on October 25th, with all arrangements as in previous years, when we hope to have another memorable get together.

The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association

The Annual Lunch and Reunion of 1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was held as usual at the Union Jack Club on 8 March 2003. Forty two members, wives and guests were welcomed by the President Major Stuart Playfoot and everyone was presented with a souvenir map of the Desert Campaign with particular attention to the Battle of Medenine (6 March 1943). The normal toasts to HM The Queen and HM Albert King of the Belgians were drunk. Councillor Jan De Cuyper of St. Niklaas responded to the toast of 'the guests' and laid a floral tribute to the fallen on behalf of his city. Mr W Bussey proposed the toast of 'absent friends' in a very moving speech recalling some of the former characters of the Battalion.

The President then reminded all present of the magnificent performance of the Battalion at Medenine 60 years ago, of the honour bestowed on it by Canada, and of the plaque mounted on a 6pdr Anti/Tank gun which is on view at Canterbury. He then proposed the toast to the Regiment.



The Annual Lunch and Reunion

Finally the usual Draw was organised by the family of Mr Joe Rowe which raised £185. The thanks of the members were duly expressed. Thus another reunion was completed and all departed happily vowing to return again in 2004.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

Our Association has had an interesting year, albeit not an entirely happy one. Since the re-election of our Committee, we have continued to hold our regular monthly meetings at the Conservative Club, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, on the last Saturday of each month. While actual full membership is declining, we are managing to maintain our numbers by inducting 'extended family members', as Associate Members (allowed for by our redrafted Constitution).

Deaths and debilitating medical problems have to be expected but, nonetheless, are always very saddening. Regrettably, attendance at the Remembrance Sunday parade at Kingston has dramatically declined, brought about by 'the inequalities of life' and the change of fortunes within the communities of our members.

On a much happier note, the Committee organised a Christmas Dinner which was very well supported. Our usual caterer at the Conservative Club provided us with a magnificent meal, reminiscent of the days of the original Regimental Dinner Nights.

Soon after, we held our prestigious event of the year, the WO's and Sgts' Association Christmas Draw. Taking 5 hours to set up with a great deal of help, all was dispensed to more than 40 members in just 3 hours. A long day for the organiser, but a very satisfying one. The ladies went to great lengths to provide us with buffet which was almost a banquet, all at their own expense.

2/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment (TA)

A few members attended the Armistice Parade at Kingston. Representatives also attended the Richmond Service and John Redfern laid the wreath of the East Surreys on the War Memorial. There was a very good crowd.

At the branch meeting in November, it was decided that no more meeting would be held. The reasons were that very few members lived in Richmond and that it was becoming quite a hazard to travel at night. Age has taken its toll, although the enthusiasm is still there. It was also agreed that, if it was possible, a yearly dinner would be organised.

2/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association

Still functioning as a separate Association, the affairs of the Association continue to be administered by the 6th (Bermondsey) Bn Association. There are 64 names on the current mailing list. Of these, 51 are former members of the Battalion, and 13 are relatives or friends. Newsletters are published twice yearly and members were encouraged to participate in the Grand National and November Handicap Draws run by 6th (Bermondsey) Bn Association.

A combined Reunion with the 2/7th Queen's OCA was held at the Union Jack Club on 7th September 2002. Sixty people booked for the Reunion, of these, 43 were members and 17 were relatives and friends. A Steak and Kidney Casserole buffet lunch was provided and a raffle was held to help defray the costs.

It is proposed to hold a Reunion at the Union Jack Club on 6th September 2003 in conjunction with 2/7th Queen's Association. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Landings at Salerno in 1943 and it is hoped that members of 5 Queen's OMA will join with us to commemorate this Anniversary.



Major Maurice Nason & Brigadier Geoffrey Curtis at the 2002 joint reunion

2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Annual Reunion of old comrades of the battalion should have been held in March 2002 but, with very little notice, the venue informed us that they had decided

to close. Faced with the problems of finding a new suitable site and declining numbers we asked the 2/6th Battalion if we might join with them. Their reaction could not have been better and we were grateful to them, and especially to Major Maurice Nason, for the excellent joint reunion they arranged at the Union Jack Club on 7th September. This will be repeated on 6th September 2003.

We are currently maintaining contact with 97 members but we know that many are frail and unable to join us for the Reunion. In fact 23 members and guests were present.

'B' Company, 1 Queen's Surreys - Reunion

Forty three years after serving together in Mukeiras, Aden, members of 'B' Company, 1 Queen's Surreys, held another of their three-yearly reunions at the 'Holiday Inn', Farnborough, Surrey, over the weekend 1st/2nd February 2003.

In spite of the appalling snow and ice conditions prevailing at the time, very few were prevented from attending by the bad road condition. In fact the numbers attending increased over previous years owing to an influx of 'new faces' from 4 platoon who were most warmly welcomed. Unfortunately one of our main Guests at the reunion, Mrs Elvie Burnett (widow of Keith our second in command at Mukeiras), was unable to extract herself from the deep snow in the depths of Suffolk and was sadly missed.

We were, however, delighted to have with us our other Guest of Honour, Mrs Rosemary Yonwin, widow of the late Major Keith Yonwin, our Company Sergeant Major throughout our tour in Aden.



Pam and Jim Matthews (the organiser of previous reunions) with Daphne Mason and Rosemary Yonwin in the background

In all, thirty three members and their wives sat down to the reunion dinner and the party continued to the early hours of the morning with plenty of reminiscing and 'lamp swinging'.

All were most grateful to 'Tiger' and Ann Tyson for organising such an enjoyable weekend at Farnborough. This was done at very short notice owing to the reunion



Brian Johnston (left) who came from France for the reunion, having a drink with Major Paul Gray and Jim Matthews



'The Ladies Get-Together'

Left to right:- Rosemary Yonwin, Sylvia Carey, Daphne Mason, Ann Tyson, Maureen Goldsmith and Carol Cabbie

coinciding with the 'Firemen's Strike' and depriving us of our original venue at the TA Centre at Farnham. However, we rather took a liking to the more luxurious surroundings of the 'Holiday Inn' Farnborough and, just may be, it will be there that we will meet again in three years time to celebrate our 46th year reunion.

The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Annual Reunion

The East Surreys officers' reunion was held this year on Friday 25th April in the Officers' Mess of The London Regiment in Saint John's Road, Battersea, by kind permission of The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel J P Mooney TD, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend.

The turnout of 37 was less than our recent average in the low to mid forties. However, by coincidence some of our regular attenders were otherwise occupied and said words to the effect of "Don't write us off" and those present still represented a true cross-section of the Surreys officers. Nevertheless the balance is inevitably shifting, with a third of those present coming from the National Service era.

Geoff Strong gave a résumé of the dinners and lunches, as he has known them. The first was in June 1950 at Claridges, shortly after the return of 1 SURREYS from Greece and Somalia. A total of 102 officers of The Regiment attended it; a Trio of Generals, a Handful (Five) of Brigadiers, a Score of Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels, double that of Majors and a fair shower of Captains and Subalterns.

In 1959 Dinners were stopped in order not to inhibit the growing process of The Queen's Surreys. Then in 1980, Peter Spearing and Tony Hannaford, two of the pre-war chaps, said "Now the new regiment has achieved its majority (albeit, that it was now 1 QUEENS) perhaps a biennial dinner would be acceptable." These, therefore, started in 1981 at Simpsons-in-the-Strand. Geoff, at the 1983 dinner and shortly before retirement from the army, in a moment of madness, or was it in vino, suggested that as Peter and Tony had organised two dinners, he would do the same and then find a replacement. He is still looking!

In 1995 a low point was reached with only 36 attending, but numbers then rose again and the change to annual lunches at Clapham Junction seems to have rejuvenated the affair, if not all its participants. However, if you experienced the ambience, which is greatly aided by the excellent service provided by June Daniels and her team, you could well believe us to be that shower of Captains and Subalterns again.

GGS

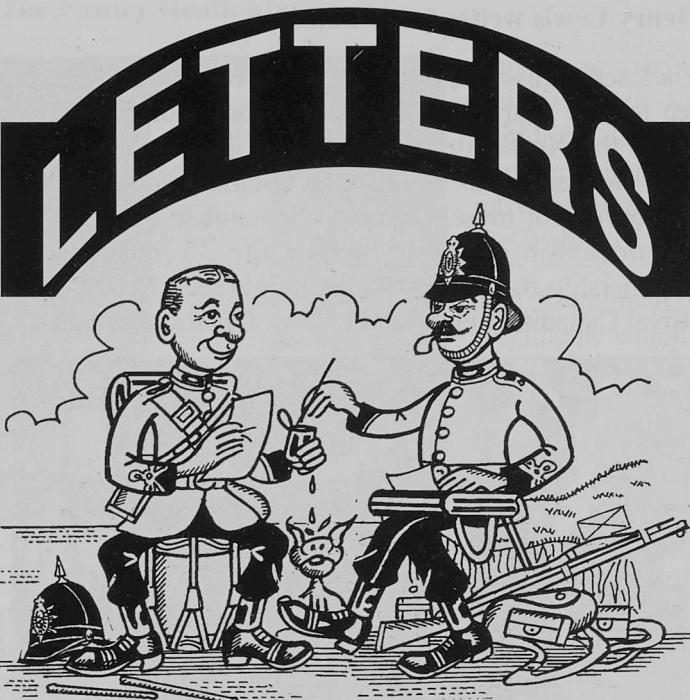
The Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon

Sixty seven officers, ladies and other guests attended the annual luncheon held on Monday 7th October 2002 at Clandon House. Once again we were extremely fortunate to be able to hold the event in the magnificent setting of the marble hall which was enhanced by the display of regimental silver and drums kindly provided for the occasion by 3 PWRR. The guests included widows of officers of the Regiment and also David Brock-Doyle, the Property Manager for the National Trust at Clandon. David has been most helpful to the Officers' Club in numerous ways and we were sorry to learn that he will be retiring from Clandon in the summer of 2003. We wish him and his wife Jill the very best of success and happiness in the future.

Unfortunately our President was unable to be present this time, but Col David Dickins leapt nobly into the breach and brought us up to date with Regimental news following the Loyal and Regimental toasts.

It is regretted that there are no photographs of this happy event - an omission which we will rectify for the next luncheon! Our sincere congratulations go to Major Tony Russell for his hard work in making this such an enjoyable day.

JBR



Ron Harper writes:-

I would be grateful if best wishes from all his friends from 9 Platoon, and especially from me, could be sent to our old friend, comrade and signaller Alan (Curly) Bennet for a speedy recovery from his recent illness. We also wish him and his wife Linda happiness in their new home and life in Spain.

o o o

Jack Marsh writes from New Eltham, London:-

Dear Editor

I thought the enclosed may be of interest to readers of the Newsletter. It also goes to show one of the many advantages of belonging to the Association as it has enabled these three old Ulu bashers to get together again.



One photo shows Owen Carpenter, Terry Gilbert and Jack Marsh on a welcome break from duty on Christmas Day 1955 when they were serving with, 9 Platoon, C Company, First Battalion Queen's in Johore, Malaya. The other picture shows them at the November 2001 Association reunion at the Union Jack Club in London, the first time they had been together since early 1956.



Once again many thanks to all those for all their work running the Association and its activities - long may it continue.

o o o

Paul Chapman of Armistice Tours writes:-

On 17th November, 2002, my colleagues and I returned from our Armistice Tour, another emotional pilgrimage - nine days of visiting over 90 sites (mostly cemeteries) in the Ypres Salient, Laventie, Fleurbaix, and Vimy sectors of the western front remembering the men and the actions in which they gave their lives. Every site visited probably has a thousand stories to tell and every year it is my responsibility to relate yet another, specifically relating to a particular action or individual I have come across in the course of my travels and subsequent research.

On a very cold, wet, and windy, Sunday 10th November, we visited Bedford House Cemetery, Zillebeke, and the grave of Lt. Col. Paterson, 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, where I related the following account:

"At times the courage and endurance displayed by the men of the East Surrey Regiment on Hill 60 almost defied belief. Five men in succession were killed in a desperate attempt to storm a German strongpoint at locality 'Z'. The battalion Medical Officer, Captain D. Wynard, was mortally wounded by a shell, tending wounded on an exposed section of trench. Captain P.C. Wynter, already dying of his wounds, was buried alive when the dug-out in which he was lying was hit. Lieutenant G. Watson and 20 of his platoon were wiped out, trying to hold their battered stretch of line in the face of artillery fire at point blank range. Corporal F.W. Adams, with his comrades dead and part of his jaw shot away, continued to work his machine-gun single handed, until shot through the head and killed. The list is almost endless, a sobering tale of horror and heroism in equal measure. By the end of the battle the Surreys had lost 113 killed, including their Commanding Officer, Major Paterson, who died with all his headquarters staff (apart from one corporal and a signaller) when a shell plunged into his command post. When the battalion was relieved on the morning of 21st April, the surviving officers and men carried out the body of their lamented commander, burying him later the same afternoon in the Convent at

Ypres. Paterson was posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel: small reward, some might think."

Because we owe such a great debt of gratitude to the men who gave their lives on the western front it is our duty to learn how and why they died; therefore, when visiting a particular site/cemetery the visit is often greatly enhanced when one has, to hand, an account such as the above relating to a unit involved in the fighting thereabouts and being able to explain the presence of their casualties.

Every year the task of finding new accounts to relate gets harder, sometimes an individual requests certain information and one is often unable to give a satisfactory reply; just such an instance occurred on this tour; Derek Doune, remembering his uncle, was deeply moved by the whole experience and has booked again for 2003. I know it would mean so much to him if I was able to read from the War Diary of 12th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, 1st - 8th May 1917, during which period his uncle was reported missing/killed somewhere in the vicinity of St. Eloi. He is recorded on the Menin Gate.



The Association Wreath at the Menin Gate

Brian Spear writes:-

Having received the Nov 02 Newsletter I was greatly surprised to see my name and write up on page 17 Letters; thank you for this as I now have my answer, re Pte Hunter. (Regimental Deaths). I have now seen another on page 20, Corporal Roy Brooks 1955/57 but I feel this could be a regular matter as we would all be passing our mid 60's.

Last October I went to my first Reunion at Clapham Junction together with my old school mate Peter Dowling who went through the Kingston gates with me in Feb 55. At the reunion we met up with 4 others who were with us at that time in Brunswick (BAOR). My name in the Regimental Museum visitors book resulted in a contact with one of my No 2s on MMG 1955/57 and we are now in regular contact (he is now an Association member).

Henry Lewis writes from Canada:-

Enclosed please find my bank order for my membership fee for the year 2003. Thank you for sending issue No 72 of the Newsletter which I have just received. It is very interesting as usual, also enclosed please find a photograph of myself taken on September 16th 2002 on the occasion of my receiving the 35 year pin for membership in the Fort Wellington branch No 97 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Prescott, Ontario, Canada.



○○○

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society

The Golf Society's Autumn Meeting was held at Woking Golf Club on Wednesday 9 October 2002.

20 members attended to compete in various competitions. The weather was fine and the course in excellent condition. The new format of a single round followed by lunch was well received by members, providing a balance between golf and socialising. We were delighted to welcome Maj Noel Napier-Ford to his first meeting. Peter Mason and Jennifer Davidson joined us for lunch. After an excellent lunch the prizes were presented by the President of the Society, MJ Power Esq.

Prize List

Autumn Bowl, Senior Division

M J Power Esq 72 net

Glasgow Greys Cup, Junior Division

J R L Wells Esq 73 net

Petri Aggregate Spring & Autumn Meetings

W J T Ross Esq 74 + 69 = 143

Heales Memorial Trophy Stableford

Maj R A Green 31 pts

Veteran's Halo

Col J W Sewell 40 pts

Society Sweep

1st R Cottam Esq

2nd Maj P A Gray

3rd Brig R W Acworth

Autumn Meeting 8 October 2003 Woking Golf Club

○○○

The Putney Heath Monument



14th October 1961

Those considering taking a stroll, weather permitting, might wish to visit The Putney Heath Monument. The Monument stands some 300m north of the Windmill car park and was set up in 1961 to commemorate the first parade of the Tangier Regiment 300 years before on 14th October 1661. The Monument was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the Earl of Munster and dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend George Reindorp.

The Monument was originally only inscribed to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, which was then the successor of the original Tangier Regiment. In 1986 it was re-unveiled by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet

Sir John Fieldhouse (previously Commander-in-Chief of the Force which recovered the Falkland Islands), with additional inscriptions to

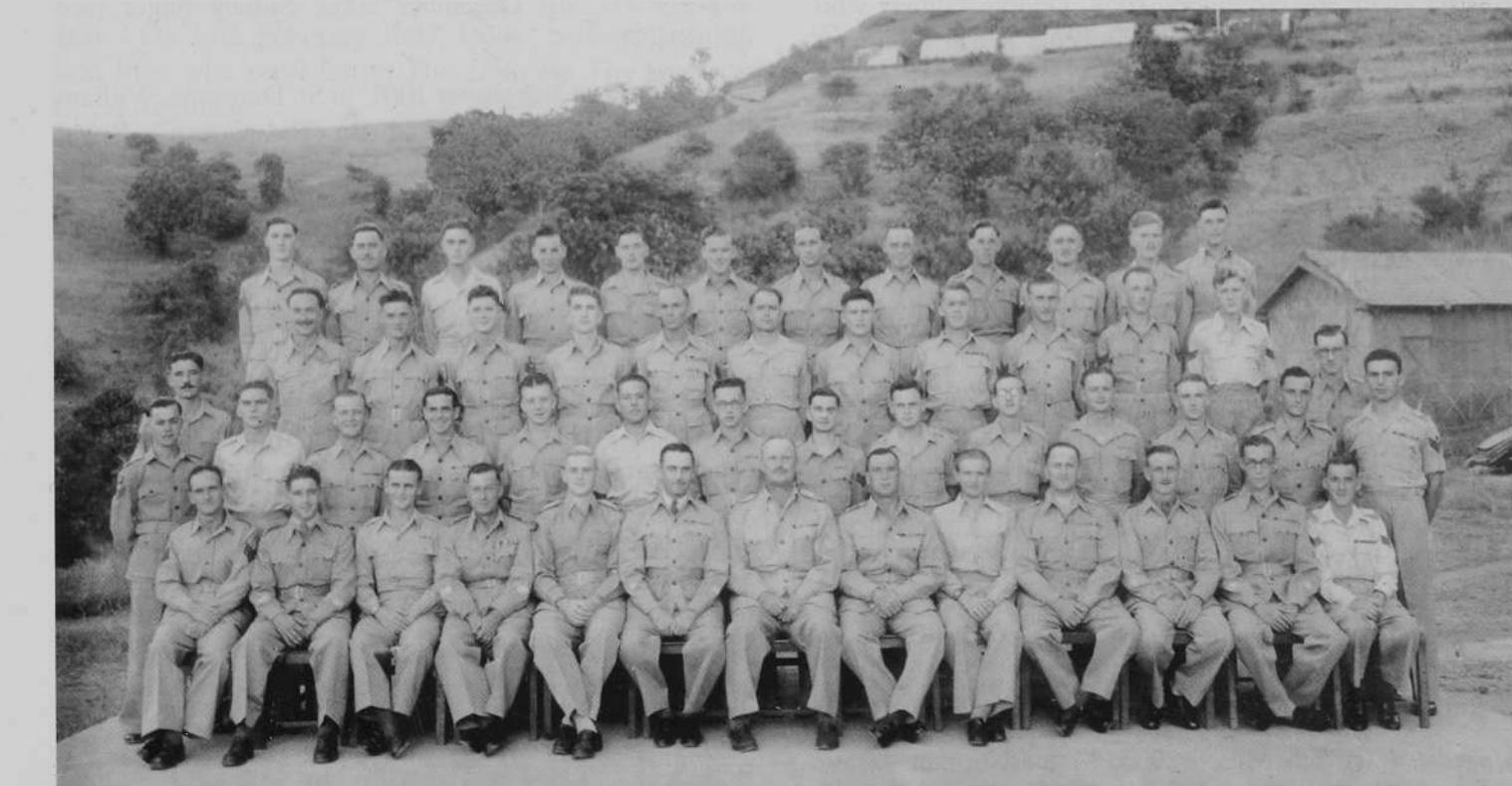
record that The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment had been formed in 1959 by the amalgamation of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment.

For those who wonder how a Regiment could have paraded where the Monument stands; before the 1970s the area was flat and open and comparatively treeless. The mounds now surrounding the site were formed from the spoil excavated when the new route of the A3, with the roundabout and underpass at the top of Putney Hill, was constructed.



The Monument in 1986 when it was re-dedicated by Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse.

1946 Remembered



Back Row:—Sgt. B. Wimble, Sgt. D. Jackson, Sgt. Stoward, Sgt. D. Singleton, Sgt. Bacon, Sgt. Bennett, Sgt. Richardson, Sgt. J. Rogers, Sgt. Williams, Sgt. Plister.
3rd Row:—Sgt. Juested, Sgt. Blunt, Sgt. Paston, Sgt. G. Sullivan, Sgt. Parker, Sgt. Heywood M.M., Sgt. Mills, Sgt. R. Allen, Sgt. Hadler, Sgt. Yardley, Sgt. D. Notton, Sgt. D. Notton, Sgt. Barrett, Sgt. Keely.
2nd Row:—C/Sgt. Adkins, Sgt. A. Wright, Sgt. Steward, Sgt. Horsborough, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. C. Monk, Sgt. Willard, Sgt. C. Beer, Sgt. C/Sgt. Newman, Sgt. F. Asher, Sgt. Kingshol, Sgt. D. Sykes, Sgt. D. Woodland.
Front Row:—C/Sgt. Andrews, CSM. I. Jeuner, CSM. Cersell, CSM. Waite, Capt. D. D. Champion-Jones, RSM. Herbert, Lt-Col. A. J. A. Watson, Major N. J. Bailey, RQMS. Chappell, Capt. (Q.M.) R. W. Jackson, CSM. Sigma, CSM. Ward, C/Sgt. Atkiss.

Leslie Diggs sends a photograph of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, taken in India in the Autumn of 1946. He would be delighted to hear from any of his old comrades.

Regimental Deaths

Barrow - On 31st January 2003, Walter Barrow who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment and was a Japanese P.O.W.

Blowes - On 11th January 2003, aged 83 years, L J Blowes, who served with The 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Bolt - On 8th November 2002, Lieutenant Peter Michael Bolt who was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1954 and, after completing National Service, served with the Territorial Army.

Brown - On 9th October 2002, Edward Arthur George Brown who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from April 1943 to September 1946, having previously served with The Royal Dorset Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Burton - On 3rd April 2003, A "Bertie" Burton, who served with The 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1951-54.

Byford - On 4th February 2003, Henry William Arthur Byford who enlisted into The 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in August 1937. Service included Palestine and India before discharge in August 1946.

Davies - In May 2002, Richard R Davies (see obituaries).

Gilbert - On 7th December 2002, George Gilbert who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1939-46.

Glenn - On 14th November 2002, Acting Sergeant Clifford George "Sammy" Glenn. He enlisted into the Northamptonshire Regiment in March 1940 and was posted to The 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in August 1940. He served until spring 1946 gaining the Italy Star, Africa Star, France and Germany Star, 1939-45 Star, 1939-45 War Medal and the Defence Medal.

Johnson - On 21st September 2002, John Henry Johnson who served with The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Landreth - On 23th January 2003 aged 82, Canon Derek Landreth. Having served as an officer in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, he entered the church. He was Chaplain to The 23rd London Regiment and then to The 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment until 1967.

Marsden - On 6th March 2003, Major Norman Astley Howard Marsden (see obituaries).

Martin - On 6th October 2002 aged 83 years, Sergeant William Henry Martin who enlisted in December 1939 and was posted to The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Caterham in April 1940. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1942 and Mentioned in Despatches in 1944. He served continuously with the Battalion until

wounded at Anzio. He was discharged from the Army in December 1944 as a result of those wounds.

Meayers - On 17th December 2002, Brian Meayers who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Millman - On 20th February 2003, Brigadier Herbert Charles Millman OBE DL, late The Queen's Royal Regiment (see obituaries).

Mott - On 20th May 2002, Major Anthony Mott (see obituaries).

Napier-Andrews - On 25th March 2003, Roger Alfred Napier-Andrews (see obituaries).

Nicholson - On 18th November 2002, Robert Nicholson who served with The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Oswell - On 24th February 2003, Sergeant Tom Oswell who served with The 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment as a Chindit in Burma, and also with the Light Infantry.

Parkinson - On 11th October 2002, Jack Parkinson who enlisted into The 57th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery in spring 1939 and was posted in June 1939 to the new 67th Anti-Tank Regiment with which he served for the duration of the war. Former Honorary Secretary of The 57th/67th (East Surrey) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery Old Comrades Association.

Sager - On 3rd December 2003, Sidney Sager (see obituaries).

Slade - On 2nd November 2002, in St. Dunstans, William Slade who joined The 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in September 1939 and served with 50th Middle East Commando. Whilst a P.O.W. he was shot, resulting in blindness, after he stated that being put to work on a railway line that was a direct supply route for war material to North Africa was against the Geneva Convention. He received compensation for his injuries as they were the result of a war crime.

Stevenson - On 6th October 2002, Major John Edgar Stevenson who served in East Africa and the Middle East with The Queen's Royal Regiment and The King's African Rifles. He represented the British Universities Team in the 440 yards in a relay match against the Olympic Team before the 1932 Los Angeles Games and twice in relays against French teams.

Strawson - Major Galen Strawson who was second-in-command of The 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and also served with 23rd London Regiment and 42 RTR.

Tolliday - On 23rd January 2003, Sidney Claude Tolliday who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

Wakeford - On 13th February 2003, Sergeant Harold Wakeford who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 and was evacuated from

Dunkirk. Taken P.O.W. at El Alamein, he was in P.O.W. camps in Germany and Italy, and was discharged from the Army in 1946.

Walford - On 30th November 2002, Corporal Leonard Alfred Walford who enlisted into The 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in July 1936 and subsequently joined The 1/6th Bn. Prior to his discharge in March 1946 his service included with the BEF France 1940, on Home Defence duties, and in the Italy campaign including Cassino, Rome, Florence and Rimini.

Woolley - On 24th February 2003, Major (QM) William Woolley (see obituaries).

Regimental Families

Bussey - In March 2003, Mrs G D (Dawn) Bussey, widow of the late George Bussey who served with The 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Carter - On 4th February 2003, Kath, beloved wife of Howard Carter who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Cole - On 28 February 2003 Betty (E A) Cole, widow of the late Major Charles Cole, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Martin - On 16th September 2002, Gladys, beloved wife of William Henry Martin.

May - On 14th February 2003, Dolly, beloved wife of Ron May who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Stevenson - On 11th January 2003, Jennifer, beloved wife of Colonel J G W Davidson.

Obituaries

Major General Rowley Mans

Colonel Toby Sewell writes:



Many people will have memories of General Rowley Mans to add to the barish details of his distinguished career contained in the PWRR Journal and our last Newsletter. Things which to me should not be forgotten

include his contribution as a Regimental cricketer; he was a steady top of the order batsman who could usually be relied on to add to the score while at the same time enlivening any team with his humour. Then credit must be paid to him for his part in that light hearted celebration of the National Service Army "Carry on Sergeant". It must have needed a considerable detached and amused approach to have coped with "that platoon" at his Depot,

and in the guise of the Inspecting General to have awarded them the trophy at their passing out parade (under the overall command of Major Bob Johnson).

On a more serious note General Rowley when Deputy Commander at Aldershot initiated and saw through the resurrection of the of the Rushmoor Arena, the site of the romantic pre-1939 Tattoos. While this has again rather fallen into disuse, in the 1970s it once more played a most important part in the then much needed promotion of the Army as the scene for shows, recruiting events and distinguished major parades. Finally it should be remembered, that when President of the Association, it was his imaginative initiative which, in conjunction with the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Lord Hamilton of Dalziel, led the National Trust to accept the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park in 1977. That the Museum remains located at Clandon will always be a tribute to him.

Brigadier Charles Millman OBE DL



Herbert Charles Millman was born in Dulwich on 18th February 1928 and educated at the City of London School. Top of his batch of Indian Army Cadets, he was a member of Intake 1 at Sandhurst when it reopened as the Royal Military Academy.

He was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment on 14th July 1948 and served with the 1st Battalion in Berlin during the Soviet blockade and Allied airlift.

Following a tour at the Regimental Depot in Guildford, in 1953 he became GSO 3(Air) in Kenya during the Mau Mau rebellion, organising air operations against the terrorist gangs. He was Mentioned in Despatches for this service. There followed a period as Adjutant of 6 Queen's (TA) in Bermondsey during which he developed his enduring enthusiasm for boxing.

In 1959 he attended the Staff College, Camberley and was subsequently appointed to a War Office post concerned with conditions of service, pay and pensions. He returned to regimental duty as a company commander in The Queen's Own Buffs which were part of the UK based Strategic Reserve. Charles Millman moved from there to be Brigade Major of 99 Gurkha Brigade in Sarawak during the confrontation between Indonesia and the Federation of Malaysia. He was again Mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the Malaysian AMKN distinguished service award.

After a period which included a staff appointment in Northern Ireland (before the onset of the most recent troubles) and a course at the Joint Services Staff College, in 1968 he assumed command of The 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Bahrain. This was not by definition an operational posting, although the Battalion's role was in support of the internal security of the island. The Battalion returned to Lingfield as part of 2 Infantry Brigade and was

subsequently despatched as an emergency reinforcement to Northern Ireland in August 1969. Based at HMS SEA EAGLE, 1 QUEENS was ready to support the RUC in Londonderry. In the event 1 PWO was deployed first but their emergency tour of duty was nearly finished and 1 QUEENS took over after four days. The initial 'honeymoon' period saw 1 QUEENS welcomed by the Catholic community but, as trouble flared in Belfast, the situation became tenser. Nevertheless, by the time Charles Millman and the Battalion left, Londonderry was calm and the RUC was back on patrol in the Bogside. Charles Millman was awarded the OBE for his services.

His next appointment was as a member of the Directing Staff at the Staff College, Camberley. He always, not quite jokingly, attributed his subsequent posting to set up the Sudanese Staff College in Khartoum, on promotion to Colonel, to his running out the Commandant of Camberley in an Owls Cricket Club match. After Khartoum Charles Millman was posted as Colonel AQ 4th Armoured Division in BAOR before being awarded a Defence Fellowship at Aberdeen University. During his tour in BAOR he had initiated the BAOR Inter-Unit Novices Boxing Championships which was subsequently won by 1 QUEENS on several occasions.

Promoted brigadier in 1977, he became Director Administrative Plans (Army) in the Ministry of Defence. Here he was concerned with contingency planning for emergency situations abroad and the provision of service assistance to the civil community.

His final posting from 1978 to 1982 was as Divisional Brigadier of The Queen's Division where he was responsible for the manning and well-being of its Regular and Territorial Army battalions. Having become Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment in January 1979, he was subsequently Colonel of The Regiment 1984-89. He was Chairman of TA Rugby Football and Vice-Chairman of Army Boxing 1979-82. He had been elected a Freeman of the City of London in 1978, as his grandfather had been two generations earlier.

After retiring from the Army Charles Millman was Regional Organiser for the Army Benevolent Fund Eastern Region 1982-1992. He worked with great success as a fundraiser for the Fund and donated the proceeds of books of military reminiscences he wrote to that cause. He was a frequent contributor to the letters pages of the national broadsheets. He was made an Honorary Freeman of the Haberdashers Livery Company in 1988 and a Deputy Lieutenant for Kent from 1992. He was a staunch supporter of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association events. Brigadier Charles Millman died on 20th February 2003 after a period of poor health. The high esteem in which he was held was reflected in the large congregation at his funeral service on 3rd March in Hythe.

Major R A Napier-Andrews

In the autumn of 1939 the first civilian officers were commissioned into the army. Naturally these first volunteers were potential high-flyers in their own

profession, and soon became equally successful in their new role. Amongst the few who joined The 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at this time was Roger Andrews. He commanded a platoon at Dunkirk and shortly after our return to England was promoted Captain and commanded 'A' Company. Looking back it is amazing that he held this position until September 1944 when he and a few other battle-seasoned officers were posted to less demanding positions. It seems strange that he was not decorated for his achievements, but several commanding officers came and went during his time with 'A' Company. He was a resolute, confident and skilled officer invaluable to the battalion, and a fine example of how a successful civilian can become a successful soldier.

After the war he returned to the civil service from where he had volunteered some five years earlier. He attended several re-unions but not regularly. We were together once or twice as members of the committee working on Regimental Battle Honours. As a hobby he, maybe among others, worked with stained glass, and an example of his work is in the Regimental museum. This depicts the golden Surrey star on a black background as worn on 1st Bn battle-dress in the war. All our best wishes go to his family.

RCT

Major A G Sanders DSO



Alan Greville Sanders who died last September was always known Regimentally as "Sandy". He was a wartime officer who served with great distinction with 2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was awarded the DSO for outstanding leadership in command of his Company during the crossing of the River Savone in Italy in late

October 1943. The Savone is fast flowing between steep banks through hilly country which was an important defensive area for the German Army in its withdrawal to their Winter line (The Gustav Line) running through Cassino.

After a successful Battalion attack Sandy's Company forced a crossing over the Savone up stream from the main German positions; he then led them down the far bank to clear a bridgehead which was held for 24 hours before attacking again. By his actions and the gallantry of his Company Sandy had forced the Germans to withdraw some 36 hours before they had planned. Sandy again had a prominent role 5 weeks later when his Company reinforced 2/5th Queen's during the final stages of the battle for Monte Camino, and it was his Company which eventually occupied the small Monastery at the summit.

Sandy was born in Willesden in August 1919 and after education at the Merchant Tailors School joined the

Phoenix Assurance Company in the City. With the outbreak of the War he enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment and after initial training and OCTU was commissioned into the Regiment joining 7th Queen's in July 1940. He served with them for the rest of the War, going out to Iraq in August 1942 and on to Enfidaville and then Salerno. At Salerno as a Captain he was in command of the Carrier Platoon but was wounded on the first day. He returned to take command of B Company as a Major in October to win his DSO, and then continued as a Company Commander through to the end of the War. He was wounded again at Gemmano in September 1944.

At the end of the War he returned to the Phoenix Assurance Company becoming a senior manager and retiring in 1979. He married his wife Gwen Hemington in October 1941, and they had three children, living at Northwood, Bedford and then in the City before finally moving out to Rushton near Kettering.

Sandy had many interests which included obtaining a B.A. at the Open University, guiding visitors in the City, and leading both his children and groups of young into the country and into mountains. He was a dedicated supporter of the 2/7th Queen's Association and its members.

While never demonstrative he was a very determined and cool leader, and perhaps this is summed up by the memory of the military historian and researcher for the Imperial War Museum, the late James Lucas, who was a soldier in Sandy's Company at Gemmano. He recalled the Company taking cover in the ditches beside the road leading steeply up to the village, and how Sandy, "standing in the middle of the road under heavy fire, shouted out *"Come on B Company we can't hang about like this"* and then led them forward and into the village." Besides being a gallant officer Sandy was a gentleman in every way. He was modest and considerate and a greatly respected friend, who always achieved what was needed without fuss. He is survived by his wife and children.

JWS

R R Davies

Richard Davies was born on 27th June 1931. He was educated at Westminster School and then opted to qualify as an accountant before being called up for National Service. Thus, after commissioning he joined The 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Iserlohn in 1957 as a relatively elderly subaltern when compared with his brother National Service officers. He was quickly assimilated into a very lively group of young officers, who were much encouraged to be so by the Commanding Officer, David Lloyd Owen. He became the Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander where his skills with explosives were potentially put to good use when, after a spate of thefts from the Orderly Officer's bedroom, he booby-trapped his own room; unfortunately late at night he returned to his room to fetch something, forgetting about his trap, and set off a massive explosion!

After demobilisation, Richard worked for a number of construction companies where he was responsible for the Doncaster Bypass - now part of the A1(M); the Hyde Park underpass; and sundry other major building projects. In February 1963 he married Susanna Pawson, who had been my wife, Jennifer's, bridesmaid and to whom we introduced him in that well known watering hole, the Antelope in Eaton Terrace. In 1971, Richard began suffering from an inherited heart complaint and soon afterwards he changed from building to brewing, with Ruddles Brewery. His heart problems became increasingly severe and he had major heart surgery at Papworth in 1980. He never allowed this to affect him but he decided to return to accountancy and work from home where he built up a successful practice.

Richard was one of the few National Service officers who maintained contact with the Regiment and the friends he made in it for the rest of his life. He was a regular supporter of Regimental dinners, lunches and the annual Cathedral service. He was a very good golfer and a staunch supporter of the Queen's Surrey's Golf Society, but, sadly, his heart condition forced him to give up golf.

Over the years he moved around the country, building his own houses in Dunsfold and Rutland, and living in a Manse in Scotland. He died after spending a morning at the Chelsea Flower Show on 22nd May 2002.

To Susanna and their two sons and two daughters we offer our sincere condolences.

JGWD

N A H Marsden

From Sandhurst Norman Marsden was commissioned into The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment on 10 August 1936 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in the Isle of Wight. In 1938 he joined the 1st Battalion in Allahabad and returned to the 2nd Battalion in Syria-Tobruk in 1941. He subsequently served with various Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment, the 13th, the 1/7th and the 1/5th, in Ceylon, Italy and Germany. He was wounded in Germany and mentioned in Despatches for his part in the break-out from Tobruk in 1941.

As a Staff Officer he was PA to the BGS in Germany in 1946 and was with G3 Combined Operations in London in 1947. In 1948 he rejoined The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in Berlin, during the Soviet Blockade, and then served Korea and Malaya in 1955-56. He retired from the Army in the rank of Major in August 1958.

He had, in fact, an extremely distinguished career in the Army but this was seldom apparent even to those who knew him because, apart from answering direct questions, he never spoke about where he had been or what he had done. He was a quiet, unassuming and delightful man, companion and friend. His soldiers had great respect, admiration and liking for him possibly because he was so approachable and dealt swiftly and efficiently with their problems.

In September 1948 he married Bridget Henry and they had four children, Charles, John, Lucy and William. When he retired he became a poultry farmer in the West Country and a SSAFA representative. His hobbies included oil painting and his work could be seen in local exhibitions. He died on Sunday 6 March 2003. Our sympathy is offered to his family.

Major A R C Mott

Anthony Mott, regimentally known as "Maggie" for reasons now forgotten, was born in 1913 into a "Queen's family". His father Roger had served in the 2nd Battalion from 1897 to 1902 and his grandfather with the Regiment from 1847 until 1886. Anthony Mott was educated at Wellington College, leaving school in 1931 for the RMC Sandhurst.

In 1933 he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment, joining the 2nd Battalion in the Isle of Wight. He was then posted to the 1st Battalion stationed in Quetta, India arriving there in 1935. At the time of his death he was the last surviving officer left in the Officers photograph taken at the time of the Quetta earthquake. In 1938 the Battalion moved to Allahabad for internal security duties.

In 1940 the Battalion moved to Razmak, Waziristan and was employed on frontier duties. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Lowry recalls that Mott was the senior subaltern when he joined the battalion and that he was a very efficient officer, and although young was given command of D Company, being Mentioned in Despatches in 1941. In March 1942 the Battalion moved down to Peshawar for security duties in the defence of the Khyber Pass. The Battalion joined the 7th Indian Division in December 1942 and much jungle training took place to prepare for action in Burma. Anthony Mott, now 2IC of the Battalion but having been abroad for sometime, did not go to the Arakan, but returned to the UK.

After leave he joined 1 Hampshire who were preparing for D Day in Norfolk. Mott was appointed to command D Company. He landed at Arromanches on D Day and was severely wounded. Once fit again he was an instructor at the School of Infantry, then next to the FARELF School of Administration, then back home to the War Office as a Staff Officer to the Director of the Territorial Army. He then returned to regimental duty with The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in Siam, Malaya and finally Singapore.

In 1950 he was seconded to The 2nd Battalion of The King's African Rifles, and then served with their 1st Battalion. He retired from the Army in 1956 having obtained employment with HM Overseas Civil Service in Nyasaland. He retired to Devon in 1965. He became church warden of his local church and enjoyed country pursuits and sports, having run cross country and played hockey for his Battalion.

His wife Susan died in 2001 and our sympathies are extended to his son and daughter

Sidney Sager

Having previously been an Army band-boy before attending the Royal College of Music, Sidney Sager rejoined the Army in 1939 and served with the Medical Section of 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was amongst those evacuated from Dunkirk and later spent much of his service in North Africa. In his musical career following his discharge Sidney Sager became a noted composer and conductor. His work was widely heard on both HTV and the BBC. He became a prominent figure in the musical world in the Bristol area where he founded two orchestras.

Bob Wiley recalls:

I have many memories of our time spent together; I detail the ones appropriate to tell! Sid arrived when the regiment was in Sherborne, Dorset in 1939, with a batch of reservists from the Royal Fusiliers; he soon took over the band being an accomplished musician. Whilst on retreat to Dunkirk in May 1940 we were put on rearguard. I saw Sid digging and enquired what he was doing, to which he replied "burying my pay book" - (obviously because of his faith having been born of Jewish parents).

In 1941, at Margate, Sid, Gerald Batty (Cambridge undergraduate and son of the Bishop of Fulham) and myself were put on cycle patrol along the coast. Sid had mentioned that he could not ride a bike, but this fell on deaf ears. We had timed intervals between each coast guard station and on our return Sid was lost in the dark. At dawn Sid was returned by the local police, rifle and hand grenades still swinging on his handlebars!

After El Alamein in 1943 Sid was invalided back to Cairo with dysentery. He then became Head of the Cairo Band.

Major W G Woolley

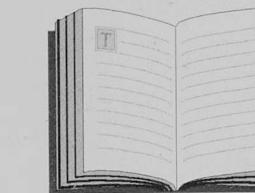
At the conclusion of the Tunisian campaign (May 1943) RSM Adams of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, was replaced by RSM Woolley of the Grenadier Guards who were also serving in Tunisia at the time. Although with hindsight the vacancy might have been filled perfectly well from within the unit, RSM Woolley was an excellent choice. He served with us through Sicily and Italy and was greatly respected. He was extremely smart and efficient, somewhat unassuming and certainly not the 'loud mouthed' RSM so often depicted. He had a quiet charm and served our regiment very well. I never heard anything about him which was not first-class.

After the war he was commissioned as Quartermaster. He seldom attended our re-unions as he was more involved with the old comrades of his parent regiment, the Grenadier Guards. On retirement he lived in the New Forest area. We extend all our sympathy and best wishes to his wife and family.

RCT

DH

BOOK REVIEW



AFGHANISTAN - THE THREE WARS

A new publication is now available, 'Afghanistan - The Three Wars'. It traces the participation of the forebears of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in the Afghan Wars of 1838-42, 1878-81 and 1919, as well as mentioning the near deployment of the 2nd Battalion in December 2001.

The county Regiments of Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire were all involved in conflict within the country in one war or another. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment had the distinction of earning the battle honour AFGHANISTAN from all three wars, while The 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment played a key role in the 2nd War. Virtually all of the PWRR forebears, including a substantial number of Territorial Force battalions, were committed to the 3rd War. The booklet traces the forebears' involvement with personal accounts from the period, while at the same time providing an overview of the whole campaign; the booklet is of interest to both the Regimental historian and a wider audience. It is illustrated throughout with a number of drawings that have never been published before.

The booklet is written by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Crowley, who wrote the PWRR Guide and co-authored the recently published 'The Infantry Regiments of Surrey'. The foreword is written by The Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier Richard Holmes CBE TD JP, well known as a military historian and television broadcaster. His comments include:

"The causes of British reverses in Afghanistan are clear enough; under estimation of the enemy; poor intelligence; hesitant command and fuzzy political aims. When these defects were repaired the British record in Afghanistan was one that the regiments which fought there, including our regimental forebears, can be justly proud of."

The cost is £7 (to include postage and packing) and all proceeds go to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Benevolent Fund. Copies may be ordered from Regimental Headquarters, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY: cheques made payable to PWRR Benevolent Fund.

Branch Secretaries

5th Bn OMA-QRR:	I Chatfield Esq, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN	Tel: 01483 429425
6th Bn OCA-QRR:	J T Brown Esq, 6 Lawrence House, Millbank Estate, London SW1P 4ED	Tel: 0207 8210028
7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major J M A Tamplin MBE TD, 10 Hugh Street SW1	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
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The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

1661 - 1966

The development of this website is still in progress.
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Researchers are welcome - please make an appointment with the Curator

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Sells Regimental publications, souvenirs, postcards, badges and posters and an attractive selection of regimental tie pins, lapel badges, brooches etc.

Donations

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum is a charitable trust dependent on voluntary donations. Donations, large or small, will be welcome. Cheques should be in GBP (£) payable to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum but, if in doubt, then please contact the curator by telephone on +44 (0) 1483 223419 or by facsimile on +44 (0) 1483 224636.

Lieutenant General Piercy Kirke 1682-1691

Lieutenant General Piercy Kirke 1682 - 1691

The name of Kirke appears twice in the records of Colonecy in The Queen's Royal Regiment, they being father and son.

Piercy Kirke (the elder) was born in 1646 and was appointed an Ensign in Captain Bromley's Company in the Lord Admiral's Regiment on 10th July 1666. Brother-in-Law of Lord Oxford, he transferred as a Comet to the latter's Regiment of Horse, The Blues, on 5th September 1670.

Ten years later, on 13th July 1680, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the Earl of Plymouth's 2nd Tangier Regiment, becoming the Acting Governor of Tangier in May 1681.

He was promoted Governor of Tangier and Colonel of the 1st Tangier or Governor's Regiment (later the 2nd or Queen's) on 19th April 1682.

Further promotions followed, Brigadier General 1685, Major General 1688 and Lieutenant General 1690.

In his earlier career he had been present with the Duke of Monmouth's Regiment, in the pay of France, at the siege of Maestricht in 1673 and afterwards he served in two campaigns under Turenne. He embarked for Tangier in November 1680 and remained there until 1684 when he supervised the evacuation, which he achieved without loss, before returning to England with the Regiment in the same year.

He was subsequently to command the Regiment at Sedgemoor where, then nicknamed "Kirke's Lambs" after their badge, they took part in the final suppression of Monmouth's revolt. They further gained lasting infamy for their supposed part in rounding up rebels for the dreaded "bloody assize". In fact the Queen's had left the west for Kingston-upon-Thames before Judge Jeffries even began his circuit. The assize duty was the work of the Second Tangier Regiment, or Queen Consorts (later the 4th King's Own).

Kirke next appears at the Siege of Londenerry in April 1689. Under his direction the Pretender's troops were forced to lift the siege. Kirke and the Queen's were also in the forefront of the Battle of the Boyne. From then until January 1692 the Regiment remained in Ireland, although in September 1691, Kirke himself left for Holland to take a new command.

He died soon after at Breda and was succeeded as Colonel of the Queen's by Colonel William Selwyn.

Go back to list.

The Glorious First of June 1794

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE 1794

The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot began service on board the Fleet in 1793, shortly after Revolutionary France declared war on Great Britain. Detachments of the Queen's were serving in Lord "Black Dick" Howe's flagship HMS Queen Charlotte and also on board HMS Russell, Defence, Royal George and Majestic. The total battalion strength was fifteen officers and four hundred other ranks.

The Battle of the Glorious First of June took place in the North Atlantic, four hundred miles west of Ushant, off the Irish coast. It was the first decisive meeting between the fleets of Britain and the French Republic, its main effect was on the Nation's morale, as the victory removed any fear of French invasion. The French did, however, manage to slip a vital grain convoy from America into France, whilst the fleets were engaged.

On the morning of the Battle, the enemy fleet was seen about six miles off on the starboard bow, steaming in line of battle on the port tack. The British fleet formed in line abreast and at 9.30am the French opened fire. It was said that there could never have been such a noble sight than seeing twenty-five British line of battle ships, intending to pass through the French line of twenty-six. An hour later, close action began in the centre, as Lord Howe in HMS Queen Charlotte engaged the French Admiral Villaret in the Montagne. Most of the French shot was high, but the British fire raked the French through the stern and then engaged the enemy on the leeward side before her guns could properly be brought to bear. The battle went on until one o'clock in the afternoon, seven enemy ships were captured and the French suffered 3000 killed and wounded. British losses were 1000.

The detachments fought well, though six private soldiers and Lieutenant Neville were killed. The Regiment was later allowed the unusual distinction of wearing the Naval Crown superscribed 1 JUNE 1794 on its Colours, a distinction which continued and remains with its successors. A strong link was also forged with the Royal Navy, continuing today with the Portsmouth base, HMS Excellent which inherited the traditions of the Queen Charlotte.

A representation of the death of Lieutenant Neville on HMS Queen Charlotte.