

MAY 2003



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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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The Newsletter seeks to be both a historical document and a vehicle to inform you all of the Association, Branch and other activities.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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 ½ 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>

Donations

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

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.

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

**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?**



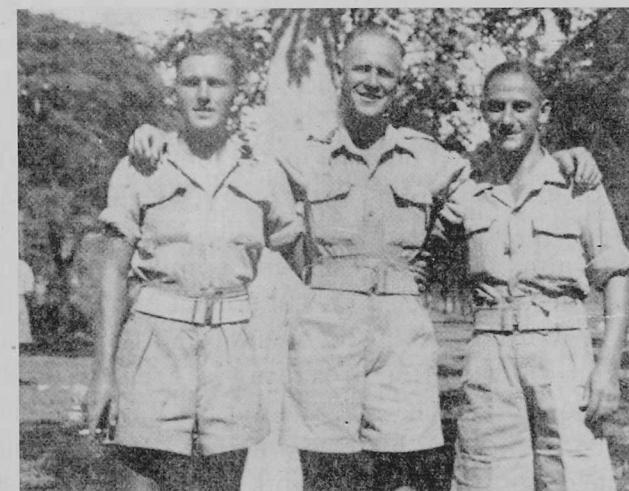
Readers who may be able to assist with information about the following are asked to contact the Editor who will pass details on to the interested parties.

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.

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.

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.

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.

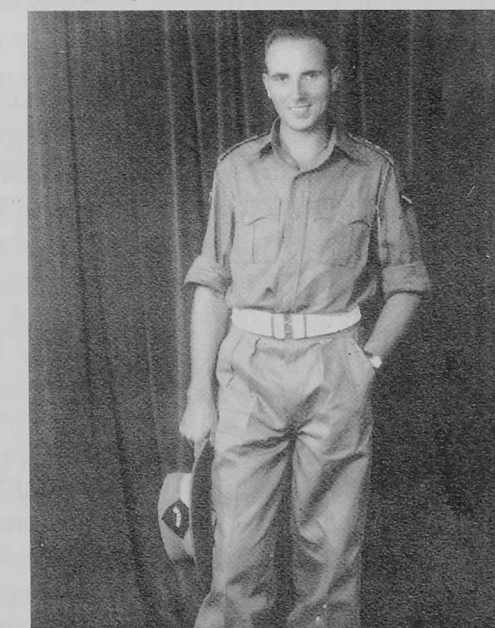


*Left to right:- Nobby Hodge, Sid Fossett (?)
and Gunner Boyland*

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.



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.



Can anyone help identify the above officer?

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 Maclehose, 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 Maclehose. 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 Hampshires, 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.

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Victory at El Alamein by Derrick Watson



Lieutenant Watson, 1943

As a new Lieutenant fresh out from England, I joined the 1st/5th Queen's Royal Regiment in Egypt just after they had lost two companies at the Battle of Munassib just before Alam El Halfa. I held the surviving veterans in some awe, but my main concern, both then and later, was the fear of getting lost in the desert.

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 Sacarium.

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 EAVA 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 'Firemans' 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 resumé 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

I thank you for once again entrusting us with laying a wreath on behalf of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and look forward to being able to continue this act for you in future years. As promised I enclose a photograph of your wreath at 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.



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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

o o o

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.

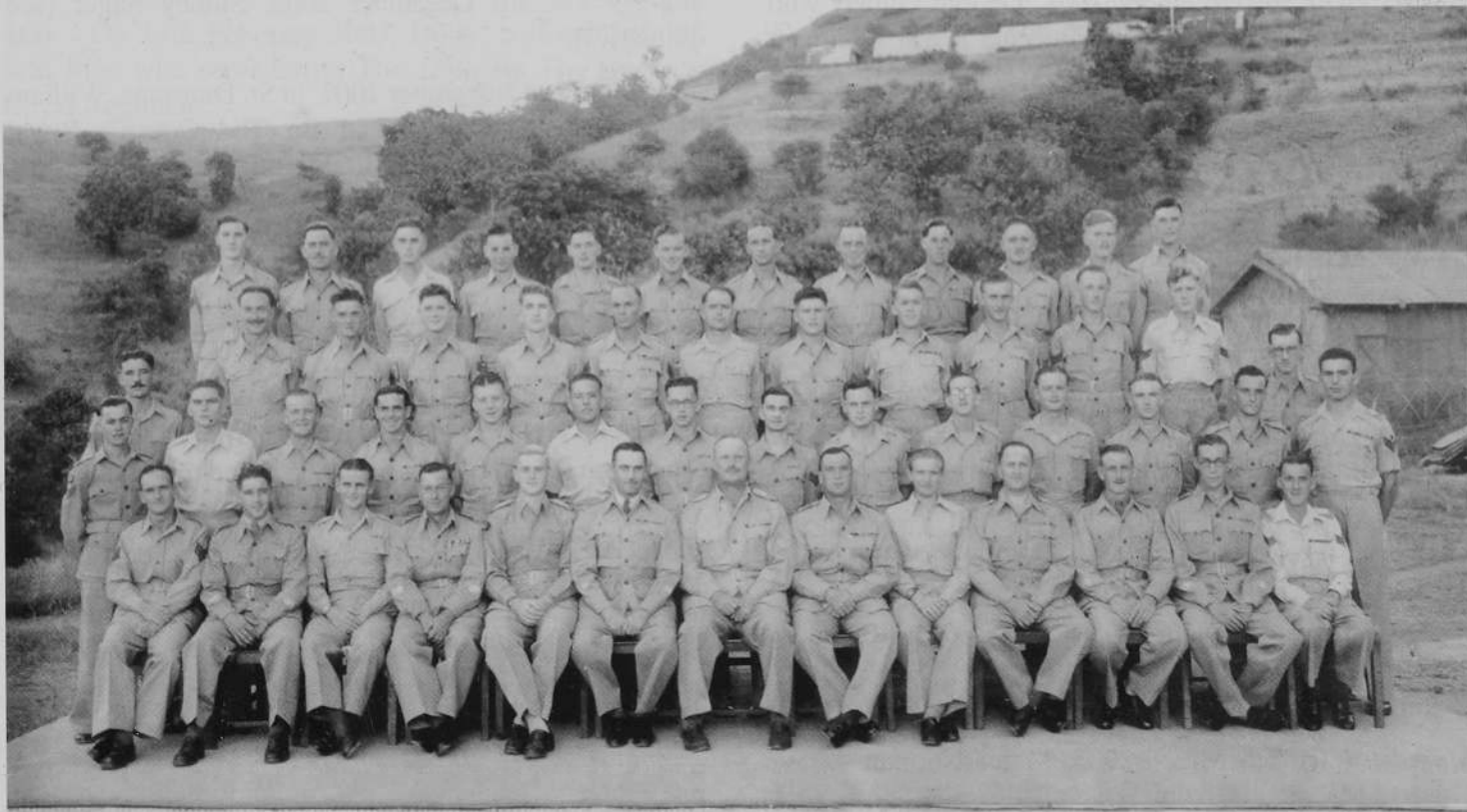
The Monument was originally only inscribed to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, which was then the successor of the original Tangier Regiment. In 1986 it was re-unveiled by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse (previously Commander-in-Chief of the Force which recovered 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. Wimbly, Sgt. B. Jackson, Sgt. Steward, Sgt. D. Singleton, Sgt. Bacon, Sgt. Bennett, Sgt. Richardson, Sgt. J. Rogers, Sgt. Williams, Sgt. Plister.
3rd Row:- Sgt. Jucated, Sgt. Hunt, 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. Stannard, Sgt. Hurborough, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. C. Monk, Sgt. Willard, Sgt. C. Beer, Sgt. C/Sgt. Newman.
Roux, Sgt. F. Asher, Sgt. Kingshol, Sgt. D. Sykes, Sgt. D. Woodland,
Front Row:- C/Sgt. Andrews, CSM. I. Jenner, CSM. Cersall, 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. Sigg, CSM. Ward, C/Sgt. Atkins.

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. Dunstons, 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 Hampshires 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 Kings 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

DH

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!

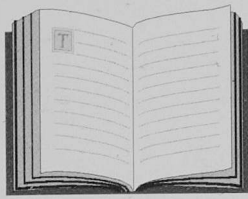
After El Alamein in 1943 Sid was invalided back to Cairo with dysentery. He then became Head of the Cairo Band.

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.

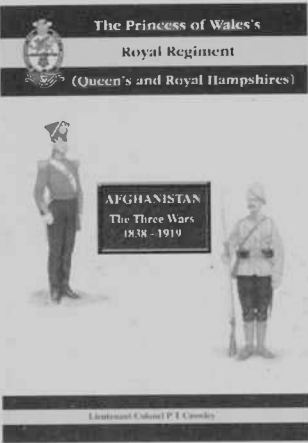
After the war he was commissioned as Quartermaster. He seldom attended our re-unions as he was more involved with the old comrades of his parent regiment, the Grenadier Guards. On retirement he lived in the New Forest area. We extend all our sympathy and best wishes to his wife and family.

RCT



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.

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Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

http://www.queensroyalsurreyregiment.org.uk/


Welcome to the Website of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment



1661 - 1966

The development of this website is still in progress.
Please check back regularly.


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Click on the map for a larger version.

Ample car parking. Physical access for wheelchair users within the museum itself is good.


Researchers/Research
The museum has a well organized and indexed archive and library which includes regimental and battalion histories, some nominal rolls and service documents, copies of some first world war battalion diaries, a large collection of indexed photograph albums.
Researchers are welcome - please make an appointment with the Curator.

Museum Shop
Sells Regimental publications, souvenirs, postcards, ties and posters and an attractive selection of regimental tie pins, lapel badges, brochures etc.

Donations
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum is a charitable trust dependent on voluntary donations.
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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

http://www.queensroyalsurreyregiment.org.uk/Articles/1689.html



The name of Kirke appears twice in the records of Colonelcy 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 Cornet to the latter's Regiment of Horse, The Blues, on 9th 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 of 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 Maastricht in 1673 and afterwards he served in two campaigns under Turenne, at the Siege of Namur in November 1690 and remained there until 1694 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 Londonderry, 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 Ereda and was succeeded as Colonel of the Queen's by Colonel William Selwyn.

[Go back to list.](#)

The Glorious First of June 1794

http://www.queensroyalsurreyregiment.org.uk/1661to1966/Articles/1st%20of%20June%201794.html






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 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 steering 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 Montague. 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 Grenadier officer of the Regiment, congratulating a Naval officer on the victory.



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

[Previous page](#) [Back to list](#) [Next page](#)